

# Public Document Pack

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Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu)



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To: Councillor Dave Hughes (Leader)

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

12 February 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

**NOTICE OF REMOTE MEETING**  
**CABINET**  
**TUESDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 2025 at 10.00 AM**

Yours faithfully

Steven Goodrum  
Democratic Services Manager

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

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

## 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:** **Purpose:** To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

### 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 **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO MODERNISE ENGLISH MEDIUM PRIMARY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR SALTNEY** (Pages 15 - 50)

Report of Chief Officer (Education and Youth) - Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

**Purpose:** To seek approval to begin the relevant and required statutory consultation for the proposal to amalgamate Saltney Ferry Primary School and Saltney Wood Memorial Primary School to create a new 3-11 Primary School for Saltney.

### 6 **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO MODERNISE THE ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL ESTATE** (Pages 51 - 90)

Report of Chief Officer (Education and Youth) - Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

**Purpose:** School Modernisation Review of the Roman Catholic School Network.

7 **COMMON HOUSING REGISTER (SINGLE ACCESS ROUTE TO HOUSING - SARTH)** (Pages 91 - 114)

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

**Purpose:** To provide an annual update on the Common Housing Register.

**OPERATIONAL REPORTS**

8 **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2024 / 25 (MONTH 9)** (Pages 115 - 140)

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 9, and projects forward to year-end.

9 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2024/25 (MONTH 9)** (Pages 141 - 170)

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

**Purpose:** To present the Month 9 Capital Programme information for 2024/25.

10 **UPDATE ON THE NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE AND DELIVERY OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN** (Pages 171 - 182)

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

**Purpose:** To provide an update on the Corporate Joint Committee's progress on the preparation of the Regional Transport Plan for north Wales.

11 **REVIEW OF THE RING AND RIDE SERVICE IN FLINTSHIRE** (Pages 183 - 202)

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

**Purpose:** In response to the projected revenue budget monitoring 2024/25 overspend position (as at month 6), the Streetscene & Transportation portfolio has been required to produce a list of measures within an action plan to improve the financial position by the end of the financial year. The review of the Ring and Ride Service is included within the action plan.

12 **PLACE MAKING PLANS UPDATE** (Pages 203 - 214)

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

**Purpose:** To provide an update on the development of Place Making Plans in Flintshire.

13 **EXPANSION OF SPECIALIST PROVISION** (Pages 215 - 224)

Report of Chief Officer (Education and Youth) - Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

**Purpose:** To advise on the outcome of the statutory objection period to reorganise specialist education provision and to recommend we proceed with the proposal for implementation.

14 **TERMINATING THE GWE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT** (Pages 225 - 290)

Report of Chief Officer (Education and Youth) - Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

**Purpose:** To seek approval to terminate the current collaboration agreement and thereby confirm that GwE will end on a date to be finally determined by the Transitional Board.



15 **CHILDCARE AND EARLY YEARS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025-2028**  
(Pages 291 - 306)

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

**Purpose:** To seek approval and endorsement for the sites that have been identified by the Early Years and Family Support Service Capital Team, and for the pre-construction early screening work of the proposed sites to begin, in-order for funding to be secured through the submission of Business Justification Cases to the Welsh Government.

16 **SHARED PROSPERITY FUND** (Pages 307 - 312)

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

**Purpose:** To propose extending the administrative arrangements for the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) programme until 30 March 2026.

17 **COMMUNITY ASSETS TRANSFERS** (Pages 313 - 320)

Report of Corporate Manager – Capital Programme & Assets - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Transformation and Assets

**Purpose:** To seek approval of a proposed streamlining of the Community Asset Transfers (CAT) process.

18 **EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS** (Pages 321 - 322)

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

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

[Forward Work Programme - February 2025 to July 2025](#)

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

The report contains information in respect of which legal professional privilege could be maintained and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the interest in disclosure until such time as the matters within the report have been concluded.

19 **THEATR CLWYD** (Pages 323 - 332)

Report of Chief Executive - Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Transformation and Assets

**Purpose:** To provide an update on recent developments and to discuss next steps.

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 land sales and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the interest in disclosure until the sale has been concluded.

20 **SALE OF LAND AT MOOR FARM, HOLWAY, HOLYWELL** (Pages 333 - 338)

Report of Corporate Manager – Capital Programme & Assets - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Transformation and Assets

**Purpose:** To seek approval for disposal of land due to the land disposal exceeding £500k.

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

**CABINET**  
**21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2025**

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet of Flintshire County Council held as a hybrid meeting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillors Mel Buckley, Michelle Perfect, Vicky Perfect, Ian Roberts and Roy Wakleman as observers.

**APOLOGIES:**       Councillor Helen Brown.

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Chief Executive, Chief Officer Housing and Communities), Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy), Chief Officer (Social Services), Corporate Finance Manager, Corporate Manager - People and Organisational Development, Corporate Manager - Capital Programme and Assets, Head of Legal Services and Democratic Services Manager.

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

**140. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**141. MINUTES**  
**[\(link to recording\)](#)**

The minutes of the meeting held on [17th December 2025](#) were submitted and confirmed as a correct record.

**RESOLVED:**

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

**142. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND BUDGET 2025/26**  
**[\(link to recording\)](#)**

Councillor Johnson presented the [report \(agenda item number 5\)](#) which provided an update on the key headlines and financial impacts of the Welsh Local Government Provisional settlement and to update on the work being undertaken on the range of budget solutions available to the Council to set a legal and balanced budget in February.

Detailed final budget proposals would be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Committees ahead of the Budget and Council Tax meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February.

Feedback from Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee was provided which included an additional recommendation.

The recommendation in the report was supported.

**RESOLVED:**

That the financial implications of the Welsh Local Government Provisional Settlement and the remaining work which needs to be completed prior to agreeing a set of recommendations for Council to set a legal and balanced budget on 18<sup>th</sup> February (which will be subject to prior consideration and comment by Overview and Scrutiny Committees be noted.

**143. COUNCIL PLAN (2023-28) MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2024/25**  
**[\(link to recording\)](#)**

Councillor Thomas introduced the [report \(agenda item number 6\)](#) which presented a summary of performance of progress against the Council Plan priorities identified for 2024/25 at the mid-year (Quarter 2) position. The report was an exception-based report and concentrated on those areas of performance which were not currently achieving their target.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the levels of progress and confidence in the achievement of priorities as detailed within the Council Plan 2023/28 for delivery within 2024/25 be endorsed and supported;
- (b) That the overall performance against Council Plan 2024/25 performance indicators/measures be endorsed and supported; and
- (c) The Members be assured by the explanations given for those areas of underperformance.

**144. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**  
**[\(link to recording\)](#)**

Councillor Thomas introduced the [report \(agenda item number 7\)](#) which had been developed and was owned by the Chief Officer Team with a suggestion that the Corporate Risk Register would also be owned by Cabinet.

Comments received at the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee were detailed, including three suggestions of risks to be included of: reputational risk; legal compliance/regulatory/contract risk; and operational/loss of assets.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Council's Corporate Risk Register report be accepted;
- (b) That the next steps (as outlined in the report) of embedding Risk Management including ownership of Corporate Risk Register alongside the Chief Officer Team be agreed; and
- (c) That the following three risks be added: reputational risk; legal compliance/regulatory/contract risk; and operational/loss of assets.

**145. FLINTSHIRE LOCAL AREA ENERGY PLAN**

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

Councillor Dolphin introduced the [report \(agenda item number 8\)](#) and explained that since the endorsement of the North Wales Energy Strategy and Action Plan and commencement of the Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP) in early 2023, the LAEP for Flintshire had been finalised. The report was recommended for endorsement by Cabinet at Climate Change Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> November. The report was noted by Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> January and their comments were noted.

The recommendations in the report were supported, including the additional recommendation detailed in (c) below following the discussion at Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Flintshire Local Area Energy Plan Main Report and Technical Report be endorsed, understanding that the LAEP actions assigned to Flintshire County Council are subject to securing and maintaining necessary funding;
- (b) That the content of The Coal Authority report 'Flintshire County Council: Mine Water Heat Opportunities' in conjunction with the Local Area Energy Plan; and
- (c) That Cabinet requires that the hydrogen referenced in the report is Green and if not, then it be reported back to Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

**146. PROVISION OF TRANSIT SITE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE GYPSY ROMA TRAVELLER COMMUNITY IN FLINTSHIRE**

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

Defer to listen to the views of Flint Members.

**RESOLVED:**

That the item be deferred.

**147. REVIEW OF CAR PARKING POLICY**  
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Banks introduced the [report \(agenda item number 10\)](#) and explained that the policy needed to be revised to reflect a number of changes that had been introduced since 2015, and to ensure that the Council's parking objectives were consistent with and contributed to the overall aims of the national and regional transport strategies and any legislative changes. Proposals were included for the introduction of car park charges at Wepre Park car park.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the proposed Car Parking Management Policy be approved; and
- (b) That the introduction of car parking charges at Wepre Park be approved and the introduction of traffic management on the roads in the vicinity of the park entrances to deter visitors who do not want to pay to use the car park from parking on the residential streets adjacent to the park be supported.

**148. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2024/25 (MONTH 8)**  
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Johnson introduced the [report \(agenda item number 11\)](#) 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 and presented the position, based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 8.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the report and the estimated financial impact on the 2024/25 budget be noted;
- (b) That the measures being put in place to improve the financial position by the end of the financial year be supported; and
- (c) The carry forward request of a £0.125m underspend in Customer Contact to the Digital Strategy Reserve be approved.

**149. WELSH HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS (WHQS 2 2023) AND HOUSING DISREPAIR (HDR) UPDATE**  
[\(link to recording\)](#)

The Chief Officer (Housing and Communities) introduced the [report \(agenda item number 12\)](#) which provided an update regarding the new Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS 2 2023), the voids lettable standard and the Council's obligations

relating to delivery of the new standards. The report also detailed the current financial position relating to disrepair claims and what the service was in the process of implementing to mitigate future financial risk.

Feedback from the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous week.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the capital investment programme in the next phase of delivery be endorsed as it moves towards complying with the new updated Welsh Housing Quality Standards and requirements; and
- (b) That the Housing Assets service be supported to continue to manage the Housing Disrepair (HDR) protocol on behalf of the Council, ensuring the obligations placed upon the Council are met.

**150. FOOD POVERTY UPDATE**  
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Johnson introduced the [report \(agenda item number 13\)](#) which provided an update on the current and planned work in response to the food poverty priority area. It also highlighted the positive role Flintshire had played in developing partnerships, supporting other organisations, and facilitating action.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the progress of the work in relation to addressing food poverty in Flintshire be supported; and
- (b) That the use of earmarked reserve to continue to deliver the food poverty programme to March 2026 be endorsed.

**151. PUBLIC HEALTH (WALES) ACT 2017 AND THE INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL PROCEDURES' LICENSING**  
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Bithell introduced the [report \(agenda item number 14\)](#) and explained that Section 76 of Part 4 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 allowed local authorities that had issued a Special Procedures Licence or an Approved Premises Certificate to charge a fee. The amount of fee to be charged by a local authority was to be determined by the authority. The national fees concerning the new licensing scheme had been calculated across Wales based on the principles of cost recovery. These fees should cover the costs to Flintshire County Council of administering the scheme including officer time for the requisite inspections.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the delegation to officers of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 be approved; and
- (b) That the Constitution be amended accordingly to reflect the delegation.

**152. COUNCIL CARBON EMISSIONS UPDATE 2023/24**  
**[\(link to recording\)](#)**

Councillor Dolphin introduced the [report \(agenda item number 15\)](#) which presented the results of the 2023/24 calculation, comparing them against figures from the Council's baseline year of 2018/19, in this case showing an increase of greenhouse gas emissions. The report also provided an explanation as to why emissions had changed, as well as noting any improvements or difficulties relating to the data and methodology. The report also noted the significant progress made by the Council to generate renewable energy. The report concluded with considerations to review targets and internal reporting of procurement emissions, investigate impacts of leisure facilities coming back under Council control, and to introduce methodology to better understand land sequestration.

Feedback from comments made at the Environment & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous week were provided.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the work of the portfolio in its delivery of grass cutting services be noted; and
- (b) That the preparations being made for the 2025 grass cutting season be acknowledged.

**153. GRASS CUTTING AND WEED CONTROL PERFORMANCE REVIEW**  
**[\(link to recording\)](#)**

Councillor Banks introduced the [report \(agenda item number 16\)](#) and explained that it was good practice to review the performance of grass cutting services at regular intervals and this report provided an overview of performance of our grass cutting operations for the 2024 season following the introduction of the revised policy. The report also provided further details on the preparations for the 2025 season following the review of performance for this year.

Feedback from comments made at the Environment & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous week were provided.

The recommendations in the report were supported.



**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the work of the portfolio in its delivery of grass cutting services be noted; and
- (b) That the preparations being made for the 2025 grass cutting season be acknowledged.

**154. UPDATE ON UNPAID CARERS SERVICES IN FLINTSHIRE**  
**[\(link to recording\)](#)**

Councillor Jones introduced the [report \(agenda item number 17\)](#) which provided information on the progress of recommissioning unpaid carers services as well as a wider update of developments in carers services in Flintshire including: The Public Services Ombudsman of Wales (PSOW), Own Initiative Investigation into Carers Services; Carers Wales - Track the Act Report - monitoring and evaluating how the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 is working for unpaid carers; the opening of the NEWCIS Carers Centre.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the update on the process of recommissioning unpaid carers services be acknowledged;
- (b) That the outcome of the PSOW's "Own Initiative" Investigation into Carers Services and the resulting action plan be acknowledged;
- (c) That the outcome of the Carers Wales "Track the Act" report be acknowledged; and
- (d) That the positive work underway with NEWCIS to develop our unpaid carers services and the Carers Centre as a hub for unpaid carers in Flintshire.

**155. MICROSOFT LICENSING CONTRACT EXTENSION**  
**[\(link to recording\)](#)**

Councillor Thomas introduced the [report \(agenda item number 18\)](#) which was seeking a contract extension up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. This would allow the Council to align contract start dates for Flintshire County Council and Denbighshire County Council, allowing for future collaboration opportunities between the two Councils. It was intended to participate in a joint procurement for Microsoft licenses before Denbighshire County Council's contract expired on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

The recommendation in the report was supported.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council's Microsoft Licensing Contract be extended up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

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

An information [item \(agenda item number 19\)](#) on the actions taken under delegated powers was submitted and noted.

**157. 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 11.50 a.m.)

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**Chair**



## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>Report Subject</b>	Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme - Proposal to Modernise English Medium Primary Education Provision for Saltney
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Cabinet approval to begin the relevant and required statutory consultation for the proposal to amalgamate Saltney Ferry Primary School and Saltney Wood Memorial Primary School by:

- Closing and amalgamating Saltney Ferry Primary School and Saltney Wood Memorial Primary School.
- Opening a new maintained 3-11 community primary school operating on two sites whilst a new school building is approved and constructed.

This report seeks to open a period of formal consultation with key stakeholders on how best to secure resilient sustainable high-quality primary education in the Saltney area for future reporting to Cabinet.

This proposal will be reviewed in line with the requirements of The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and School Organisation Code 2018.

This report seeks to request Cabinet approval to submit a Strategic Outline Business Case to the Welsh Government for a replacement community primary school for Saltney Ferry Primary School and Saltney Wood Memorial Primary School. Submission of the Strategic Outline Business Case is subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation in relation to the new community primary school proposed for Saltney.

Approval for a capital investment for an area Saltney primary school will be brought back to Cabinet in future for determination in line with the Council's governance requirements.

This proposal is part of the Council’s Transformation Programme which has been developed to address its challenging financial position and longer-term sustainability. It will be captured in the Programme under the project section ‘P4 – Better Schools’.

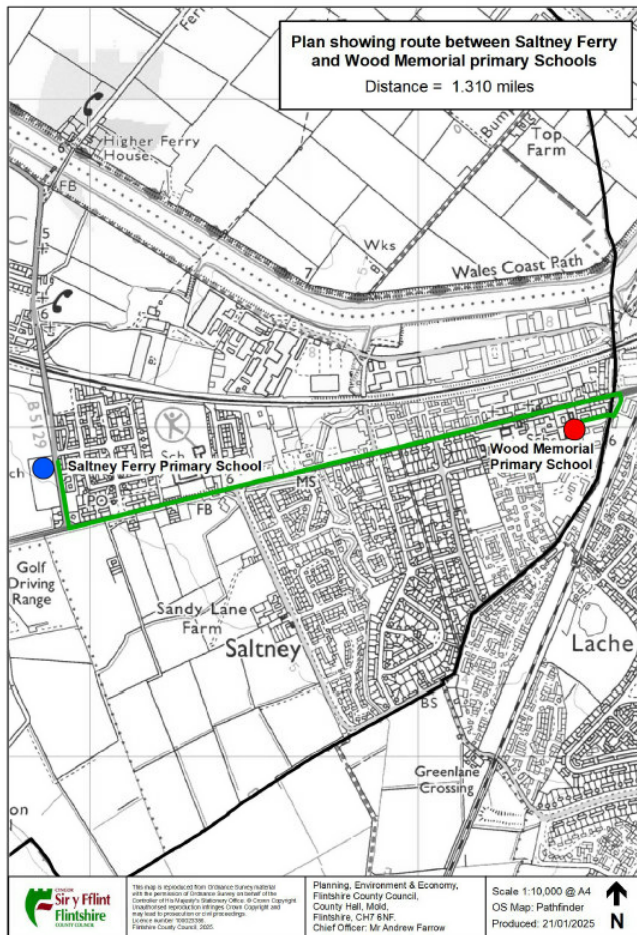
## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet notes the contents of the report.
2	Cabinet approves to commence consultation with relevant stakeholders on the proposal to close both Saltney Ferry and Saltney Wood Memorial Primary School amalgamate both schools and open a new 3-11 community primary school to operate on two sites moving into a single new school site to serve the Saltney community.
3	Cabinet notes any proposal, should it be approved following completion of the required statutory processes, would be implemented by September 2026.
4	Cabinet supports approval to submit a Strategic Outline Business Case to the Welsh Government for a replacement community primary school for Saltney Ferry Primary School and Saltney Wood Memorial Primary School. Submission of the Strategic Outline Business Case is subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation in relation to the new community primary school proposed for Saltney. Any new capital project will be brought back to COT and Cabinet for further determination.
5	It is noted that any new capital project will be brought back to Cabinet for further determination.

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING PROGRAMME – PROPOSAL TO MODERNISE ENGLISH MEDIUM PRIMARY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR SALTNEY</b>
1.01	<p>The School Modernisation Programme is required because we need to ensure the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That education provision is both high quality and sustainable.</li> <li>• Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities.</li> <li>• Provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations.</li> <li>• That building assets are designed and built to withstand the impacts of a changing climate.</li> <li>• Address unsustainable school buildings and supporting infrastructure.</li> <li>• Recognise that doing nothing means higher pupil teacher ratios as funding reduces.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that we can maximise external funding through the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.</li> </ul>						
1.02	<p>The key 'drivers' or criteria for modernisation which underpin the above are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational improvement</li> <li>• Resilient school leadership</li> <li>• Suitable buildings</li> <li>• Unfilled places, and</li> <li>• Diminishing resources</li> </ul>						
1.03	<p>The primary school portfolio as of January 2024 currently has 2,742 unfilled places and the secondary school portfolio has 1,124 unfilled places. There are currently a total of 19.33% surplus places (January 2024) in primary schools, whilst the national and local target is to reduce this level to under 10%.</p>						
1.04	<p>The Council's school modernisation programme has made good progress in modernising our school estate, meeting demand for places and expanding pupil places where required, including early years provision. The Council has been building new schools, remodelling and redeveloping schools across the Flintshire network providing inspiring and modern learning environments for our learners, staff, parents/carers and the wider community. The Council has invested over £140m over the last ten years into the Flintshire school estate.</p>						
1.05	<p>As part of the continuation of the programme, school reorganisation and investment has been identified for an area school for the current Saltney Primary Schools in the Council's next phase of strategic infrastructure funding from the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.</p>						
1.06	<p>In order to secure the required funding for capital investment for the Saltney area, it is proposed to close and amalgamate Saltney Ferry Primary School and Saltney Wood Memorial Primary School, which are amongst the highest ranked schools requiring school modernisation and investment in the education portfolio.</p>						
1.07	<p>Saltney Ferry Primary School and Saltney Wood Memorial Primary schools are located 1.3 miles apart in the town of Saltney.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>Address</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Saltney Ferry Primary School</td> <td>Saltney Ferry Road, Saltney CH4 0BN</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wood Memorial Primary School</td> <td>Boundary Lane, Chester CH4 8LN</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	School	Address	Saltney Ferry Primary School	Saltney Ferry Road, Saltney CH4 0BN	Wood Memorial Primary School	Boundary Lane, Chester CH4 8LN
School	Address						
Saltney Ferry Primary School	Saltney Ferry Road, Saltney CH4 0BN						
Wood Memorial Primary School	Boundary Lane, Chester CH4 8LN						



1.08 Cabinet approved on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the submission of the Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for the next phase of the Welsh Government’s Sustainable Communities for Learning Investment for schools and colleges programme. This included for significant capital investment for Saltney. Welsh Government approved the submission of the SOP on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

1.09 **Background**

**Saltney Ferry Primary School**

Saltney Ferry Primary School is situated to the west of the town of Saltney, along Saltney Ferry Road. The school building is a single-story structure.

1.10 Details of the current school capacity & pupil numbers as at Sept Numbers of Roll Survey 2024

School	Capacity	Pupil (Full Time) Numbers Excluding Nursery (Sept 2024)	Pupil Numbers Including Nursery (Sept 2024)	Surplus Places	Age Range

	Saltney Ferry Primary School	236	116	134	120 (50.85%)	3-11
Revenue allocation - £637,533 School Budget Cost Per Pupil 24/25 = £5,040						
1.11	By 2029/30, Saltney Ferry Primary School is currently projected to have surplus places of 44.07%.					
1.12	A condition report was carried out in December 2024 graded at condition score B (where 'A' is the highest and 'D' is the lowest) with most of the blocks receiving satisfactory scores with recommendations for improvement work in some areas.					
1.13	<p>Saltney Ferry Primary School has a Display Energy Certificate with an energy performance operational rating of C. The school uses a natural gas heating system. In 2023-24 the school consumed 33,251kWh of electricity and 11,5920kWh of gas. This equated to a total of 34,396kgCO<sub>2</sub>e. A replacement facility built to Net Zero Carbon in Operation (NZCio) standard would remove these emissions from the Council's carbon footprint by incorporating renewable energy systems and natural ventilation and shading.</p> <p>The impact on emissions from travel would be minimal due to the proximity of the schools.</p>					
1.14	A Suitability Survey report was carried out in 2016 and graded the school at suitability score B and made further recommendations and observations. The location of the school, in a residential area, makes drop off and pick up times challenging, with inadequate parking and turning arrangements available for parents/carers.					
1.15	Unfortunately flood data received during reviews of the site indicates that this site is largely within the flood plain and would make full replacement of a new build unviable.					
1.16	Saltney Ferry Primary School currently has an acting Headteacher which has been agreed with the Governing Body whilst a review of the area is undertaken.					
1.17	<p>An Estyn review inspection carried out in September 2022 judged that Saltney Ferry Primary School was 'In Need of Significant Improvement.' The school drew up an action plan to show how it would address the recommendations. The school received a follow up monitoring visit in February 2024, and it was judged to have made sufficient progress in relation to the recommendations following the core inspection. As a result, His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales removed the school from the list of schools requiring significant improvement. A link to the Estyn report can be found below:</p> <p><a href="#">Inspection report Saltney Ferry C.P. School 2022</a></p>					



	<a href="#">Monitoring report Saltney Ferry C.P. School 2024</a>												
1.18	<p><b>Wood Memorial Primary School</b></p> <p>Wood Memorial Primary school sits between Saltney High Street and residential areas to the North and South. The school is a single storey school of a variety of construction types and ages.</p>												
1.19	<p>Details of the current school capacity &amp; pupil numbers as at Sept Numbers of Roll Survey 2024</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>Capacity</th> <th>Pupil (Full Time) Numbers Excluding Nursery (Sept 2024)</th> <th>Pupil Numbers Including Nursery (Sept 2024)</th> <th>Surplus Places</th> <th>Age Range</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Wood Memorial Primary School</td> <td>216</td> <td>152</td> <td>171</td> <td>64 (29.63%)</td> <td>3-11</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Revenue allocation = £708,931 School Budget Cost Per Pupil 24/25 = £4,742</p>	School	Capacity	Pupil (Full Time) Numbers Excluding Nursery (Sept 2024)	Pupil Numbers Including Nursery (Sept 2024)	Surplus Places	Age Range	Wood Memorial Primary School	216	152	171	64 (29.63%)	3-11
School	Capacity	Pupil (Full Time) Numbers Excluding Nursery (Sept 2024)	Pupil Numbers Including Nursery (Sept 2024)	Surplus Places	Age Range								
Wood Memorial Primary School	216	152	171	64 (29.63%)	3-11								
1.20	By 2029/30, Wood Memorial Primary School is currently projected to have surplus places of 30.09%.												
1.21	A condition report was carried out in May 2024 graded at condition score B (where 'A' is the highest and 'D' is the lowest) with most of the blocks receiving satisfactory scores with recommendations for improvement work in some areas.												
1.22	A suitability survey was carried in 2016, graded the school at suitability score C, and also made for further recommendations and observations. The location of the school, in a built-up residential area, makes drop off and pick up times challenging, with inadequate parking and turning arrangements available for parents/carers.												
1.23	<p>Wood Memorial Primary School has a Display Energy Certificate with an energy performance operational rating of D. The school uses a natural gas heating system. In 2023-24 the school consumed 42,846kWh of electricity and 11,7424kWh of gas. This equated to a total of 36,804kgCO<sub>2</sub>e. A replacement facility built to Net Zero Carbon in Operation (NZCio) standard would remove these emissions from the Council's carbon footprint by incorporating renewable energy systems and natural ventilation and shading.</p> <p>The impact on emissions from travel would be minimal due to the proximity of the schools.</p>												



1.24	<p>An Estyn review inspection carried out in March 2020 judged that Saltney Wood Memorial Primary School was assessed as ‘good’ across all areas of the inspection framework.</p> <p>A link to the Estyn report can be found below.</p> <p><a href="#">Inspection report Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. School 2020</a></p>
1.25	<p><b>The Proposal</b></p> <p>It is proposed that the two existing schools are closed, amalgamated and joined together. The proposed new 3-11 English Medium school would remain located on two separate sites but would operate under the leadership of one Head teacher and board of governors with a unified management structure, mission statement, school values, logos, uniform, policies, and procedures. During this time, a new 3-11 English medium primary school is developed on the existing Saltney Wood Memorial site, to improve and expand facilities and to support continued school improvement.</p>
1.26	<p>This investment would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• modern, flexible learning environments for all learners;</li> <li>• hall/dining area, and a multi-purpose learning resource area;</li> <li>• accessible internal and external facilities for wider community use;</li> <li>• enhanced outdoor spaces to support the full range of curriculum activities, including an outdoor classroom and a ‘forest schools’ area; and,</li> <li>• improved traffic management including consideration of an onsite drop off facility (subject to further surveys and the transport and traffic assessment) and on-site staff parking; and</li> <li>• dedicated early years facility to support much needed childcare options for families in the Saltney area.</li> </ul>
1.27	<p>The new school would be built in accordance with Building Bulletin 99 and would be fully accessible and compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and would meet Net Zero Carbon in operation requirements. The carbon emissions from energy alone from each of the existing premises’ totals approximately 71,200kgCO<sub>2</sub>e. As the net zero carbon requirement of the Sustainable Communities for Learning, the buildings are required to produce zero or negative carbon emissions as part of their operational energy, therefore this total would largely be removed from the Council’s carbon footprint.</p>
1.28	<p>There are currently no pupils attending Saltney Ferry Primary School and Saltney Wood Memorial Primary School who access Home to School Transport. Given the proximity of the existing schools and the proposed development site, it is not anticipated that this will change should the proposal be implemented.</p>
1.29	<p>The investment would also include a review of safe routes to school.</p>

	If required, an investment in improvements to walkways, road crossings and traffic calming measures will be introduced to ensure the required safety standards are met. This is the approach the Council has implemented in other communities through delivering the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.
1.30	To achieve these proposals, the Council is seeking to close and amalgamate Saltney Ferry Primary School and Saltney Wood Memorial Primary School to operate on their respective sites and transfer all pupils to a new 3-11 community primary school on a redeveloped Saltney Wood Memorial site.
1.31	<p><b>The Proposed Site</b></p> <p>The new school building is proposed to be built on a new site which subject to necessary approvals would include the existing Saltney Wood Memorial Primary School site. Given the limitations of both existing English medium school sites, and the challenging flood risks in the areas, the number of options available for consideration were limited.</p>
1.32	<p>Searches of the nearby areas of Saltney Primary Schools were undertaken to identify a suitable site which met the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an adequate site area.</li> <li>• Have satisfactory access which is capable of being improved.</li> <li>• Be in close proximity to the current schools.</li> <li>• Be a viable development opportunity subject to a detailed feasibility study.</li> <li>• Be free from any flood risks which wouldn't impede construction activities.</li> </ul>
1.33	Following the site assessment, a new site which includes the existing Saltney Wood Memorial Primary School site was chosen as the preferred location for the new school. The identified site is of suitable size to accommodate a school building with appropriate external space and facilities has good infrastructure, and is in a prominent position in the town, close to both existing schools.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	Long term the amalgamation of the Saltney primary schools would result in more efficient and effective use of resources with the school funding calculations changing from two to one school budget. Some other savings would also be achieved, for example because the new schools would be Net Zero Carbon in operation once a new build is delivered reducing the current repair and maintenance costs of ageing buildings. However other costs, such as business rates, are likely to increase.
2.02	One of the drivers for amalgamation is equality of funding for pupils and through the amalgamation of both schools as the cost per pupil for the area will be rationalised. Saltney Ferry Primary School and Wood

	Memorial Primary School will be funded on the same formula as other schools if they are part of an amalgamation. As part of the Council's funding formula, schools are funded on the number of pupils and on other non-teaching costs. If the schools were to be merged to become a single school, the formula would calculate a single budget, which would be smaller than the budget of operating as two separate schools.
2.03	Short term there would be no significant financial implications for school budgets as a result of the recommendations in this report for a number of years as both sites would remain as they are until a new building is ready for them to occupy.
2.04	Should the proposal go ahead capital investment will be required. The estimated cost reviewed at initial feasibility stage undertaken in 2024 of constructing a new 3-11 primary school is £12.5m. If the proposals proceed this capital commitment would be majority funded at an intervention rate of 65% by the Welsh Government Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme funding the remaining 35% would be funded by Flintshire County Council prudential borrowing. Replacing both schools in their current forms on their separate sites is not financially viable.
2.05	Capital funding is subject to approval by Cabinet and by the Welsh Government following the submission of the relevant Business Cases and the receipt of finalised detailed costs which would be brought back to Cabinet, should the proposals proceed.
2.06	The Welsh Government Sustainable Communities for Learning rolling programme is funded as follows:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital – Schools : 65% WG / 35% LA</li> <li>• Capital – PRU / ALN Schools : 75% WG / 25% LA</li> <li>• MIM is funded at an intervention rate of 81% Welsh Government and 19% Council (through revenue budgets of both organisations).</li> </ul>
2.07	The estimated associated debt revenue costs arising from the programme are included in the Council's Medium Term Financial strategy.
2.08	There will be associated school revenue costs linked to the proposal. As the project progresses and the size of the new school is determined, along with confirmed learner numbers following the completion of the statutory proposal process, the MTFs commitments will be updated and reported back to Cabinet accordingly. <p>Decisions to commit to capital expenditure investing in assets to deliver high quality services efficiently have long term implications for future revenue budgets. Consideration must be given to the programme and schemes within them are affordable, sustainable and therefore prudent. Capital and revenue implications will need regular review at key stages within this project as it develops.</p>

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>							
3.01	<p>There are strategic links to Flintshire County Council Plan for the period between 2023 to 2028, specifically the priority:</p> <p>Education &amp; Skills: Enabling and Supporting Learning Communities and Learning Environments: Creating aspirational and flexible learning environments.</p>							
3.02	<p>Due regard has been made to all seven well-being goals and the Five Ways of Working, as contained within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 which requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of decisions, on communities to prevent consistent issues such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.</p> <p>This proposal would contribute to achieving the wellbeing goals by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving sustainability of school buildings in the Council portfolio through a commitment to achieving a Net Zero Carbon in operation school with a BREEAM rating of 'Excellent'.</li> <li>• Providing new education and community facilities that can be used by the local community.</li> </ul>							
3.03	<p>This proposal would achieve the five ways of working by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a new school environment that can deliver the new curriculum for Wales as set out in the national mission statement.</li> <li>• Provide first class learning facilities for pupils and the wider community and contribute towards a healthier Wales by providing additional outdoor sport facilities for learners.</li> <li>• Contributing towards a prosperous Wales by committing to opportunities for local tradespeople and to use local resources, wherever possible to build the new school.</li> <li>• Engaging with the community on a thorough consultation with opportunities for all stakeholders in the community to engage throughout the process.</li> </ul>							
3.04	<p>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ways of Working Principle</th> <th>Impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td>Positive – ensures that high quality education places are available to communities to meet demand across the Flintshire education network.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> <td>Positive – preventing inappropriate placements for our learners.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Ways of Working Principle	Impact	Long-term	Positive – ensures that high quality education places are available to communities to meet demand across the Flintshire education network.	Prevention	Positive – preventing inappropriate placements for our learners.
Ways of Working Principle	Impact							
Long-term	Positive – ensures that high quality education places are available to communities to meet demand across the Flintshire education network.							
Prevention	Positive – preventing inappropriate placements for our learners.							

	Integration	Positive – ensuring the appropriate education provision integrates children from varying backgrounds.
	Collaboration	Positive – partnership arrangements in-house and with external parties including school governing bodies.
	Involvement	Positive - The proposed programme involves a range of stakeholders to enable its delivery.
3.05	<p>Well-being Principle Impacts</p> <p>Against the seven well-being goals of the Act, the potential impact of the report and its recommendations would be evaluated as follows:-</p>	
	Prosperous Wales	<p>Positive impact</p> <p>Capital investment directly benefits local supply chain/economy. Ensuring our schools are in the right place and of the right type.</p>
	Resilient Wales	<p>Positive impact</p> <p>Use of sustainable and recycled materials during construction, more energy efficient, potential reduction in carbon emissions.</p>
	Healthier Wales	<p>Positive Impact</p> <p>Improved physical infrastructure and facilities which positively impact on the wellbeing of the schools and its community.</p>
	More Equal Wales	<p>Positive Impact</p> <p>Equalities Impact Assessments are already embedded in school cultures. Opening up more education places to those who need them.</p>
	Cohesive Wales	<p>Positive Impact</p> <p>School network widens/reduces its number of places for education provision through delivery of new and refurbished facilities of the right type in the right place.</p>

	Vibrant Wales	Positive Impact  Enables new and refurbished facilities to improve, both curricular, extra-curricular and community use of school buildings.
	Globally Responsible Wales	Positive Impact  Capital investment, delivers a more sustainable product, local spend and added benefits for apprenticeships, work experience in construction.
3.06	An initial integrated impact assessment has been completed, attached as Appendix 1. The impact assessment has identified that there will be a potential negative impact on the Saltney Ferry community which will be mitigated by the delivery of new education learning facilities which serve the wider area of Saltney including the Saltney Ferry community.	
3.07	Reviewing the future of any school is controversial and emotive. Pupils, parents, carers and teachers, past and present, have strong ties to local schools as part of their own life-stories. The Council fully recognises the above, however it is challenged with balancing the sensitivities of community feeling on the one hand, with providing a high-quality primary education offer which can be sustained and afforded.	
3.08	An Integrated Impact Assessment which would include further detail on the contribution of the proposal to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act would form an integral part of the consultation document in relation to the Saltney school proposals. This would be available for all stakeholders to view and comment upon as a part of the consultation process. A Welsh Language Impact Assessment will also be undertaken as part of the consultation.	
3.09	Equality, Welsh Language and Community Impact Assessments will be prepared in respect of these proposals. The proposal will be published on the Council's website in accordance with the requirements of Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018) (the "Code").	
3.10	The programme and all projects within the Councils School Modernisation programme are managed using a risk register. Risks are managed accordingly, and financial risks are managed through a programme contingency. Any high-level risk which cannot be managed with the projects/programme will be incorporated into the risk register for the Education and Youth Portfolio.	

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	Part 1 of the Education Act 1996 (“the 1996 Act”) imposes a number of general duties on all local authorities in Wales. The general duty in section 13 of the 1996 Act is to contribute (so far as the Council’s powers enable them to do so) towards the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community by securing that efficient primary education and secondary education are available to meet the needs of the population of their area.
4.02	Section 14 of the 1996 Act then provides that the Council shall secure that sufficient schools for providing primary education and secondary education are available in the Council’s area. Schools available for an area shall not be regarded as sufficient unless they are sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity for appropriate education.
4.03	Powers for Councils to develop school organisation proposals are governed by the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the Code. Local Authorities must, when exercising functions under Part 3 of the 2013 Act, act in accordance with any relevant requirements contained in the Code and must have regard to any relevant guidelines contained in it. A copy of the Code is found here:  <a href="https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf">https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf</a>
4.04	The proposed consultation period, if it is agreed to progress this proposal, would run from Spring term 2025 to Summer term 2026. Details regarding engagement opportunities will be added to the consultation documents.
4.05	The proposed potential timetable for completion of each statutory process is set out in appendix 2.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Integrated Impact Assessment
5.02	Appendix 2 - Proposed Consultation Timetable

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	School Organisation Code 2018 – The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013  <a href="https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/schoolorganisation-code-second-edition.pdf">https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/schoolorganisation-code-second-edition.pdf</a>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Jennie Williams, Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision</p> <p><b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704015</p> <p><b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:jennie.williams@flintshire.gov.uk">jennie.williams@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<p><b>Sustainable Communities for Learning</b> - Is a collaboration between the Welsh Government (WG), the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and local authorities. It is a major, long-term and strategic capital investment programme with the aim of creating a generation of 21st century schools in Wales.</p>
8.02	<p><b>MIM</b> - The Mutual Investment Model is the Welsh Government's new form of Public Private Partnership.</p>
8.03	<p><b>Capital funding</b> - Capital funding is usually linked to acquiring or improving a long-term asset such as equipment or buildings.</p>
8.04	<p><b>Revenue funding</b> - Is linked to items that will be used within a year. Examples include salaries, heating, lighting, services and small items of equipment.</p>
8.05	<p><b>School Organisation Code</b> – The new School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2018 makes Local Authorities responsible (rather than the Welsh Ministers prior to October 2018) for the determination of most statutory school organisation proposals that receive objections.</p>
8.06	<p><b>Estyn</b> – education and training inspectorate for Wales. Their vision is to improve the quality of education and training, and outcomes for all learners in Wales and their mission is to support education and training providers to develop a self-improving and learning culture through advice, inspection and capacity building.</p>
8.07	<p><b>GwE</b> - North Wales regional school improvement service working alongside and on behalf of the North Wales local authorities – Wrexham, Flintshire, Denbighshire, Conwy, Gwynedd, Anglesey.</p>





# INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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## **Proposal to reorganise Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P**

**Closing Saltney Ferry C.P and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P and  
opening a new maintained school operating on the current two  
sites whilst a new building is approved and constructed.**

**Spring 2025**

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## **A. OUTLINE OF ASSESSMENT**

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### **A.1. Introduction**

This Integrated Impact Assessment (*I/A*) aims to identify potential positive and negative impacts of the proposed project and to outline actions that may be implemented to mitigate any identified effects.

The I/A will consider how the proposals contribute to the Council's goals under The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and how they meet the principle of sustainable development.

The document will also incorporate several individual assessments to provide a comprehensive evaluation of potential impacts.

This I/A has been produced as a supplementary document to the Statutory Consultation

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## **B. Project Outline**

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The proposal is for Flintshire County Council to close Saltney Ferry C.P. and Saltney Wood Memorial C.P., and amalgamate them on their current sites before constructing a 1.5 form entry primary school. The new school will utilise land currently attached to Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. and Saint Anthony's Roman Catholic Primary School, and will accommodate 330 full-time pupils and 30 full-time nursery pupils.

Full details of the proposal can be found in the Statutory Consultation document.

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## **C. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

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### **C.1. The Goals**

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales.

The legislation outlines 7 well-being goals that provide a shared vision for public bodies in Wales to work toward, these being:



Figure 1: Goals of The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

## C.2. Sustainable Development

Also contained within the Act is a sustainable development principle which means that the Council must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

There are 5 Ways of Working that can demonstrate how the Council has applied the sustainable development principle:

- Long Term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration, and
- Involvement

Further information about the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 can be found via the link <https://futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/>

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## **D. ASSESSMENT AREAS**

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There are several areas that potentially can be affected by any proposals and each one requires careful consideration.

The following impact assessments have been integrated into this document to provide a comprehensive evaluation of potential impacts:

- Equality & Human Rights
- Welsh Language
- Environmental & Biodiversity
- UN Conventions Rights of the Child
- Health, and
- Poverty.

## E. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

### E.1. Contribution to Well-being Goals

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Description	Contribution
<b>A Prosperous Wales</b>	
<p>An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>This will continue the Council's investment under Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. The Programme is A long term investment for schools and colleges to develop them as hubs for learning and reduce buildings in poor condition.</p> <p>This proposal removes two schools with inefficient buildings and replaces them with one school that will be constructed to Net Zero Carbon standards, which requires the efficient use of resources in construction and energy in operation.</p> <p>It is recognised that high quality learning environments can positively impact the delivery of education, providing pupils with safe and inspiring spaces to learn, which will lead to enhanced employment opportunities.</p> <p>A constructor will be encouraged to use local supply chain trades where practicably possible</p>
<b>A Resilient Wales</b>	
<p>A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.</p>	<p>New school buildings remove maintenance issues and costs. Through clever design, use of modern materials and the implementation of Net Zero Carbon principles, structures will be built in a sustainable way and</p>

Description	Contribution
	less impacted by issues linked use of fossil fuels and climate change.
<b>A Healthier Wales</b>	
A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood	A modern, fresh learning environment will nurture children and young people, providing a sanctuary that will help promote good-mental health. External areas will have spaces that will allow the school to develop and encourage participation in physical activities such as sports and walking.
<b>A More Equal Wales</b>	
A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic circumstances)	Providing a contemporary educational environment that will improve the opportunities for children and young people to fulfil their potential
<b>A Wales of Cohesive Communities</b>	
Attractive, safe, viable and well-connected.	<p>The proposal sees land located at the heart of a community redeveloped which will enhance the area. During design, consideration will be given to the inclusion of spaces for community use that will allow adult learning, meetings, and small event to be held. In addition, a dedicated childcare facility may also be included.</p> <p>All this encourages social interaction and promotes a togetherness amongst the community.</p> <p>Schools of the right type will be provided in the right places</p>
<b>A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language</b>	

Description	Contribution
<p>A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p>	<p>Modern facilities will encourage participation in a wide range of activities that may not be available at current locations.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the proposal will not directly promote the Welsh language. However, the proposal will not negatively impact the Welsh language either.</p>
<b>A Globally Responsible Wales</b>	
<p>A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being</p>	<p>Investing in 'green' technologies and meeting Net Zero Carbon targets.</p>

**F. Contribution to Sustainable Development**

Description	Contribution
<b>Long Term</b>	
<p>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	<p>The proposal aims to enhance the quality of primary provision in the Saltney area by providing modern, first-class facilities which are fit for purpose and appropriate to the numbers of children and young people living within the area. This will support the national strategy to create a more resilient and sustainable school network whilst increasing the educational opportunities open to pupils in the area and achieving Welsh</p>



Description	Contribution
	Government's ambition to become a net zero carbon nation by 2050.
<b>Integration</b>	
Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.	Ensuring the appropriate education provision integrates children and young people from varying backgrounds.
<b>Involvement</b>	
The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.	Key stakeholders will be invited help shape the end product of the proposal.
<b>Collaboration</b>	
Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.	The Flintshire and Wrexham's Public Services Board (PSB) consists of key agencies representing local government, health, police, fire rescue, education, the environment and third sector. This collaborative approach has resulted in the publication of the PSB's 'A Well-Being Plan 2023-2028', which outlines key objectives based on the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
<b>Prevention</b>	
How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help	Preventing inappropriate placements for our learners.

Description	Contribution
public bodies meet their objectives.	

## G. Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment

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Protected Characteristic	Potential Impact	Explanation & Mitigating Actions
Age	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Gender reassignment	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Disability	Positive impact	The proposed new school will fully comply with and equality and disability discrimination legislation.
Marriage and civil partnership	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Pregnancy and maternity	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Race	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Religion and Belief	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Sex	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Sexual Orientation	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	

## H. Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Protected Characteristic	Potential Impact	Explanation & Mitigating Actions
Treating the Welsh Language no less favourably than the English language	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	People will have access to Welsh versions of all documents and are invited to correspond in Welsh if desired.
Opportunities for people to use the Welsh language	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	People will have access to Welsh versions of all documents and are invited to correspond in Welsh if desired.
Meeting the Welsh Language Standards	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	The proposal will comply with the Welsh Language Standards.

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## I. Environmental & Biodiversity Impact Assessment

Protected Characteristic	Potential Impact	Explanation & Mitigating Actions
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions	Positive Impact	Inefficient buildings replaced with Net Zero Carbon facilities
Plan for future climate change	Positive Impact	Inefficient buildings replaced with Net Zero Carbon facilities
Protect coastal and inland water	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	

Protected Characteristic	Potential Impact	Explanation & Mitigating Actions
Pollution: air/water/soil/noise & vibration/emissions	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Enhancing biodiversity	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Encouraging resource efficiency (energy/water/materials & minerals)	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	Inefficient buildings replaced with Net Zero Carbon facilities
Reducing waste production and increase recycling, recovery and re-use	Positive Impact	Inefficient buildings replaced with Net Zero Carbon facilities
Reducing the need to travel and promote sustainable forms of transport	Positive and negative impacts.	<p>Positive – The proposed new school will examine safe walking routes to school and promote walking, cycling and the use of alternative transport methods to individual cars.</p> <p>Negative – the proposal will result in the removal of one school from the network. Children and young people currently attending Saltney Ferry C.P will have to travel to the new site on the land at Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. This will mean an increased distance to travel to school for these children and young people.</p>
Improve the physical environment: housing, public	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	

Protected Characteristic	Potential Impact	Explanation & Mitigating Actions
services, access to and quality of green space		
Protecting and enhancing the historic environment and architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	

## UN Conventions Rights of the Child Impact Assessment

Protected Characteristic	Potential Impact	Explanation & Mitigating Actions
Non discrimination	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Best interest of the child	Positive Impact	<p>Provides modern and inspiring (through Net Zero Carbon) learning environment that will enhance the education experience of pupils and the work setting of staff.</p> <p>In addition, the proposal is likely to provide green spaces such as playing fields and a forest school that will promote physical and mental well-being</p>

Protected Characteristic	Potential Impact	Explanation & Mitigating Actions
Right to survival and development	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Right to be heard	<p>Article 12: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)</p> <p>‘Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account’.</p>	<p>Children and young people at all directly affected schools will be consulted using information suitable to their age group.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, events will be held throughout the construction process to educate children and young people on what is happening, the Net Zero Carbon implications of the build and what it means for their education. Children and young people will be encouraged to interact where possible and input into potential outcomes.</p>

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## K. Health Impact Assessment

Protected Characteristic	Potential Impact	Mitigating Actions
Lifestyles	Positive Impact	The school will promote Active Travel Measures to

Protected Characteristic	Potential Impact	Mitigating Actions
		encourage children and young people and parents/carers to use more environmentally friendly ways of getting to/from school (for example walking and cycling as opposed to one pupil in a car).
Social and Community influence on Health	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	Increased community provision will increase local interactions and could reduce people feeling isolated, which in turn would boost mental well-being.
Mental Wellbeing	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	The new modern and inspirational learning environment will improve the mental well-being of children, young people and staff. The same can also be said for the access to playing fields, and nature areas that will be developed.
Living / Environmental conditions affecting Health	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Economic conditions affecting Health	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Access and quality of Services	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Ensuring adults and children are safeguarded	Positive Impact	The proposal includes a secure fencing line that will ensure only people allowed by the school can access the areas where children and young people will learn and

Protected Characteristic	Potential Impact	Mitigating Actions
		play. Also, the buildings have access controlled doors which can only be operated by those people who have been assigned the appropriate security pass.
Enabling more people to live well and independently at home	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Macro-economic, environmental & sustainability factors	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	

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## L. Poverty Impact Assessment

Protected Characteristic	Potential Impact	Mitigating Actions
Reducing fuel poverty	Positive Impact	Promotion of Active Travel Measures could result in more children and young people walking or cycling to/from school reducing the number of polluting cars on the road.



Improving local employment opportunities	Positive and negative Impact	<p>Positive – Construction partners are encouraged to engage local suppliers and sub-contractors to complete any works.</p> <p>Negative – removing one school from the network will reduce employment opportunities.</p>
Maximising traineeships and apprenticeship opportunities	Positive Impact	Provision will be considered as part of the community benefits scheme with the constructor to include the providing of opportunities for traineeships and apprenticeships.
Protecting people from poverty	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Improving qualification and skills	Positive Impact	People used throughout the construction process will have opportunities to use their skills and, where possible, obtain further qualifications whilst completing their work.

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## M. PROMOTION OF POSITIVE IMPACT

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Although there are no negative discriminatory impacts anticipated in some areas there are several support mechanisms in place to help those people who may be affected by any potential changes, these include (non-exhaustive list):

- Any pupil, parent/carer, staff member or governor with a protected characteristic will be provided with the appropriate support should the proposal be implemented.
- All pupils, regardless of their age, gender, disability, race, religious belief and first language will be offered transition and pastoral support if they are affected by the proposal.
- The Council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption to all pupils with specific consideration given to pupils with additional learning needs (ALN).
- Gender performance is monitored at school level and gaps are progressed through the School Action Plan.
- With a number of specialist interrelated services, the Council's Inclusion Service ensures its duty under the SEN Code of Practice for Wales 2002 is delivered. Services include:
  - Education Psychology Service.
  - Young Persons, Counselling Service.
  - Sensory Service.
  - English as an Additional Language / Gypsy Traveller Service.
  - Additional Learning Needs Service.
  - Speech, Language & Communication Service.
  - Education Welfare Service.
  - Behaviour Support Service.
  - Education Otherwise Than At School; and
  - Autistic Spectrum Condition Service.
- The Council works within the Equality Act 2010 to secure accessible school buildings for its pupils, parents and carers, staff, and governors. A pupil with a disability is assessed on an individual basis and a budget is available to adapt schools for pupils to access the curriculum. However, adaptations to buildings needs to meet the needs of pupils with disabilities and must be proportionate and reasonable within the available budget.
- The Council will fulfil its statutory duty to monitor the provision and achievement of pupils and schools relating to the agreed Religious Education syllabus.
- Parents/carers may express a preference to seek alternative education provision for their child. There are denominational and non-denominational primary schools available within

Flintshire area should pupils who are dispersed wish to access alternative education provision.

- Flintshire County Council is currently developing a Trans Policy for schools. Training will be made available to schools.
- The schools have its own equality and diversity statements, Strategic Equality plan as well as employment policies to support staff through change programme. Each school should have their own ethos around promoting equality, eliminating discrimination, and promoting good relations.
- Pupils and staff with disabilities will have improved access to school facilities.
- Trans-pupils and staff will have access to gender neutral toilets.
- All schools receive inspections via Estyn.

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## **N. CONCLUSION**

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The positive impacts of the proposal on pupils, staff and the local community are a compelling endorsement of why the Council view the proposal as a viable project. Replacing existing school stock with modern, net zero carbon buildings will reduce reliance on fossil fuels and increase the Council's resilience to an ever-changing climate.

The proposal continues the investment through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme to improve the condition of school buildings and learning environments for children and young people.

Not all impacts are positive, and it is recognised that there are negative impacts to the proposal too, most notably the removal of Saltney Ferry C.P. However, should negative impacts the Council will endeavour to mitigate, reduce, or remove their affects through implementation of robust policies, procedures, and systems that are in place.

Where the implementation of the proposal results in negative impacts that have not been previously identified, the Council will make all practicable steps to provide the appropriate support to affected individuals and/or groups.

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## Proposal to Reorganise the Saltney Primary Education Provision in Flintshire

### Anticipated Timeline

DATE	SCHOOL TERM	KEY MILESTONE
February 2025	Spring 2025	Cabinet presented with proposal and approval sought to proceed to Approval to commence with Statutory Proposals
March 2025	Spring 2025	Consultation document published. Must be published on a school day (42 days with 20 school days)
April 2025	Spring 2025	Consultation Ends
June 2025	Summer 2025	Publication of Consultation Report (at least 2 weeks prior to publishing a notice)
July 2025	Summer 2025	Cabinet review of consultation report and decision on whether or not to proceed to a Notice
September 2025	Autumn 2025	If agreed Statutory Notice published providing a 28 day period for objections. (Must be published on a school day and with 15 school days in the period)
September 2025	Autumn 2025	End of objection period
December 2025	Autumn 2025	Cabinet Determination and Publication of Objection report. (Must be done within 7 days of the date of determination)

Note: the anticipated timeline is a guide to the statutory process and is subject to change

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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>Report Subject</b>	Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme - Proposal to Modernise Education Provision for the Flintshire Catholic School Network
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Cabinet approval to begin the relevant and required statutory consultation for the proposal to amalgamate a number of schools in the Catholic schools network in Flintshire by:

- Opening a new Voluntary Aided 3-18 all-through school for St David's Catholic Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School on the St Richard Gwyn Catholic High school site in Flint.
- Closing St David's Catholic Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School.
- Closing St Anthony's Catholic Primary School by September 2026 as the falling level of pupil numbers is making it unsustainable. This site would not be retained in the Flintshire Catholic school network in advance of the new 3-18 facility being constructed in Flint. Primary aged learners in Saltney who wish to access a primary Catholic education would be offered a place at their nearest Catholic primary school which for St Anthony's Catholic Primary School learners would be Venerable Edward Morgan Catholic Primary School, Shotton. Historically, learners in the Saltney area who wish to continue to a Catholic secondary education transfer to Chester Catholic High School, which is a short distance away, rather than St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School

Whilst the new all-through building is approved and constructed, all schools impacted by the 3-18 proposal will continue to operate as separate establishments on their individual school sites.

This report seeks to open a period of formal consultation with key stakeholders on how best to secure resilient sustainable high-quality Catholic education in Flintshire for future reporting to Cabinet.

This proposal will be reviewed in line with the requirements of The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and School Organisation Code 2018.

This report seeks Cabinet approval to submit a Strategic Outline Business Case to the Welsh Government for a new 3-18 all-through Catholic School. Submission of the Strategic Outline Business Case is subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation in relation to a new 3-18 all-through Catholic for a number of schools currently in the Flintshire Catholic school network.

Approval for a capital investment for the 3-18 all-through Catholic school will be brought back to Cabinet in future for determination in line with the Council's governance requirements.

This proposal is part of the Council's Transformation Programme which has been developed to address its challenging financial position and longer-term sustainability. It will be captured in the Programme under the project section 'P4 - Better Schools'.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet notes the contents of the report.
2	Cabinet approves to commence consultation with relevant stakeholders on the proposal to close St David's Catholic Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School and open a new 3-18 all-through Catholic school to provide for learning provision for the Catholic community.
3	Cabinet supports the closure of St Anthony's Catholic Primary School by September 2026 in advance of the new 3-18 facility being constructed in Flint.
4	Cabinet approves to submit a Strategic Outline Business Case to the Welsh Government for new 3-18 all-through Catholic School. Submission of the Strategic Outline Business Case is subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation in relation to the new 3-18 all-through school facility for the Catholic school network.
5	It is noted that any new capital project will be brought back to Cabinet for further determination.



## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING PROGRAMME – PROPOSAL TO MODERNISE THE FLINTSHIRE CATHOLIC SCHOOL NETWORK</b>
1.01	<p>The School Modernisation Programme is required because we need to ensure the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That education provision is both high quality and sustainable.</li><li>• Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities.</li><li>• Provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations.</li><li>• That building assets are designed and built to withstand the impacts of a changing climate.</li><li>• Address unsustainable school buildings and supporting infrastructure.</li><li>• Recognise that doing nothing means higher pupil teacher ratios as funding reduces.</li><li>• Ensure that we can maximise external funding through the Welsh Government’s Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.</li></ul>
1.02	<p>The key ‘drivers’ or criteria for modernisation which underpin the above are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Educational improvement</li><li>• Resilient school leadership</li><li>• Suitable buildings</li><li>• Unfilled places, and</li><li>• Diminishing resources</li></ul>
1.03	<p>The primary school portfolio as of January 2024 currently has 2,742 unfilled places and the secondary school portfolio has 1,124 unfilled places. There are currently a total of 19.33% surplus places (January 2024) in primary schools, whilst the national and local target is to reduce this level to under 10%.</p>
1.04	<p>The Council’s school modernisation programme has made good progress in modernising our school estate, meeting demand for places and expanding pupil places where required, including early years provision. The Council has been building new schools, remodelling, and redeveloping schools across the Flintshire network providing inspiring and modern learning environments for our learners, staff, parents/carers and the wider community. The Council has invested over £140m over the last ten years into the Flintshire school estate.</p>
1.05	<p>As part of the continuation of the programme, investment has been identified in partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Wrexham and Welsh Government. This would provide an area school for the current Catholic School network in the Council’s next phase of strategic infrastructure funding from the Welsh Government’s Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.</p>

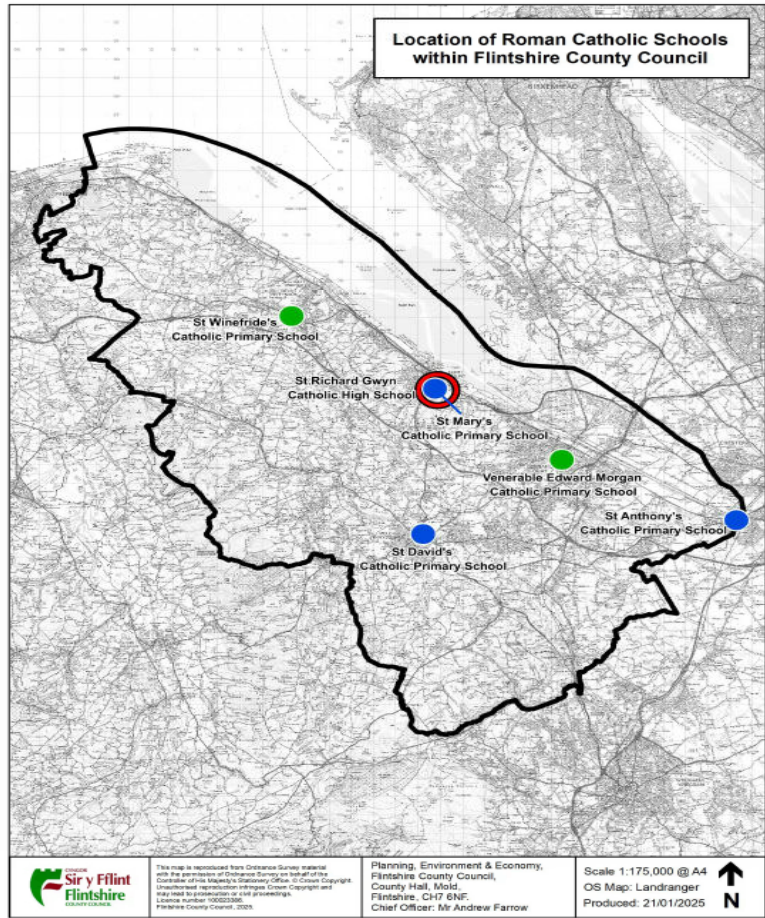
1.06

In order to secure the required funding for capital investment for the Catholic school network, it is proposed in partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Wrexham to amalgamate St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, St David's Catholic Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, which are amongst the highest ranked schools requiring school modernisation and investment in the education portfolio.

1.07

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, St David's Catholic Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School are situated in different locations across Flintshire.

School	Address
St Anthony's Catholic Primary School	High Street, Saltney, Chester, CH4 8SG
St David's Catholic Primary School	1 Saint David's Lane, Mold, CH7 1LH
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	Ffordd Llewelyn, Flint, CH6 5JZ
St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School	Albert Avenue, Flint, CH6 5JZ



1.08

On the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024, Cabinet approved the submission of the Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for the next phase of the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Investment for

	schools and colleges programme. This included for significant capital investment for the Catholic school network. Welsh Government approved the submission of the SOP on 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2024.																	
1.09	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p><b>St Anthony's Catholic Primary School</b></p> <p>St Anthony's Catholic Primary School is located in the town of Saltney. The school is a single storey school of system build modular type construction.</p>																	
1.10	<p>Details of the current school capacity &amp; pupil numbers as at Sept Numbers of Roll Survey 2024</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>Capacity</th> <th>Pupil (Full Time) Numbers Excluding Nursery (Sept 2024)</th> <th>Pupil Numbers Including Nursery (Sept 2024)</th> <th>Surplus Places</th> <th>Age Range</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>St Anthony's Catholic Primary School</td> <td>152</td> <td>68</td> <td>74</td> <td>84 (55.26%)</td> <td>3-11</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Revenue allocation - £415,462 School Budget Cost Per Pupil 24/25 = £5,852</p>						School	Capacity	Pupil (Full Time) Numbers Excluding Nursery (Sept 2024)	Pupil Numbers Including Nursery (Sept 2024)	Surplus Places	Age Range	St Anthony's Catholic Primary School	152	68	74	84 (55.26%)	3-11
School	Capacity	Pupil (Full Time) Numbers Excluding Nursery (Sept 2024)	Pupil Numbers Including Nursery (Sept 2024)	Surplus Places	Age Range													
St Anthony's Catholic Primary School	152	68	74	84 (55.26%)	3-11													
1.11	By 2029/30, St Anthony's Catholic Primary School is currently projected to have surplus places of 72.37%.																	
1.12	A condition report was carried out in May 2024 graded at condition score B (where 'A' is the highest and 'D' is the lowest) the building receiving satisfactory scores with recommendations for improvement work in some areas.																	
1.13	A suitability survey report was carried out in 2016 and graded the school at suitability score C (where 'A' is the highest and 'D' is the lowest) and made further recommendations and observations. The location of the school, on the busy main High Street into Chester and bordering a residential area, makes drop off and pick up times challenging, with inadequate parking and turning arrangements available for parents/carers.																	
1.14	St Anthony's Catholic Primary School currently has a recorded maintenance backlog of £16k.																	

1.15	St Anthony's Catholic Primary School currently has an acting Executive Headteacher which has been agreed with the Governing Body whilst a review of the Catholic school network is undertaken.																		
1.16	<p>St Anthony's Catholic Primary School has a Display Energy Certificate with an energy performance operational rating of E. The school uses a natural gas heating system. In 2023-24 the school consumed 25,322kWh of electricity and 59,087kWh of gas. This equated to a total of 19,554kgCO<sub>2</sub>e. A replacement facility built to Net Zero Carbon in Operation (NZCio) standard would remove these emissions from the Council's carbon footprint by incorporating renewable energy systems and natural ventilation and shading.</p> <p>The impact on emissions from travel would need to be determined, however, sustainable means of transport would be adopted where possible.</p>																		
1.17	<p>An Estyn review inspection carried out in January 2019 judged that St Anthony's Catholic Primary School was judged as 'good' across most areas of the inspection framework. The school drew up an action plan to show how it would address the recommendations made by Estyn. A link to the Estyn report can be found below.</p> <p><a href="#">Inspection report St Anthony's R.C. Primary School 2019</a></p>																		
1.18	<p><b>St David's Catholic Primary School</b></p> <p>St David's Catholic Primary school is located on the outskirts of the town of Mold, situated between residential and retail properties. The school is a single storey school of system build modular type construction.</p>																		
1.19	<p>Details of the current school capacity &amp; pupil numbers as at Sept Numbers of Roll Survey 2024</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>Capacity</th> <th>Pupil (Full Time) Numbers Excluding Nursery (Sept 2024)</th> <th>Pupil Numbers Including Nursery (Sept 2024)</th> <th>Surplus Places</th> <th>Age Range</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>St David's Catholic Primary School</td> <td>144</td> <td>71</td> <td>79</td> <td>73 (50.69%)</td> <td>3-11</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">           Revenue allocation - £405,961            School Budget Cost Per Pupil 24/25 = £5,678         </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	School	Capacity	Pupil (Full Time) Numbers Excluding Nursery (Sept 2024)	Pupil Numbers Including Nursery (Sept 2024)	Surplus Places	Age Range	St David's Catholic Primary School	144	71	79	73 (50.69%)	3-11	Revenue allocation - £405,961 School Budget Cost Per Pupil 24/25 = £5,678					
School	Capacity	Pupil (Full Time) Numbers Excluding Nursery (Sept 2024)	Pupil Numbers Including Nursery (Sept 2024)	Surplus Places	Age Range														
St David's Catholic Primary School	144	71	79	73 (50.69%)	3-11														
Revenue allocation - £405,961 School Budget Cost Per Pupil 24/25 = £5,678																			
1.20	By 2029/30, St David's Catholic Primary School is currently projected to have surplus places of 64.58%.																		

1.21	A condition report was carried out in June 2013 graded at condition score B (where 'A' is the highest and 'D' is the lowest) with most of the blocks receiving satisfactory scores with recommendations for improvement work in some areas.																	
1.22	A suitability survey was carried in 2016, graded the school at suitability score C (where 'A' is the highest and 'D' is the lowest), and also made for further recommendations and observations.																	
1.23	St David's Catholic Primary School currently has a recorded maintenance backlog of £148k.																	
1.24	St David's Catholic Primary School currently has an acting Executive Headteacher which has been agreed with the Governing Body whilst a review of the Catholic school network is undertaken.																	
1.25	<p>St David's Catholic Primary School has a Display Energy Certificate with an energy performance operational rating of C. The school uses a natural gas heating system. In 2023-24 the school consumed 22,765kWh of electricity and 118,312kWh of gas. This equated to a total of 31,474kgCO<sub>2</sub>e. A replacement facility built to Net Zero Carbon in Operation (NZCio) standard would remove these emissions from the Council's carbon footprint by incorporating renewable energy systems and natural ventilation and shading.</p> <p>The impact on emissions from travel would need to be determined, however sustainable means of transport would be adopted where possible.</p>																	
1.26	<p>An Estyn review inspection carried out in March 2020 judged that St David's Catholic Primary School was judged as 'good' across all areas of the inspection framework. The school drew up an action plan to show how it would address the recommendations made by Estyn. A link to the Estyn report can be found below.</p> <p><a href="#">Inspection report St David's Catholic Primary School 2020</a></p>																	
1.27	<p><b>St Mary's Catholic Primary School</b></p> <p>St Mary's Catholic Primary school is located on the outskirts of the town of Flint, situated in a residential area neighbouring St Richard Gwyn Catholic High school. The school is a single storey building of modular, and brick cavity wall construction.</p>																	
1.28	<p>Details of the current school capacity &amp; pupil numbers as at Sept Numbers of Roll Survey 2024</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>Capacity</th> <th>Pupil (Full Time) Numbers Excluding Nursery</th> <th>Pupil Numbers Including Nursery (Sept 2024)</th> <th>Surplus Places</th> <th>Age Range</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						School	Capacity	Pupil (Full Time) Numbers Excluding Nursery	Pupil Numbers Including Nursery (Sept 2024)	Surplus Places	Age Range						
School	Capacity	Pupil (Full Time) Numbers Excluding Nursery	Pupil Numbers Including Nursery (Sept 2024)	Surplus Places	Age Range													

			(Sept 2024)			
	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	317	232	261	85 (26.81%)	3-11
Revenue allocation - £1,042,659 School Budget Cost Per Pupil 24/25 = £4,381						
1.29	By 2029/30, St Mary's Catholic Primary School is currently projected to have surplus places of 29.97%.					
1.30	A condition report was carried out in July 2024 graded at condition score C (where 'A' is the highest and 'D' is the lowest) with the building receiving satisfactory to poor score with recommendations for improvement work in most areas.					
1.31	A suitability survey was carried in 2016, graded the school at suitability score B (where 'A' is the highest and 'D' is the lowest), and also made for further recommendations and observations.					
1.32	St Mary's Catholic Primary School currently has a recorded maintenance backlog of £253k.					
1.33	St Mary's Catholic Primary School has a permanent Headteacher.					
1.34	<p>St Mary's Catholic Primary School has a Display Energy Certificate with an energy performance operational rating of D. The school uses a natural gas heating system. In 2023-24 the school consumed 51,980kWh of electricity and 206,712kWh of gas. This equated to a total of 58,345kgCO<sub>2</sub>e. A replacement facility built to Net Zero Carbon in Operation (NZCio) standard would remove these emissions from the Council's carbon footprint by incorporating renewable energy systems and natural ventilation and shading.</p> <p>The impact on emissions from travel would need to be determined, however, sustainable means of transport would be adopted where possible.</p>					
1.35	<p>An Estyn review inspection carried out in February 2018 judged that St Mary's Catholic Primary School was judged as 'good' in three areas of the inspection framework and judged as 'adequate and needs improvement' in two area of the inspection framework. It was placed in the non-statutory category of Estyn Review. The school drew up an action plan to show how it would address the recommendations. The school received a follow up monitoring visit in December 2019, and it was judged to have made sufficient progress in relation to the recommendations following the core inspection. As a result, His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales removed the school from the list of schools requiring monitoring.</p> <p>A link to the Estyn report can be found below.</p>					

	<p><a href="#">Inspection Report Template</a></p> <p><a href="#">Outcome of Estyn review St Mary's RC Primary School 2019</a></p>																													
1.36	<p><b>St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School</b></p> <p>St Richard Gwyn Catholic High school is located on the outskirts of the town of Flint, situated in a residential area neighbouring St Mary's Catholic Primary school. The school has been constructed across multiple blocks that vary from traditional brick-built ground floor building to three floor traditionally built brick build buildings.</p>																													
1.37	<p>Details of the current school capacity &amp; pupil numbers as at Sept Numbers of Roll Survey 2024</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>Capacity</th> <th>Pupil (Y7-11) Numbers</th> <th>Pupil Numbers Including Post 16 (Sept 2024)</th> <th>Surplus Places</th> <th>Age Range</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School</td> <td>969</td> <td>699</td> <td>794</td> <td>175 (18.06%)</td> <td>11-18</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">Revenue allocation - £4,178,871</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">School Budget Cost Per Pupil 24/25 = £5,413</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						School	Capacity	Pupil (Y7-11) Numbers	Pupil Numbers Including Post 16 (Sept 2024)	Surplus Places	Age Range	St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School	969	699	794	175 (18.06%)	11-18	Revenue allocation - £4,178,871						School Budget Cost Per Pupil 24/25 = £5,413					
School	Capacity	Pupil (Y7-11) Numbers	Pupil Numbers Including Post 16 (Sept 2024)	Surplus Places	Age Range																									
St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School	969	699	794	175 (18.06%)	11-18																									
Revenue allocation - £4,178,871																														
School Budget Cost Per Pupil 24/25 = £5,413																														
1.38	<p>By 2029/30, St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School is currently projected to have surplus places of 26.62%.</p>																													
1.39	<p>A condition report was carried out in April 2018 which graded it at condition score C (where 'A' is the highest and 'D' is the lowest) with the building receiving poor to satisfactory scores across the blocks with recommendations for improvement work in most areas.</p>																													
1.40	<p>A suitability survey was carried in 2016 graded the school at suitability score B (where 'A' is the highest and 'D' is the lowest), and made further recommendations and observations.</p>																													
1.41	<p>St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School currently has a recorded maintenance backlog of £14k.</p>																													
1.42	<p>St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School has a permanent Headteacher.</p>																													
1.43	<p>St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School has a Display Energy Certificate with an energy performance operational rating of D. The school uses a natural gas heating system. In 2023-24 the school consumed 245,094kWh of electricity and 808,630kWh of gas. This equated to a</p>																													



	<p>total of 239,717kgCO<sub>2</sub>e. A replacement facility built to Net Zero Carbon in Operation (NZCio) standard would remove these emissions from the Council's carbon footprint by incorporating renewable energy systems and natural ventilation and shading.</p> <p>The impact on emissions from travel would need to be determined, however sustainable means of transport would be adopted where possible.</p>
1.45	<p>An Estyn review inspection carried out in April 2024 judged that St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School was judged as 'In Need of Significant Improvement'. The school has drawn up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations and is working closely with the local authority and the regional consortium. Estyn will visit the school again to monitor progress about 12-18 months following the publication of the inspection report.</p> <p>A link to the Estyn report can be found below.</p> <p><a href="#">Inspection report St Richard Gwyn Roman Catholic High School 2024</a></p>
1.46	<p><b>The Proposal</b></p> <p>It is proposed that a new all-through Catholic school (3-18) is developed on the existing sites of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School and St Mary's Catholic Primary School to improve and expand facilities, remove surplus places and support continued school improvement.</p>
1.47	<p>This investment would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• modern, flexible learning environments for all learners;</li> <li>• hall/dining area, and a multi-purpose learning resource area;</li> <li>• accessible internal and external facilities for wider community use;</li> <li>• enhanced outdoor spaces to support the full range of curriculum activities, including an outdoor classroom and a 'forest schools' area; and,</li> <li>• improved traffic management including consideration of an onsite drop -off facility (subject to further surveys and the transport and traffic assessment) and on-site staff parking; and</li> <li>• subject to funding a dedicated early years facility to support much needed childcare options for families.</li> </ul>
1.48	<p>The new school would be built in accordance with Building Bulletin 98 and 99 and would be fully accessible and compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and would meet Net Zero Carbon in operation requirements. The carbon emissions from energy alone from each of the existing premises totals approximately 349tCO<sub>2</sub>e. As the net zero carbon requirement of the Sustainable Communities for Learning, the buildings are required to produce zero or negative carbon emissions as part of their operational energy, therefore this total would largely be removed from the Council's carbon footprint.</p>



1.49	<p>There are currently pupils attending the Catholic School network who use Home to School Transport. Given the proximity of the existing schools and the proposed development site, it is anticipated that this will change the transport arrangements for some learners should the proposal be implemented subject to parental choice and will likely increase transport costs. The transport costs have yet to be fully captured as we are not able to accurately determine these at this stage.</p>
1.50	<p>The investment would also include a review of safe routes to school. If required, an investment in improvements to walkways, road crossings and traffic calming measures will be introduced to ensure the required safety standards are met. This is the approach the Council has implemented in other communities through delivering the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.</p>
1.51	<p>To achieve these proposals, the Council is seeking to close St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, St David's Catholic Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School and open a new 3-18 all through Catholic school to operate on respective sites moving into a single new school site to provide for learning provision for the Catholic community.</p> <p>The proposal is seeking early implementation of the closure of St Anthony's Catholic Primary School by September 2026 and not be retained in the Catholic school network in advance of a new 3-18 facility being constructed. Primary aged learners in Saltney who wish to access a primary Catholic education would be offered a place at their nearest Catholic primary school which for St Anthony's Catholic Primary School learners would be Venerable Edward Morgan Catholic Primary School, Shotton.</p>
1.52	<p><b>The Proposed Site</b></p> <p>The new school building is proposed to be built on the existing St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, subject to necessary approvals, would include the existing St Mary's Catholic Primary School site. Given the limitations of both existing school sites, the number of options available for a 3-18 all through school for consideration were limited.</p>
1.53	<p>Searches of the nearby areas of the Catholic School network were undertaken to identify a suitable site which met the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an adequate site area.</li> <li>• Have satisfactory access which is capable of being improved.</li> <li>• Considered the proximity to the current schools.</li> <li>• Be a viable development opportunity subject to a detailed feasibility study.</li> <li>• Be free from any flood risks which wouldn't impede construction activities.</li> </ul>
1.54	<p>Following the site assessment, a new site which includes the existing St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School site and St Mary's Catholic Primary School site was chosen as the preferred location for the new 3-18 all-</p>

	through school. The identified site is of suitable size to accommodate a school building with appropriate external space and facilities, has good infrastructure and is in a prominent position in the town.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Long term the amalgamation of the Catholic schools would result in more efficient and effective use of resources with the school funding calculations changing from four to one school budget and significantly reducing surplus places across the Catholic network. Some other savings would also be achieved, for example because the new schools would be Net Zero Carbon in operation once a new build is delivered reducing the current repair and maintenance costs of ageing buildings. However other costs, such as business rates, are likely to increase.
2.02	One of the drivers for amalgamation is equality of funding for pupils and through the amalgamation of the four schools as the cost per pupil for the Catholic estate will be rationalised, as they will be funded on the same formula as other schools if they are part of an amalgamation. As part of the Council's funding formula, schools are funded on the number of pupils and on other non-teaching costs. If the schools were to be merged to become a single school, the formula would calculate a single budget, which would be smaller than the budget of operating as four separate schools.
2.03	Short term there would be no significant financial implications for school budgets as a result of the recommendations in this report for a number of years as both sites would remain as they are until a new building is ready for them to occupy with the exception of St Anthony's Catholic School who would be removed earlier from the school network by September 2026.
2.04	Should the proposal go ahead capital investment will be required. The estimated cost reviewed at initial feasibility stage undertaken in 2024 of constructing a new 3-11 primary school is £55.5m. If the proposals proceed this capital commitment would be majority funded at an intervention rate of 85% by the Welsh Government Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme funding the remaining 15% would be funded by Flintshire County Council prudential borrowing and land disposal receipts. Replacing all schools in their current forms on their separate sites is not financially viable.
2.05	Capital funding is subject to approval by Cabinet and by the Welsh Government following the submission of the relevant Business Cases and the receipt of finalised detailed costs which would be brought back to Cabinet, should the proposals proceed.
2.06	The Welsh Government Sustainable Communities for Learning rolling programme is funded as follows:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital – Schools : 65% WG / 35% LA</li> <li>• Capital – PRU / ALN Schools : 75% WG / 25% LA</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital – Voluntary Aided Schools : 85% WG / 15% LA and/or Diocese</li> <li>• MIM is funded at an intervention rate of 81% Welsh Government and 19% Council (through revenue budgets of both organisations).</li> </ul>
2.07	The estimated associated debt revenue costs arising from the programme are included in the Council’s Medium Term Financial strategy.
2.08	<p>There will be associated school revenue costs linked to the proposal. As the project progresses and the size of the new school is determined, along with confirmed learner numbers following the completion of the statutory proposal process, the MTFS commitments will be updated and reported back to Cabinet accordingly.</p> <p>Decisions to commit to capital expenditure investing in assets to deliver high quality services efficiently have long term implications for future revenue budgets. Consideration must be given to the programme and schemes within them are affordable, sustainable and therefore prudent. Capital and revenue implications will need regular review at key stages within this project as it develops as we are not able to accurately determine the revenue costs at this stage.</p>

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	<p>There are strategic links to Flintshire County Council Plan for the period between 2023 to 2028, specifically the priority:</p> <p>Education &amp; Skills – Enabling and Supporting Learning Communities and Learning Environments – Creating aspirational and flexible learning environments.</p>
3.02	<p>Due regard has been made to all seven Well-being Goals and the Five Ways of Working, as contained within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 which requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of decisions, on communities to prevent consistent issues such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.</p> <p>This proposal would contribute to achieving the Well-being Goals by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving sustainability of school buildings in the Council portfolio through a commitment to achieving a Net Zero Carbon in operation school with a BREEAM rating of ‘Excellent’.</li> <li>• Providing new community facilities that can be used by local people.</li> </ul>

3.03	<p>This proposal would achieve the Five Ways of Working by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a new school environment that can deliver the new curriculum for Wales as set out in the national mission statement.</li> <li>• Provide first class learning facilities for pupils and the wider community and contribute towards a healthier Wales by providing additional outdoor sport facilities for learners.</li> <li>• Contributing towards a prosperous Wales by committing to opportunities for local tradespeople and to use local resources, wherever possible to build the new school.</li> <li>• Engaging with the community on a thorough consultation with opportunities for all stakeholders in the community to engage throughout the process.</li> </ul>												
3.04	<p>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ways of Working Principle</th> <th>Impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td>Positive – ensures that high quality education places are available to communities to meet demand across the Flintshire education network.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> <td>Positive – preventing inappropriate placements for our learners.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> <td>Positive – ensuring the appropriate education provision integrates children from varying backgrounds.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> <td>Positive – partnership arrangements in-house and with external parties including school governing bodies.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> <td>Positive - The proposed programme involves a range of stakeholders to enable its delivery.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ways of Working Principle	Impact	Long-term	Positive – ensures that high quality education places are available to communities to meet demand across the Flintshire education network.	Prevention	Positive – preventing inappropriate placements for our learners.	Integration	Positive – ensuring the appropriate education provision integrates children from varying backgrounds.	Collaboration	Positive – partnership arrangements in-house and with external parties including school governing bodies.	Involvement	Positive - The proposed programme involves a range of stakeholders to enable its delivery.
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3.05	<p>Well-being Principle Impacts</p> <p>Against the seven Well-being Goals of the Act, the potential impact of the report and its recommendations would be evaluated as follows:-</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Prosperous Wales</td> <td> <p>Positive impact</p> <p>Capital investment directly benefits local supply chain/economy. Ensuring our schools are in the right place and of the right type.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Resilient Wales</td> <td>Positive impact</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Prosperous Wales	<p>Positive impact</p> <p>Capital investment directly benefits local supply chain/economy. Ensuring our schools are in the right place and of the right type.</p>	Resilient Wales	Positive impact								
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		Use of sustainable and recycled materials during construction, more energy efficient, potential reduction in carbon emissions.
	Healthier Wales	Positive Impact Improved physical infrastructure and facilities which positively impact on the wellbeing of the schools and its community.
	More Equal Wales	Positive Impact Equalities Impact Assessments are already embedded in school cultures. Opening up more education places to those who need them.
	Cohesive Wales	Positive Impact School network widens/reduces its number of places for education provision through delivery of new and refurbished facilities of the right type in the right place.
	Vibrant Wales	Positive Impact Enables new and refurbished facilities to improve, both curricular, extra-curricular and community use of school buildings.
	Globally Responsible Wales	Positive Impact Capital investment, delivers a more sustainable product, local spend and added benefits for apprenticeships, work experience in construction.
3.06	An initial integrated impact assessment has been completed, attached as Appendix 1. The impact assessment has identified that there will be a potential negative impact on the Saltney and Mold Catholic communities which will be mitigated by the delivery of new education learning facilities which serve the wider Catholic network.	
3.07	Reviewing the future of any school is controversial and emotive. Pupils, parents, carers and teachers, past and present, have strong ties to local schools as part of their own life-stories. The Council fully recognises the above, however it is challenged with balancing the sensitivities of community feeling on the one hand, with providing a high-quality primary education offer which can be sustained and afforded.	

3.08	An Integrated Impact Assessment which would include further detail on the contribution of the proposal to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act would form an integral part of the consultation document in relation to the Catholic school network proposals. This would be available for all stakeholders to view and comment upon as a part of the consultation process. A Welsh Language Impact Assessment will also be undertaken as part of the consultation.
3.09	Equality, Welsh Language and Community Impact Assessments will be prepared in respect of these proposals. The proposal will be published on the Council's website in accordance with the requirements of Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018) (the "Code").
3.10	The programme and all projects within the Councils School Modernisation programme are managed using a risk register. Risks are managed accordingly, and financial risks are managed through a programme contingency. Any high-level risk which cannot be managed with the projects/programme will be incorporated into the risk register for the Education and Youth Portfolio.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	Part 1 of the Education Act 1996 ("the 1996 Act") imposes a number of general duties on all local authorities in Wales. The general duty in section 13 of the 1996 Act is to contribute (so far as the Council's powers enable them to do so) towards the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community by securing that efficient primary education and secondary education are available to meet the needs of the population of their area.
4.02	Section 14 of the 1996 Act then provides that the Council shall secure that sufficient schools for providing primary education and secondary education are available in the Council's area. Schools available for an area shall not be regarded as sufficient unless they are sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity for appropriate education.
4.03	Powers for Councils to develop school organisation proposals are governed by the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the Code. Local Authorities must, when exercising functions under Part 3 of the 2013 Act, act in accordance with any relevant requirements contained in the Code and must have regard to any relevant guidelines contained in it. A copy of the Code is found here:  <a href="https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf">https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf</a>
4.04	Informal consultation with Wrexham Diocese Trustees has been completed. Trustees are supportive of the proposal.

4.05	The proposed consultation period, if it is agreed to progress this proposal, would run from Spring term 2025 to Summer term 2026. Details regarding engagement opportunities will be added to the consultation documents.
4.06	The proposed potential timetable for completion of the statutory process is set out in Appendix 2.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – Integrated Impact Assessment
5.02	Appendix 2 - Proposed Consultation Timetable

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	School Organisation Code 2018 – The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013  <a href="https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/schoolorganisation-code-second-edition.pdf">https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/schoolorganisation-code-second-edition.pdf</a>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Jennie Williams, Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704015 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:jennie.williams@flintshire.gov.uk">jennie.williams@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<b>Sustainable Communities for Learning</b> - Is a collaboration between the Welsh Government (WG), the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and local authorities. It is a major, long-term and strategic capital investment programme with the aim of creating a generation of 21st century schools in Wales.
8.02	<b>MIM</b> - The Mutual Investment Model is the Welsh Government's new form of Public Private Partnership.
8.03	<b>Capital funding</b> - Capital funding is usually linked to acquiring or improving a long-term asset such as equipment or buildings.
8.04	<b>Revenue funding</b> - Is linked to items that will be used within a year. Examples include salaries, heating, lighting, services and small items of equipment.

8.05	<b>School Organisation Code</b> – The new School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2018 makes Local Authorities responsible (rather than the Welsh Ministers prior to October 2018) for the determination of most statutory school organisation proposals that receive objections.
8.06	<b>Estyn</b> – education and training inspectorate for Wales. Their vision is to improve the quality of education and training, and outcomes for all learners in Wales and their mission is to support education and training providers to develop a self-improving and learning culture through advice, inspection and capacity building.
8.07	<b>GwE</b> - North Wales regional school improvement service working alongside and on behalf of the North Wales local authorities – Wrexham, Flintshire, Denbighshire, Conwy, Gwynedd, Anglesey.
8.08	<b>Voluntary Aided Schools</b> - Voluntary Aided schools are maintained jointly by Flintshire County Borough Council and either Church in Wales, or the Catholic Church. The school building belongs to the diocese, the school site is owned by Flintshire County Council.





# INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT



## Proposal to Reorganise the Catholic Education Provision in Flintshire

Spring 2025

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## A. OUTLINE OF ASSESSMENT

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### A.1. Introduction

1. This Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) aims to identify potential positive and negative impacts of the proposal and to outline actions that may be implemented to mitigate any identified effects.
2. The IIA will consider how the proposal contributes to the Council's goals under The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and how it meets the principle of sustainable development.
3. This document will also incorporate several individual assessments to provide a comprehensive evaluation of potential impacts.
4. This IIA has been produced as a supplementary document to the Statutory Consultation

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## B. The Proposal

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5. The Catholic Diocese of Wrexham (“the Diocese”) and Flintshire County Council (“the Council”) propose to Reorganise the Catholic Education Provision in Flintshire.
6. The proposal will involve two distinct elements:
  - The closure of St Anthony's Catholic Primary School in Saltney, the closure of St David's Catholic Primary School in Mold, the closure of St Mary's, Catholic Primary School in Flint and the closure of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School in Flint.
  - The opening of a new English medium 3-18 Catholic Voluntary Aided School in Flint.
7. Full details of the proposal can be found in the Statutory Consultation document.

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## C. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

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### C.1. The Goals

8. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales.
9. The legislation outlines 7 well-being goals that provide a shared vision for public bodies in Wales to work toward, these being:



Figure 1: Goals of The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

## C.2. Sustainable Development

10. Also contained within the Act is a sustainable development principle which means that the Council must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
11. There are 5 Ways of Working that can demonstrate how the Council has applied the sustainable development principle:
  - Long Term
  - Prevention
  - Integration
  - Collaboration, and
  - Involvement
12. Further information about the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 can be found via the link <https://futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/>

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## **D. ASSESSMENT AREAS**

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13. There are several areas that potentially can be affected by any proposals and each one requires careful consideration.
14. The following impact assessments have been integrated into this document to provide a comprehensive evaluation of potential impacts:
  - Equality & Human Rights
  - Welsh Language
  - Environmental & Biodiversity
  - UN Conventions Rights of the Child
  - Health, and
  - Poverty.

## E. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

### E.1. Contribution to Well-being Goals

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Description	Contribution
<b>A Prosperous Wales</b>	
<p>An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>This will continue the Council’s investment under Welsh Government’s Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. The Programme is a long-term investment for schools and colleges to develop them as hubs for learning and reduce buildings in poor condition.</p> <p>This proposal removes four schools with inefficient buildings and replaces them with one school that will be constructed to Net Zero Carbon standards, which requires the efficient use of resources in construction and energy in operation.</p> <p>It is recognised that high quality learning environments can positively impact the delivery of education, providing pupils with safe and inspiring spaces to learn, which will lead to enhanced employment opportunities.</p> <p>A constructor will be encouraged to use local supply chain trades where practicably possible</p>
<b>A Resilient Wales</b>	
<p>A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.</p>	<p>New school buildings remove maintenance issues and costs. Through clever design, use of modern materials and the implementation of Net</p>

Description	Contribution
	Zero Carbon principles, structures will be built in a sustainable way and less impacted by issues linked use of fossil fuels and climate change.
<b>A Healthier Wales</b>	
A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood	A modern, fresh learning environment will nurture children and young people, providing a sanctuary that will help promote good-mental health. External areas will have spaces that will allow the school to develop and encourage participation in physical activities such as sports and walking.
<b>A More Equal Wales</b>	
A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic circumstances)	Providing a contemporary educational environment that will improve the opportunities for children and young people to fulfil their potential
<b>A Wales of Cohesive Communities</b>	
Attractive, safe, viable and well-connected.	<p>The proposal sees land located at the heart of a community redeveloped which will enhance the area. During design, consideration will be given to the inclusion of spaces for community use that will allow adult learning, meetings, and small event to be held. In addition, a dedicated childcare facility may also be included.</p> <p>All this encourages social interaction and promotes a togetherness amongst the community.</p>

Description	Contribution
	Schools of the right type will be provided in the right places
<b>A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language</b>	
A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.	<p>The culture and heritage of Catholic education in Flintshire will be safeguarded for many years to come. Modern facilities will encourage participation in a wide range of activities that may not be available at current locations.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the proposal will not directly promote the Welsh language. However, the proposal will not negatively impact the Welsh language either.</p>
<b>A Globally Responsible Wales</b>	
A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being	Investing in 'green' technologies and meeting Net Zero Carbon targets.



## F. Contribution to Sustainable Development

Description	Contribution
<b>Long Term</b>	
<p>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	<p>The proposal aims to provide opportunities for people to study through the Catholic faith. The 3-18 school arrangement will create a site dedicated to promoting Catholic values from young children, right through to adults who can access learning via any community spaces.</p> <p>By locating these facilities in an established and vibrant town the proposal is viewed as a key component towards achieving many organisational and national strategies, such as establishing a more resilient and sustainable school network and Welsh Government's ambition to become a net zero carbon nation by 2050.</p>
<b>Integration</b>	
<p>Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</p>	<p>Ensuring the appropriate education provision integrates children and young people from varying backgrounds.</p>
<b>Involvement</b>	
<p>The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</p>	<p>Key stakeholders will be invited help shape the end product of the proposal.</p>

Description	Contribution
<b>Collaboration</b>	
Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.	The Flintshire and Wrexham’s Public Services Board (PSB) consists of key agencies representing local government, health, police, fire rescue, education, the environment and third sector. This collaborative approach has resulted in the publication of the PSB’s ‘A Well-Being Plan 2023-2028’, which outlines key objectives based on the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
<b>Prevention</b>	
How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.	Preventing inappropriate placements for our learners.

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## G. Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment

Protected Characteristic	Potential Impact	Explanation & Mitigating Actions
Age	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Gender reassignment	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Disability	Positive impact	The proposed new school will fully comply with and equality and disability discrimination legislation.
Marriage and civil partnership	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	

Protected Characteristic	Potential Impact	Explanation & Mitigating Actions
Pregnancy and maternity	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Race	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Religion and Belief	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Sex	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Sexual Orientation	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	

Page 79 **Part 4. Welsh Language Impact Assessment**

Criteria	Potential Impact	Explanation & Mitigating Actions
Treating the Welsh Language no less favourably than the English language	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	People will have access to Welsh versions of all documents and are invited to correspond in Welsh if desired.
Opportunities for people to use the Welsh language	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	People will have access to Welsh versions of all documents and are invited to correspond in Welsh if desired.
Meeting the Welsh Language Standards	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	The proposal will comply with the Welsh Language Standards.

## I. Environmental & Biodiversity Impact Assessment

Criteria	Potential Impact	Explanation & Mitigating Actions
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions	Positive Impact	Inefficient buildings replaced with Net Zero Carbon facilities
Plan for future climate change	Positive Impact	Inefficient buildings replaced with Net Zero Carbon facilities
Protect coastal and inland water	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Pollution: air/water/soil/noise & vibration/emissions	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Enhancing biodiversity	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Encouraging resource efficiency (energy/water/materials & minerals)	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	Inefficient buildings replaced with Net Zero Carbon facilities
Reducing waste production and increase recycling, recovery and re-use	Positive Impact	Inefficient buildings replaced with Net Zero Carbon facilities
Reducing the need to travel and promote sustainable forms of transport	Positive and negative impacts.	Positive – The proposed new school will examine safe walking routes to school and promote walking, cycling and the use of alternative transport methods to individual cars.

Criteria	Potential Impact	Explanation & Mitigating Actions
		Negative – the proposal will result in the removal of two schools from the network. Children and young people attending these schools will have to travel to alternative sites. If pupils remain in Catholic education it is likely they would have an increased distance to travel.
Improve the physical environment: housing, public services, access to and quality of green space	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Protecting and enhancing the historic environment and architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	

## J. UN Conventions Rights of the Child Impact Assessment

Criteria	Potential Impact	Explanation & Mitigating Actions
Non discrimination	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	

Criteria	Potential Impact	Explanation & Mitigating Actions
Best interest of the child	Positive Impact	<p>Provides modern and inspiring (through Net Zero Carbon) learning environment that will enhance the education experience of pupils and the work setting of staff.</p> <p>In addition, the proposal is likely to provide green spaces such as playing fields and a forest school that will promote physical and mental well-being.</p>
Right to survival and development	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Right to be heard	<p>Article 12: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)</p> <p>‘Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account’.</p>	<p>Children and young people at all directly affected schools will be consulted using information suitable to their age group.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, events will be held throughout the construction process to educate children on what is happening, the Net Zero Carbon implications of the build and what it means for their education. Children and young people will be encouraged to interact where possible and input into potential outcomes.</p>

## K. Health Impact Assessment

Criteria	Potential Impact	Mitigating Actions
Lifestyles	Positive Impact	The proposal will promote Active Travel Measures to encourage children and young people, as well as parents/carers to use more environmentally friendly ways of getting to/from school (for example walking and cycling as opposed to one pupil in a car).
Social and Community influence on Health	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	Increased community provision will increase local interactions and could reduce people feeling isolated, which in turn would boost mental well-being.
Mental Wellbeing	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	The new modern and inspirational learning environment will improve the mental well-being of both pupils and staff. The same can also be said for the access to playing fields, and nature areas that will be developed.
Living / Environmental conditions affecting Health	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Economic conditions affecting Health	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Access and quality of Services	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	

Criteria	Potential Impact	Mitigating Actions
Ensuring adults and children are safeguarded	Positive Impact	Should the proposal be implemented, any design will include a secure fencing line that will ensure only people allowed to by the school can access the areas where children and young people will learn and play.  Also, any buildings will have access-controlled doors which can only be operated by those people who have been assigned the appropriate security pass.
Enabling more people to live well and independently at home	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Macro-economic, environmental & sustainability factors	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	

## L. Poverty Impact Assessment

Criteria	Potential Impact	Mitigating Actions
Reducing fuel poverty	Positive Impact	Promotion of Active Travel Measures could result in more children and young people walking or cycling to/from school reducing the number of polluting cars on the road.



Improving local employment opportunities	Positive and negative Impact	<p>Positive – Construction partners are encouraged to engage local suppliers and sub-contractors to complete any works.</p> <p>Negative – removing two schools from the network will reduce employment opportunities in those areas</p>
Maximising traineeships and apprenticeship opportunities	Positive Impact	Part of the community benefits agreed with the constructor include the providing opportunities for traineeships and apprenticeships.
Protecting people from poverty	No negative discriminatory impact anticipated	
Improving qualification and skills	Positive Impact	People used throughout the construction process will have opportunities to use their skills and, where possible, obtain further qualifications whilst completing their work.

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## M. PROMOTION OF POSITIVE IMPACT

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Although there are no negative discriminatory impacts anticipated in some areas there are several support mechanisms in place to help those people who may be affected by any potential changes, these include (non-exhaustive list):

- Any pupil, parent/carer, staff member or governor with a protected characteristic will be provided with the appropriate support should the proposal be implemented.
- All pupils, regardless of their age, gender, disability, race, religious belief and first language will be offered transition and pastoral support if they are affected by the proposal.
- The Council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption to all pupils with specific consideration given to pupils with additional learning needs (ALN).
- Gender performance is monitored at school level and gaps are progressed through the School Action Plan.
- With a number of specialist interrelated services, the Council's Inclusion Service ensures its duty under the SEN Code of Practice for Wales 2002 is delivered. Services include:
  - Education Psychology Service.
  - Young Persons, Counselling Service.
  - Sensory Service.
  - English as an Additional Language / Gypsy Traveller Service.
  - Additional Learning Needs Service.
  - Speech, Language & Communication Service.
  - Education Welfare Service.
  - Behaviour Support Service.
  - Education Otherwise Than At School; and
  - Autistic Spectrum Condition Service.
- The Council works within the Equality Act 2010 to secure accessible school buildings for its pupils, parents and carers, staff, and governors. A pupil with a disability is assessed on an individual basis and a budget is available to adapt schools for pupils to access the curriculum. However, adaptations to buildings needs to meet the needs of pupils with disabilities and must be proportionate and reasonable within the available budget.
- The Council will fulfil its statutory duty to monitor the provision and achievement of pupils and schools relating to the agreed Religious Education syllabus.
- Parents/carers may express a preference to seek alternative education provision for their child. There are denominational and non-denominational primary schools available within

Flintshire area should pupils who are dispersed wish to access alternative education provision.

- Flintshire County Council is currently developing a Trans Policy for schools. Training will be made available to schools.
- The schools have its own equality and diversity statements, Strategic Equality plan as well as employment policies to support staff through change programme. Each school should have their own ethos around promoting equality, eliminating discrimination, and promoting good relations.
- Pupils and staff with disabilities will have improved access to school facilities.
- Trans-pupils and staff will have access to gender neutral toilets.
- All schools receive inspections via Estyn.

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## **N. CONCLUSION**

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The positive impacts of the proposal on pupils, staff and the local community are a compelling endorsement of why the Council view the proposal as a viable project. Replacing existing school stock with modern, net zero carbon buildings will reduce reliance on fossil fuels and increase the Council's resilience to an ever-changing climate.

The proposal continues the investment through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme to improve the condition of school buildings and learning environments for children and young people.

Not all impacts are positive, and it is recognised that there are negative impacts to the proposal too, most notably the removal of two schools within two communities. However, should negative impacts the Council will endeavour to mitigate, reduce, or remove their affects through implementation of robust policies, procedures, and systems that are in place.

Where the implementation of the proposal results in negative impacts that have not been previously identified, the Council will make all practicable steps to provide the appropriate support to affected individuals and/or groups.

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## **Proposal to Reorganise the Catholic Education Provision in Flintshire**

### **Anticipated Timeline**

DATE	SCHOOL TERM	KEY MILESTONE
February 2025	Spring 2025	Cabinet presented with proposal and approval sought to proceed to Approval to commence with Statutory Proposals
March 2025	Spring 2025	Consultation document published. Must be published on a school day (42 days with 20 school days)
April 2025	Spring 2025	Consultation Ends
June 2025	Summer 2025	Publication of Consultation Report (at least 2 weeks prior to publishing a notice)
July 2025	Summer 2025	Cabinet review of consultation report and decision on whether or not to proceed to a Notice
September 2025	Autumn 2025	If agreed Statutory Notice published providing a 28 day period for objections. (Must be published on a school day and with 15 school days in the period)
September 2025	Autumn 2025	End of objection period
December 2025	Spring/Autumn 2026	Cabinet Determination and Publication of Objection report. (Must be done within 7 days of the date of determination)

Note: the anticipated timeline is a guide to the statutory process and is subject to change

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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>Report Subject</b>	Common Housing Register (Single Access Route to Housing – SARTH)
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Housing and Communities)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Single Access Route to Housing (SARTH) is a partnership between all the major providers of social housing in North Wales, covering the local authority areas of Conwy, Denbighshire and Flintshire.

The Council manages the housing register on behalf of Flintshire's social housing partners (Flintshire County Council, Clwyd Alyn Housing, Wales and West Housing, Grwp Cynefin and Adra Housing Association) and a single common housing register provides the list of all eligible applicants for social housing. Housing partners allocate their empty properties from the common housing register but have discretion to also apply a small number of 'management moves', as they see fit, in line with principles of 'best use of stock'.

The service to applicants includes the housing triage assessment, housing solutions triage, for those who present as homeless or at risk of homelessness, and a wide range of housing options advice. The service also manages all the applicants accepted onto the common housing register once a clearly evidenced housing need has been identified. Only those applicants with a housing need are accepted onto the register, but all applicants benefit from housing options advice.

The number of applicants accepted onto the common housing register has grown significantly over the past four years. This is putting increasing pressure on the administrative burden and management of the register and is also leading to increased waiting times for the limited amount of social housing that is available each year.

The report will outline the current levels of housing need across the County and the disparity with the availability of social housing which is not increasing at the same rate as the levels of housing needs that are prevalent within our communities.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To note the current levels of housing need across the county and the growing pressures regarding social housing which is not in line with the supply of available homes locally.
2	To support the review of the SARTH Partnership and Common Allocations Policy and the recent appointment of Neil Morland & Co for this piece of work.

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COMMON HOUSING REGISTER</b>
1.01	<p><b><u>Background to the Single Access Route To Housing Partnership (SARTH)</u></b></p> <p>SARTH is a partnership between all the major social landlords covering the local authority areas of Conwy, Denbighshire and Flintshire. Conwy is not a stock holding authority but both Denbighshire and Flintshire have social housing available through their Council Housing Departments.</p> <p>In addition to the above Councils, the partnership also includes Housing Associations; Cartrefi Conwy, Clwyd Alyn, Grwp Cynefin, North Wales Housing, Wales and West Housing and Adra. The SARTH partnership has been in place for over 10 years and is recognised as a strong partnership by all partners involved and externally by Welsh Government and other housing sector and public sector peers.</p> <p>A SARTH operational panel meets monthly, with the primary purpose to ensure consistency in the application of the policy across the three counties and to review complaints and appeals from applicants. The panel has been instrumental in addressing wider topics than the register such as approaches to changes in legislation and issues arising from welfare reform, the pandemic and more recently elements of the introduction of the Renting Homes Wales Act 2016. The panel considers lessons learnt from appeals, complaints and identifies policy challenges. Issues are escalated as required for consideration of the SARTH steering group which operates as the board for the partnership.</p> <p>The SARTH steering group includes senior officers from all partner organisations across all three counties. The group meets on a quarterly basis to serve as an escalation point for strategic issues arising out of the operational panel along with emerging regional and national sector wide risk and policy issues.</p>
1.02	<p><b>The Common Allocations Policy and Common Housing Register</b></p> <p>All partners work within the framework of the Common Allocations Policy. This policy identifies the main principles of the eligibility and prioritisation of applicants seeking social housing, as well as the allocation of social housing across the counties of Conwy, Denbighshire and Flintshire. Applicants who approach the Council applying for social housing are assessed through a housing triage. Only those applicants with a housing</p>



	<p>need are accepted onto the register, but all applicants will receive housing options advice. Where it is possible to do so, housing help will be offered to overcome housing problems.</p> <p>The policy recognises that there is a high demand for social homes and too few vacant properties to meet demand. That was true when the policy was first developed, and now even more so, as evidenced in the charts within the housing needs data found within Appendix 1 of this report.</p> <p>The numbers of eligible applicants with a wide range of qualifying housing needs continues to be significant, but the number of applicants on the register remain static and as of December 18<sup>th</sup> there are 1,937 applicants compared to 1,983 on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. Whilst this may suggest the need for social housing is reducing, this is not the case and is more a reflection of better-quality applicant data and improved performance of register administration.</p>
1.03	<p><b>Housing Options Advice</b></p> <p>The Housing Register Team provide all applicants with the most useful, consistent, and accessible advice and information for anyone approaching the Council with a housing problem. This person centred and problem specific response ensures people are helped to explore all their housing options and seeks to solve housing problems to avoid the need for a move where possible.</p> <p>Issues such as disrepair, financial problems, neighbour disputes may be addressed through advice and support and referrals to appropriately placed support services for follow up action and targeted interventions. This avoids disruption for households and reduces demand for the limited social housing available in the county.</p> <p>When a move is required, applicants are accepted onto the Common Housing Register and their housing application is prioritised in line with the Common Allocations Policy banding. Housing options advice is still offered, enabling customers to make the most informed choice about how to find a home to meet their needs.</p> <p>Housing options advice covers a whole range of affordable housing options, including social housing options and locations, private rented accommodation, supported housing, extra care, home ownership and other affordable housing alternatives as appropriate.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that finding affordable private rented housing is a challenge, but advice and assistance is still offered and financial help by way of deposit and rent in advance will be offered if required.</p> <p>Other low-cost housing options are available via the Tai Teg Affordable Housing Register Service, which is a North Wales wide service hosted by Grwp Cynefin Housing Association.</p>
1.04	<p><b>Current Policy Variation – 50% Homeless Direct Lets</b></p> <p>The Common Allocation Policy is principally governed by The Housing Act 1996 and the Code of Guidance for Homelessness and Allocations 2016 and Welsh Statutory Instruments 2014 No. 2603 (w. 257) – Housing Wales</p>

	<p>– The Allocation of Homelessness (Eligibility) (Wales) Regulations 2014. Other relevant legislation includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freedom of Information Act 2000</li> <li>• Equalities Act 2010</li> <li>• Social Care and Well Being Act 2014</li> <li>• Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014</li> <li>• Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015</li> <li>• Renting Homes Wales Act 2016</li> </ul> <p>In recent years and as a direct response to the ‘no one left out’ directive from Welsh Government, a variation to the Common Allocations Policy by way of 50% nominations to homeless households was introduced. Take up of the 50% quota for homeless households has always been well below 50%. Appendix 1 provides analysis of the offers made to homeless households through the homeless nominations process during 2024.</p> <p>The policy variation is intended to free up the limited resource of emergency and temporary housing and ensure local authorities can still fulfil their statutory duties through the provision of interim housing (s.68 Housing Wales Act 2014).</p> <p>Without this policy variation, the Council’s expenditure on emergency and temporary housing would be significant. However, whilst this variation in policy has assisted with the homeless pressures, it is an ongoing concern that when looking at the needs of households who are homeless or imminently homeless, single people and couples under the age of 55 continue to account for approximately 80% of the local homeless demand.</p> <p>More families and older people (over 55s) are experiencing homelessness in recent years, and as a result, the take up on the homeless nominations has naturally increased since first being implemented in 2020-2021. With greater availability of older persons and family housing across all social housing providers, these households experience significantly reduced periods of homelessness and there is greater opportunity for preventing homelessness through securing a social housing property via the Common Housing Register.</p> <p>The disconnect between supply of social housing and the local homeless cohort profile is what accounts for the lower than permitted take up on the 50% homeless quota as outlined.</p>
1.05	<p><b>Future Policy Direction for Social Housing Allocations</b></p> <p>Although fit for purpose in 2015 when adopted, it is felt by all SARTH Partners that the Common Allocations Policy and the SARTH Partnership and operating practices requires a thorough review.</p> <p>This is not to say the Common Allocations Policy does not work but is more an acknowledgement that services should continually be reviewed and challenged in terms of their operating practices, and opportunities for improvement must always be explored, when seeking to achieve value for money and better meeting residents and SARTH partner’s needs.</p>

	<p>The landscape for housing and homelessness has changed significantly in recent years and is likely to change further with proposed changes to homeless legislation and the associated code of guidance for homelessness and social housing allocations.</p> <p>Housing need and resident expectations have also changed over recent years. Whilst efforts are made to manage expectations and help applicants and their advocates understand local housing pressures, the SARTH service is an area which receives high levels of MP/MS enquiries and complaints. It is rare that complaints are received about customer service, and these enquiries and complaints generally relate to waiting times for social housing and priority banding disputes.</p>
1.06	<p><b>SARTH Partnership and Common Allocations Policy Review</b></p> <p>Whilst the Common Allocations Policy benefited from a light touch review in 2018, and as outlined in Section 1.04 of this report a variation to the Policy (50% Homeless Direct Lets) was applied in the summer of 2020, it is now necessary for a far more robust review to be undertaken.</p> <p>This review must not only respond to the changes in landscape, but also anticipate and prepare for changes in the future as outlined in the Ending Homelessness White Paper (see Section 6.02 Ending Homelessness White Paper).</p> <p>Having identified a need for a review, SARTH Partners put out a tender for a consultant to complete this review in October 2024. Neil Morland &amp; Co consultancy were successful with their bid for the work and have recently been instructed to complete the review over the next 6 months. The review will incorporate the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A full review of the current common housing allocation policy; with a view to making it more customer focused, more efficient, and reflective of the current housing environment, strategic needs, pressures, and priorities.</li> <li>• Review and analysis of the demand, turnover and partnership stock profile data available, and future reporting requirements. This should include a review on how to contribute to asset management, understanding housing needs and homelessness prevention.</li> <li>• Improvement to the customer experience and modernisation through self-serve and digitalisation – to be more person centred, with improved information, timely support, and accessible communication.</li> <li>• A review of the Specialist Housing Panel processes across each county within the SARTH partnership – monitoring and reporting of these panels and the allocations process for accessible housing stock.</li> <li>• Provide recommendations for drafting of a Service Level Agreement to include a fair apportionment of cost of the service to SARTH partners and monitoring structure.</li> <li>• Review of the use of Local Lettings Policies within SARTH and their impact on the Common Housing Allocation Policy prioritisation and allocations (overrides).</li> <li>• Review and analysis on the number of managed moves by partner landlords.</li> </ul>

	<p>The cost for the review is being shared equally across all eight SARTH partners and is circa £45,000 (£5,625 per partner). It is hoped the review will be produced in draft for initial review no later than May 2025.</p> <p>During the review a wide range of stakeholders will be consulted and there will be opportunity for residents and elected members to be involved in this process. This will be in addition to any formal political sign off that is required when seeking to adopt a new policy of this kind.</p>												
1.07	<p><b>Current Housing Need</b></p> <p>All applicants accessing the common housing register have clearly evidenced housing needs. They either have no current settled housing due to homelessness or their existing housing is unsuitable. This is clearly different to wanting a move, so housing need data is a more appropriate title for this dataset, as opposed to housing demand data.</p> <p>The chart below shows the breakdown of all the eligible applicants on the register by band as the end of 2024 calendar year.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>REGISTER BREAKDOWN</th> <th>NUMBER OF APPLICANTS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BAND 1</td> <td>109</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BAND 2</td> <td>1,579</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BAND 3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BAND 4</td> <td>244</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>1,935</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Further data relating to the common housing register can be found within Appendix 1 of this report, including data on housing triages, applicants housing needs and property requirements.</p>	REGISTER BREAKDOWN	NUMBER OF APPLICANTS	BAND 1	109	BAND 2	1,579	BAND 3	3	BAND 4	244	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,935</b>
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1.08	<p><b>Social Housing Supply</b></p> <p>When assessing the supply of social housing across all social housing providers operating in Flintshire it is noted there has been a significant slowdown following the pandemic in the numbers of available homes. This downward trend of supply alongside the continuing high levels of housing needs as evidenced by the numbers of applicants on the social housing register is a significant and ongoing concern. This issue is captured on the Councils Corporate Risk Register. This challenge is not unique to Flintshire and is particularly acute for single people and childless couples under the age of 55, due to lack of 1 bed general needs housing (see Appendix 1 Housing Register Data).</p>												
1.09	<p><b>Specialist Housing Needs</b></p> <p>Most applicants' housing need can be met from the available housing stock, although not quickly. However, some applicants require properties to meet needs arising from disability. In these cases, it is common for properties needing to accommodate wheelchairs, bed hoists, stair lifts and accessible bathing rooms.</p> <p>Such housing is in particularly short supply within the social housing stock and these requirements would not necessarily be met within an acceptable timescale or within existing stock without significant adaptations or other</p>												

property specific interventions such as new build developments, purchasing specialist accommodation or repurposing existing stock.

In Flintshire the Specialist Housing Register currently has 66 applicants awaiting significantly adapted properties and the applicant's priority banding is detailed below:

REGISTER BAND	NUMBER OF APPLICANTS
BAND 1	27
BAND 2	30
BAND 3	3
BAND 4	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66</b>

1.10

### **Specialist Housing Needs Supply**

The chart below shows the breakdown of households with significant specialist housing requirements (major adaptations) who have benefited from the support of the specialist housing process. There have been a total of 59 households who have successfully been rehoused into specialist accommodation over a five year period.

PERIOD	NUMBER OF APPLICANTS
April 2020 – March 2021	17
April 2021 – March 2022	11
April 2022 – March 2023	10
April 2023 – March 2024	9
April 2024 – Dec 2024	12

Specialist housing needs are met through a range of significant adaptations to existing homes, purchase of properties and further investment to bring these homes to the standards and specifications required for disabled household members, or through the creation of purpose-built new build homes funded through the Social Housing Grant (SHG) programme.

Sourcing suitable accommodation for applicants with specialist needs and identifying properties that are suitable for complex adaptation work within our housing stock is difficult and budget constraints makes this even more challenging. Many existing homes within Flintshire social housing stock are not suitable for major adaptations or major works are cost prohibitive.

The desire to build more specialist and larger homes is therefore appropriately recorded as a desired outcome within the Council's Housing Prospectus, and both the Council and Housing Association partners intend to explore solutions to adapt or extend existing social housing to meet these needs.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	<p>Detailed below are the cost implications associated with the delivery of common housing register, housing advice services and meeting housing needs in Flintshire:</p> <p><b>Revenue:</b> The cost of delivering Flintshire’s Common Housing Register is £272,860 for 2024/2025 with most costs relating to staff in Customer Services and the Housing Register Team (Appendix 2).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% of the cost is apportioned to the Council Fund as the local authority has a statutory duty to hold a register. A contribution from the Councils Housing Support Grant award is accessed to assist with the Council contribution and relates to housing advice and housing related support activities.</li> <li>• 50% is apportioned to housing partners based on their stock levels on an equitable split based on the number of homes they have in the County.</li> </ul> <p><b>Capital:</b> Whilst administering the common housing register is a revenue cost, there are implications for capital expenditure if we are to meet the housing needs of the people of Flintshire. Housing needs data as identified through the common housing register informs the build programmes of both Flintshire Council and our housing partners. Flintshire’s Housing Prospectus which has been approved by Council and shared with our housing partners focuses current and future developments around the increased supply of social housing and specific areas of unmet or growing needs.</p>

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	<p>The following risks and mitigations have been identified by way of control measures:</p> <p><b>Risk:</b> Failure to meet the needs of applicants for social housing resulting in excessive waiting times for social housing and prolonged impact on levels of homelessness and other forms of housing hardships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mitigation:</b> Build more social housing at scale and pace in line with current and projected levels of housing need.</li> <li>• <b>Mitigation:</b> Continue to support people to explore all their housing options including renting privately, supported housing, as well as other affordable housing products such as low-cost home ownership, shared equity housing and intermediate rentals.</li> </ul> <p><b>Risk:</b> Social housing supply and / or Allocations Policy does not meet the needs of the homeless cohort and emergency housing costs continue to increase at a greater rate due to more households becoming homeless at significant cost to the local authority.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mitigation:</b> Sustain the 50% nominations approach as we transition to the Rapid Rehousing model longer term and revised Common Allocations Policy.</li> <li>• <b>Mitigation:</b> Build more homes that meet the needs of the homeless cohort such as 1 bed general needs housing, of which there is a significant shortage.</li> <li>• <b>Mitigation:</b> Support the sheltered housing review process to better meet the wants and the needs of older people and explore opportunities to address disparities in the local housing supply.</li> <li>• <b>Mitigation:</b> Develop more specialist housing to avoid those with significant and complex housing needs becoming homeless.</li> </ul> <p><b>Risk:</b> The Common Allocation Policy and the delivery of SARTH services fail to appropriately meet current and future needs of the community of Flintshire and the Councils legal obligations for housing and homelessness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mitigation:</b> Complete a review of the SARTH Policy and seek wide range of stakeholder’s views as part of that review process.</li> <li>• <b>Mitigation:</b> Deliver on recommendations for improvements identified through the review of the SARTH Policy.</li> </ul>
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3.02	<b>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</b>	
	Long-term	Positive – Increase supply of high-quality sustainable homes and make best use of the housing stock.
	Prevention	Prevention - Preventing homelessness and housing hardships through positive interventions that relieve pressures on an already strained housing market.
	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 housing and services so that access to homes and housing advice and support is timely and person centred.

3.03	<b>Well-being Goals Impact</b>	
	Prosperous Wales	Positive – Jobs will be created to deliver housing on a greater scale within Flintshire.

	Resilient Wales	Positive – Creating services and neighbourhoods that are prevention focused resilient communities.
	Healthier Wales	Positive – Reduction in health inequalities associated with homelessness and poor housing conditions.
	More equal Wales	Positive – Services are delivered in a way that are inclusive for all.
	Cohesive Wales	Positive – Creating services and neighbourhoods that are prevention focused and creating strong cohesive communities.
	Vibrant Wales	No impact
	Globally responsible Wales	No impact

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	All SARTH Partners have been consulted whilst developing the scope of the review prior to the tender going out on the Sell2Wales website.
4.02	As part of the review process a wide range of stakeholders will be consulted. This will include the local housing, support and homelessness workforce, residents, local public and third sector partners and elected members.
4.03	Adopting a new Allocation Policy will require political sign off. Any significant changes to local operating practices will also be shared with elected members for full scrutiny through the usual political mechanisms.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1: Common Housing Register Data
5.02	Appendix 2: Costings for delivery of the Common Housing Register Service in Flintshire

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	Research Report: Allocations – Understanding more in the context of homelessness of Wales



	<a href="https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2023-10/allocations-understanding-more-context-homelessness.pdf">https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2023-10/allocations-understanding-more-context-homelessness.pdf</a>
6.02	<p>Consultation Analysis for the White Paper on Ending Homelessness in Wales</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2024-04/analysis-for-the-white-paper-on-ending-homelessness-in-wales_1.pdf">https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2024-04/analysis-for-the-white-paper-on-ending-homelessness-in-wales_1.pdf</a></p>

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

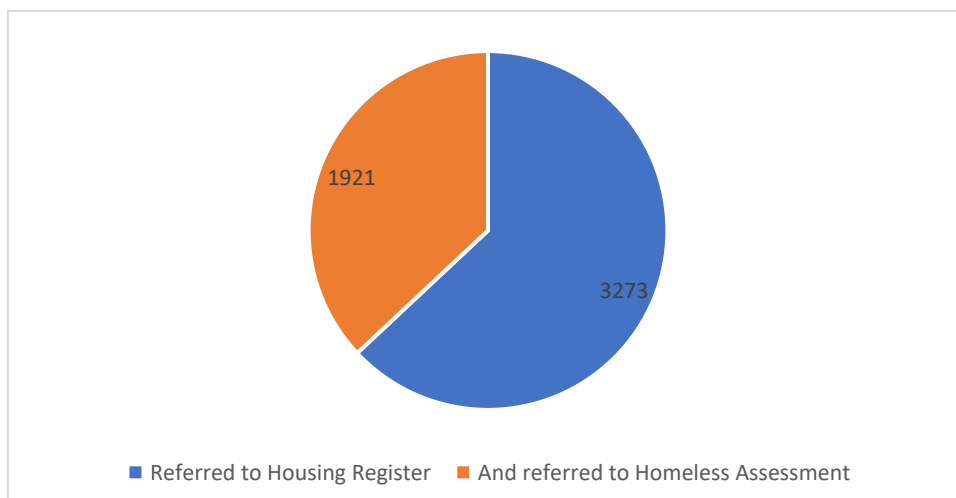
<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<p><b>Single Access Route to Housing (SARTH)</b> – the project enabled the development of the Common Allocations Policy and the label for the Housing Options and Housing Register Partnership.</p> <p><b>Housing Triage</b> – the initial discussion with residents about their circumstances and their housing needs.</p> <p><b>Housing Solutions Triage</b> – the initial discussion with residents about their circumstances and their housing needs where homelessness or a risk of homelessness is identified.</p> <p><b>Common Allocations Policy</b> – the shared policy that Local Authority and Housing Partners have signed up to in regard to the eligibility and prioritisation of housing applications for social housing in Conwy, Denbighshire and Flintshire</p> <p><b>Rapid Rehousing</b> - an internationally recognised approach which ensures that anyone experiencing homelessness can move into a settled home as quickly as possible, rather than staying in temporary accommodation for long periods of time.</p> <p><b>Flintshire’s Housing Prospectus</b> – the strategic document that clearly highlights the housing needs and aspirations of the local authorities social housing build programme linked to the Social Housing Grant</p> <p><b>Social Housing Grant</b> – Capital funding from Welsh Government to enable the development of social housing to meet local needs.</p> <p><b>Housing Support Grant</b> – Revenue funding from Welsh Government for the provision of a wide range of housing related support services, to meet local needs.</p>

<p><b>Sell2Wales</b> – National advertising portal where Welsh public sector organisations post their contract opportunities. Both public Notices and invitation-only Notices (Quick Quotes) are issued by Buyers through this website.</p>
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## **APPENDIX 1: HOUSING REGISTER DATA**

**Housing Applications made to Flintshire Council January 2024 to December 2024.**

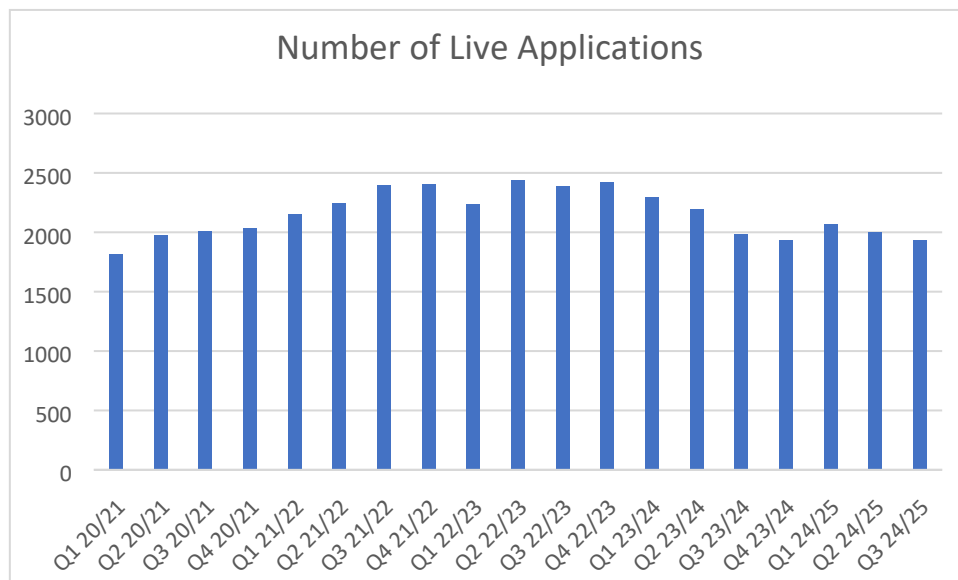
<b>Housing Application Triage Data April 24- Dec 2024</b>	
Total Requests for Triage	3326
Triages Completed	3273
Referred to Housing Register	3273
And referred to Homeless Assessment	1921



NOTE: This table shows the total number of enquiries for the current financial year (quarter 1 – quarter 3) where residents have applied for housing help and their triage has been completed. Once a triage assessment is completed applicants will either be referred to the Register Team for only a housing application; or they are referred to homeless team as a risk of homelessness has been identified during triage assessment.

## Numbers on Common Housing Register

Period	Number of Live Applications
Q1 20/21	1816
Q2 20/21	1973
Q3 20/21	2009
Q4 20/21	2030
Q1 21/22	2148
Q2 21/22	2243
Q3 21/22	2392
Q4 21/22	2401
Q1 22/23	2238
Q2 22/23	2438
Q3 22/23	2387
Q4 22/23	2424
Q1 23/24	2297
Q2 23/24	2197
Q3 23/24	1983
Q4 23/24	1935
Q1 24/25	2067
Q2 24/25	2000
Q3 24/25	1935



**Property Requirements – Live applications as of December 2024**

<b>FCC - Applications by Property Type</b>		
<b>Type</b>	<b>Beds</b>	<b>Applicants</b>
Bedsit	1	398
Bungalow	1	315
	2	186
	3	54
	4	41
	5	6
Flat	1	709
	2	233
	3	32
	4	9
	5	3
House	1	172
	2	434
	3	144
	4	107
	5	24
	6	1
	7	1
Maisonette	1	454
	2	178
	3	21
	4	5
	5	3
Mini Group Bungalow	1	520

Mini Group Flat	2	58
	3	7
	4	4
	1	298
	2	21
	3	5
	4	1
Sheltered Bedsit	1	42
Sheltered Bungalow	1	458
	2	49
	3	6
	4	3
Sheltered Flat	1	240
	2	15
	3	4
	4	1

NOTE: Applicants have needs-based eligibility for property sizes based on their household size, but choice of property type is down to applicants choice and eligibility on age criteria for mini group (50yrs+) and sheltered (55yrs+).

## Applications Cancelled between January 2024 and December 2024

	Awaiting Info	Change of Circs	Duplicate Apps	No Reasonable Preference	Failed Review Response	Reasonable Offers Refused	Rehoused via SARTH	Other
Jan	97	18	22	35	16	4	44	13
Feb	52	20	18	27	71	5	45	14
Mar	33	25	9	22	90	8	64	10
Apr	57	16	14	10	61	1	42	14
May	57	9	11	21	7	8	44	16
June	9	9	22	27	51	4	56	15
July	56	9	18	22	11	4	62	9
Aug	160	9	11	28	53	5	59	16
Sep	31	9	24	25	11	5	55	15
Oct	108	18	19	17	43	6	58	14
Nov	68	16	28	33	24	5	59	11
Dec	70	10	9	17	69	1	35	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>155</b>

\* Includes those applicants where application is cancelled following initial suspension to verify the applicants' circumstances and failed to provide proof of housing need, bank statements, ID etc.

\*\* Includes change of circumstances and no longer needs rehousing, gone into residential home, mutual exchange, privately renting a property, purchased a property and rehoused by other Housing Provider (not SARTH)

\*\*\* Includes applicant request, common travel area, excluded from the register, letter returned via royal mail and subject to immigration

## Breakdown of All Applicants “lead housing need” as of December 2024

Housing Need	FCC
Condition of Property	2
Financial	97
Homeless	521
Lack of Facilities	2
Management Move	1
Medical	325
Move On	13
Overcrowding	232
Sharing Facilities	379
Ukraine Application	4
Under occupation	98
Welfare	247
<b>Total</b>	<b>1921</b>

Note: Applicants may have several qualifying housing needs, but the system records the applicants lead need at the point of application.



**Applications Summary by Choice Area (table shows the top 5 areas choices) as at December 2024.**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Applicants</b>
Mold & Mynydd Issa	749
Flint	668
Buckley	666
Connahs Quay	653
Shotton	598

NOTE: Applicants can choose a wide range of areas. There are 59 areas for allocations across Flintshire. Those applicants who have wider area choices tend to be rehoused quicker. All applicants are encouraged to push the boundaries for their property search areas as part of their housing options advice.

## Social Housing Lettings Data for the period 2019 - 2024



Period	All Social Housing Lettings
2019	<b>745</b>
2020	<b>628</b>
2021	<b>650</b>
2022	<b>586</b>
2023	<b>540</b>
2024	<b>633</b>

## Allocations by Landlord and Category of Offer (Flintshire Register)

Tenancies Started Between 01/01/2024 and 30/12/2024.

By Landlord	Category Offer Code	Number	Percentage
Adra	SARTH Banding Offer	2	0.32%
	SARTH Homeless Direct Let	2	0.32%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.63%</b>
Clwyd Alyn Housing Association	SARTH Banding Offer	54	8.53%
	SARTH Management Offer	9	1.42%
	SARTH Homeless Direct Let	11	1.74%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>11.69%</b>
Flintshire CC	SARTH Banding Offer	333	52.61%
	SARTH Management Offer	45	7.11%
	SARTH Homeless Direct Let	109	17.22%
	SARTH Hard to Let Property (Direct Let)	1	0.16%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>77.09%</b>
Grwp Cynefin Housing Association	SARTH Banding Offer	2	0.32%
	SARTH Homeless Direct Let	3	0.47%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.79%</b>
Wales and West Housing Association	SARTH Banding Offer	42	6.64%
	SARTH Management Offer	15	2.37%
	SARTH Homeless Direct Let	5	0.79%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>9.79%</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>633</b>	



## **APPENDIX 2 - Costs for Service Delivery across Flintshire and Denbighshire's Common Housing Register services**

### Call Centre Costs £46,000

A charge is made internally for Call Centre staff who act as first point of contact and deal with a wide range of general enquiries relating to Register. Initial calls are routed through to the Call Centre ensuring that applicant's enquiries are received and actioned, and these contacts are recorded and prioritised for action within the Housing Register process.

### The Housing Register Team £149,805

The Housing Register Team minus the Manager position is presently made up of 1.6FTE Housing Register Co-ordinators and 2.55FTE Housing Register Assistants. These staff complete triage and housing application assessments. Gathering information, managing information for assessment and then decision making for banding, managing appeals and administration for Medical Panel.

### Occupational Therapist £52,250

The Occupational Therapist sits within the Housing Register Function and assists with assessment of housing needs advising the Medical Panel on issues relating to banding decisions. This Occupational Therapist also liaises with applicants, locality occupational therapy services and housing partners to ensure adaptation and specialist housing requirements are fulfilled through assessment of needs and specification of works for void properties.

<b>Staffing Costs</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Call Centres Contribution	--	46,000	46,000
1.6 FTE Housing Register Co-ordinators	G04	40,875	65,400
2.55 FTE Housing Register Assistants	G02	33,100	84,405
1.0FTE Occupational Therapist	G06	52,250	52,250
<b>TOTAL STAFFING COSTS</b>	<b>248,055</b>		

### 10% Service 'management' charge £24,805

The role of team manager for the Housing Register Team is not costed as a post to the service but a management fee of 10% is suggested to cover all reasonable management functions relating to the delivery of the Common Housing Register and liaison with SARTH partners for all aspects of management oversight and service delivery.

<b>TOTAL STAFFING COSTS</b>	<b>248,055</b>
<b>10% MANAGEMENT CHARGE</b>	<b>24,805</b>
<b>CONTRACT COST</b>	<b>272,860</b>

**Breakdown of charges**

The costs above (£272,860) are to be apportioned as 50% to the Local Authority for statutory responsibility for holding the register and 50% charged out to housing partners. The split within the housing partner contributions is based on their respective stock size as a proportion of the total social housing supply in Flintshire. Below is the breakdown of SARTH partner contributions:

<b>Flintshire Common Housing Register Cost Breakdown</b>			
<b>Partner</b>	<b>FCC Stock Levels</b>	<b>FCC Stock as a %</b>	<b>Partner Share</b>
<b>FCC Statutory</b>	--	--	<b>£136430.00</b>
<b>FCC Housing</b>	7307	73.61	£100426.12
<b>Clwyd Alyn</b>	1583	15.95	£21760.59
<b>Wales &amp; West</b>	893	9.0	£12278.70
<b>Grwp Cynefin</b>	136	1.37	£1869.09
<b>Adra</b>	8	0.08	£1091.44
<b>Total Stock</b>	<b>9927</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£136430.00</b>



## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday 18th February, 2025
<b>Report Subject</b>	Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2024/25 (Month 9)
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value
<b>Report Author</b>	Corporate Finance Manager
<b>Type of Report</b>	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 9.

The projected year end position is as follows:

#### **Council Fund**

- An operating deficit of £3.389m (this reduces to £0.389m with the utilisation of the budget risk reserve of £3m agreed when setting the budget) which is a favourable movement of £0.471m from the deficit figure of £3.860m reported at Month 8.
- A contingency reserve balance remaining as at 31 March 2025 of £2.987m.

This projected overspend (and impact on our available reserves) continues to be of concern and needs to continue to be addressed to bring expenditure back in line with the approved budget. Based on current projections the council's contingency reserve will increase at Month 9 which it uses to deal with any significant in-year unforeseen events. It should be noted, however, that there are still a number of risks identified in the report that could lead to 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 previously been referred to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Our ability to mitigate pressures and risks during the financial year predominantly centres on the 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. Despite the actions being undertaken to reduce the underlying pressures on a permanent basis, current indications are that many of the pressures being faced by the Council this year are likely to continue into the next financial year and beyond.

### Housing Revenue Account

- Net in-year revenue expenditure is forecast to be £0.747m higher than budget.
- A projected closing balance as of 31 March, 2025 of £3.705m

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1.00	That Cabinet <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Note and comment on the report and the estimated financial impact on the 2024/25 budget.</li> <li>2) Approve funding from the Contingency Reserve for further illegal tipping costs as detailed in paragraph 1.17.</li> <li>3) Support the measures being put in place to improve the financial position by the end of the financial year.</li> </ol>
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## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2024/25</b>
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 9.</p> <p>The projected year end position is as follows:</p> <p><b>Council Fund</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An operating deficit of £3.389m (this reduces to £0.389m with the utilisation of the budget risk reserve of £3m agreed when setting the budget) which is a favourable movement of £0.471m from the deficit figure of £3.860m reported at Month 8.</li> <li>• A contingency reserve balance remaining as at 31 March 2025 of £2.987m.</li> </ul>



	<p><b>Housing Revenue Account</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net in-year revenue expenditure is forecast to be £0.747m higher than budget.</li> <li>• A projected closing balance as of 31 March, 2025 of £3.705m</li> </ul>																																																																							
1.02	<p><b>Table 1. Projected Position by Portfolio</b></p> <p>The table below shows the projected position by portfolio:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Portfolio/Service Area</th> <th>Approved Budget</th> <th>Projected Outturn</th> <th>In-Year Over / (Under) spend</th> </tr> <tr> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Social Services</td> <td>93.567</td> <td>98.917</td> <td>5.350</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Out of County Placements</td> <td>19.299</td> <td>21.134</td> <td>1.835</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education &amp; Youth (Non Schools)</td> <td>10.509</td> <td>10.333</td> <td>(0.175)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Schools</td> <td>117.424</td> <td>117.234</td> <td>(0.190)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</td> <td>43.570</td> <td>45.427</td> <td>1.856</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Planning Env &amp; Economy</td> <td>7.998</td> <td>8.126</td> <td>0.128</td> </tr> <tr> <td>People &amp; Resources</td> <td>4.507</td> <td>4.421</td> <td>(0.087)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Governance</td> <td>12.375</td> <td>12.002</td> <td>(0.372)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assets</td> <td>11.471</td> <td>11.439</td> <td>(0.032)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Housing &amp; Communities</td> <td>18.354</td> <td>20.694</td> <td>2.340</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chief Executive</td> <td>1.674</td> <td>1.653</td> <td>(0.022)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Central &amp; Corporate Finance</td> <td>27.357</td> <td>20.114</td> <td>(7.242)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>368.106</b></td> <td><b>371.495</b></td> <td><b>3.389</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Utilisation of Budget Risk Reserve</td> <td><b>(3.000)</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total – Revised Overspend</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td><b>0.389</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Portfolio/Service Area	Approved Budget	Projected Outturn	In-Year Over / (Under) spend	£m	£m	£m	Social Services	93.567	98.917	5.350	Out of County Placements	19.299	21.134	1.835	Education & Youth (Non Schools)	10.509	10.333	(0.175)	Schools	117.424	117.234	(0.190)	Streetscene & Transportation	43.570	45.427	1.856	Planning Env & Economy	7.998	8.126	0.128	People & Resources	4.507	4.421	(0.087)	Governance	12.375	12.002	(0.372)	Assets	11.471	11.439	(0.032)	Housing & Communities	18.354	20.694	2.340	Chief Executive	1.674	1.653	(0.022)	Central & Corporate Finance	27.357	20.114	(7.242)					<b>Total</b>	<b>368.106</b>	<b>371.495</b>	<b>3.389</b>	Utilisation of Budget Risk Reserve			<b>(3.000)</b>	<b>Total – Revised Overspend</b>			<b>0.389</b>
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1.03	<p>Appendix 1 shows all monthly movements of £0.025m since Month 8 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><b>Significant Movements at Month 9</b></p>																																																																							
1.04	<p><b>Social Services £0.933m</b></p> <p>Older Peoples Service</p>																																																																							

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Localities – £0.376m. Residential care costs increased by £0.280m due to ongoing demand. Homecare costs increased by £0.143m which includes a contribution of (£0.113m) Welsh Government grant for the Charging Policy cap. Workforce costs have decreased by (£0.034m) and Daycare reduced by (£0.013m).</li> </ul> <p><u>Adults of Working Age</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resources &amp; Regulated Services £0.352m. There was a decrease in costs of (£0.054m) within the Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impaired service due to net changes to care packages. In-house supported living service costs have increased by £0.040m and Learning Disability costs increased by £0.380m due to changes to care packages. Day services costs reduced by (£0.014m).</li> <li>Intensive Support (£0.026) – There has been an increase in income due to a back dated claim.</li> <li>Residential Placements £0.055m – due to changes in care packages.</li> </ul> <p><u>Children’s Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential Placements (£0.042m) – Due to the closure of an in-house short term care facility.</li> <li>Professional Support £0.317m. The managed agency teams have ceased but to meet demand and safeguarding requirements additional agency staff have been required.</li> </ul> <p><u>Safeguarding &amp; Commissioning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charging Policy Income (£0.075m) – There is an increase to the expected income amounts from charging for homecare.</li> </ul> <p>There is a net (£0.024m) in minor movements across the portfolio.</p>
1.05	<p><b>Out of County Placements (£0.175m)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children’s Services (£0.228m) – Various new placements, offset by ending placements and a significant increase to Home Office income relating to 2023/24 and 2024/25, has caused a positive movement. A £0.200m contingency has been included to cover any future new placements to mitigate any significant variance movements between now and year end.</li> <li>Education and Youth £0.053m – Due to a number of new Education placements being agreed during the period.</li> </ul>
1.06	<p><b>Education and Youth (Non Schools) (£0.262m)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusion and Progression (£0.235m) – Due to an additional in-year grant from Welsh Government for the Local Authority Education Grant - Additional Learning Needs Provision which provided additional funding for 1:1 tuition within Creative and Excellence and also provision within Canolfan Enfys. These two areas within the service that had an in-year pressure due to an increase in pupil numbers requiring additional support.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Improvement Systems (£0.037m) – In-year additional grant variation relating to the Local Authority Education Grant - School Standards. This grant will be utilised against Early Entitlement top-up payments to non-maintained settings and mitigate the current shortfall on the grant.</li> </ul> <p>Minor variances across the Portfolio account for the remainder £0.010m.</p>
1.07	<p><b>Streetscene and Transportation (£0.269m)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highways Network (£0.450m) – Following the insolvency of our fleet management provider in May 2024, the Council ensured continuity of essential services such as waste collection and highways maintenance by taking the fleet service in-house and reviewing the fleet. Many vehicles were outdated and costly to maintain, leading to the need for their replacement with more efficient models. The sale of replaced vehicles throughout the following months has generated additional funds returned to the service. Rebuilding supply chains has been crucial for accessing cost-efficient vehicles, but this has been time consuming and costly in terms of disruption to fleet services. Despite being able to release funds at this time, this funding will be required in future years to enable the council to meet its commitments to reduce carbon production from its vehicle fleet.</li> <li>• Transportation £0.148m – Increase in projected school transport costs to financial year end.</li> <li>• Regulatory Services £0.053m – Due to adverse recycling income market prices.</li> </ul> <p>There are net minor movements across the portfolio of (£0.020m)</p>
1.08	<p><b>Central &amp; Corporate (£0.670m)</b></p> <p>The positive movement is as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further review of the Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA) at Month 9 indicates a further favourable movement of (£0.110m).</li> <li>• Adjustment to the amount of funding required to meet the additional costs of the Teachers Pay Award from Sep.</li> <li>• Annual saving of the Service Agreement from Mynydd Isa school of (£0.495m) due to delays in opening.</li> </ul> <p>Minor adverse movements across the service account for the remainder of £0.012m.</p>
1.09	<p>Cumulative minor variances across the Council of (£0.028m) account for the remainder.</p>
1.10	<p><b>Tracking of In-Year Risks and Emerging Issues</b></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>
1.11	<p><b>Council Tax Income</b></p> <p>As at the end of December, in-year collections were 83.97%, compared to 84.25% 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 9.</p>
1.12	<p><b>Out of County Placements</b></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. At Month 9, a contingency of £0.200m for potential future placements has been built into Children's Service outturn projections.</p>
1.13	<p><b>Waste Recycling Infraction Charge</b></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 reported.</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 total financial risk across all three financial years has previously been reported as £1.203m.</p> <p>However, confirmation has been received from Welsh Government that the infraction charge of £0.663m for 2021/22 has been waived. Although, the minister did stress that further considerations on whether to levy the potential infraction charges for 2022/23 and 2023/24 would be based on the progress made against the service improvements that have been identified within the agreed plan to positively impact the Council's recycling rate.</p> <p>The remaining infraction fine risk for 2022/23 and 2023/24 is £0.540m.</p>
1.14	<p><b>Homelessness</b></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</p>

	<p>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 Approach' 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> <p>Within the Provisional Settlement, it was confirmed that No One Left Approach Grant, Discretionary Homelessness Prevention and Homelessness Strategic Co-ordinator funding all totalling £0.839m will be getting transferred directly into our base settlement figure from 2025/26.</p>
1.15	<p><b>Storm Ashley, Storm Bert and Storm Darragh</b></p> <p>In October the County was impacted by severe flooding and storm damage due to Storm Ashley. In November, Storm Bert also brought further flooding to the County. Subsequently, Storm Darragh caused significant damage across Wales in December. The initial response and subsequent clean-up from these storms were built into the Month 8 position and any further financial implications will be included in future reports. Welsh Government have confirmed their Emergency Financial Assistance Scheme (EFAS) has been activated for these storms for which we are only entitled to claim eligible costs at 85% over the agreed threshold amount of £0.743m. Costs across the Council are being compiled for all storm related costs plus consideration of further costs as a result of Storm Eowyn in January.</p>
1.16	<p><b>Winter Maintenance</b></p> <p>Heavy snowfall in November 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 increased at Month 8 to £0.470m, plus heavy snow resulted in another major response and heavy workload in January so further costs will be closely monitored through the remaining winter period and any variation to the current projected outturn reported in future reports.</p>

1.17	<p><b>Illegal Tipping Costs</b></p> <p>An amount of £0.402m has previously been approved from the contingency reserve (Month 7 report). This was an estimated figure associated with the removal of mixed waste illegally tipped and which has resulted in a high-volume of tipping on Council owned land in Queensferry. The Council have been working with key partners such as Police, Fire Service, and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and have needed to contract licensed waste contractors and carriers to clear the waste, the clearance of the site will be complete during week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025.</p> <p>However, the volume of waste is higher than estimated, and in addition all waste must be sorted, weighed and taken to appropriate licensed waste facilities. As such the associated costs have increased significantly and the potential full cost of disposal, clearing and securing the site is now estimated to be between £0.780m and £0.800m. It is recommended that an additional amount of £0.380m is approved from the Contingency Reserve to fund these additional costs.</p> <p>The incident 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 associated legal action.</p>
1.18	<p><b>Other Tracked Risks</b></p> <p>In addition, there are a number of risks being tracked which may be subject to change and these are summarised below.</p>
1.19	<p><b>Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)</b></p> <p>The Council was advised of its Welsh Local Government Provisional Settlement allocation on 11 December.</p> <p>Cabinet considered the latest projection for the MTFS in January which showed a revised budget requirement of £18.004m.</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Committees will review portfolio cost reduction proposals through early February and the Final Budget and Council Tax setting proposals will be considered by Cabinet and County Council on 24 February.</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>
1.20	<p><b>Benefits</b></p> <p>Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) – Based on current demand, costs are projected to be £0.791m over budget, although this will be monitored closely throughout the year due to the potential for growth.</p>

	<p>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 £0.791m can be fully mitigated by use of the Reserve previously set aside.</p>
1.21	<p><b>Harpur Trust vs Brazel Case</b></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 tribunal claims in respect of this. The next preliminary hearing is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.</p> <p>It is hoped 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>
1.22	<p><b>Achievement of Planned Budget Reductions</b></p> <p>The 2024/25 budget contains £14.921m of specific budget reductions 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 budget reductions in the previous financial year.</p> <p>It is projected that 99% of budget reductions will be achieved in 2024/25 and further details can be seen in Appendix 3.</p>
1.23	<p><b>Unearmarked Reserves</b></p> <p>The final level of Council Fund Contingency Reserve brought forward into 2024/25 was £2.987m as detailed in the 2023/24 outturn report.</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>Taking into account the current projected final outturn and previously agreed allocations the contingency reserve available is £2.987m.</p> <p>As required by Financial Procedure Rules all Portfolios are expected to identify solutions in-year to mitigate the risks and potential overspends identified in the report.</p>
1.24	<p><b>Summary and Conclusion</b></p>

	<p>This significant projected overspend (and impact on our available reserves) continues to be of concern and needs to continue to be addressed to bring expenditure back in line with the approved budget.</p> <p>Based on current projections the council's contingency reserve will increase at Month 9 which it uses to deal with any significant in-year unforeseen events. It should be noted however that there are still a number of risks identified in the report that could lead to deterioration of 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 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 for the remainder of 2024/25 and is being applied with rigour.</p>
1.25	<p><b>Housing Revenue Account (HRA)</b></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>
1.26	<p>The 2024/25 budget for the HRA is £42.166m which includes a movement of (£0.193m) from reserves.</p>
1.27	<p>The projected outturn for the HRA shows an in-year revenue expenditure £0.747m higher than budget with a closing un-earmarked balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025 of £3.705m, which at 8.64% of total expenditure satisfies the prudent approach of ensuring a minimum level of 3% - see Appendix 5.</p> <p>The adverse movement £0.747m is as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income (£0.093m) – positive movement on the Bad Debt Provision (£0.100m) mitigated by movement on voids and minor variances £0.007m.</li> <li>• Capital Financing Loan Charges (£0.100m) – reduction in borrowing costs against the Capital Programme, grant funding utilised.</li> <li>• Estate Management (£0.200m) – Additional Housing Support Grant (£0.170m) together with movement on salaries and minor variances.</li> <li>• Repairs &amp; Maintenance £1.154m - resulting from the drive to reduce the backlog of void properties within the HRA.</li> </ul> <p>Minor variances account for the remainder (£0.014m).</p>



1.28	The budget contribution towards capital expenditure (CERA) is £14.467m.
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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	As set out within the report.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
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.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	None specific.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1: Council Fund – Movement in Variances from Month 8 Appendix 2: Council Fund – Budget Variances Appendix 3: Council Fund – Programme of Budget Reductions Appendix 4: Council Fund – Movement on Un-earmarked Reserves Appendix 5: Housing Revenue Account Variances

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	Various budget records.

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Dave Ledsham Strategic Finance Manager <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704503 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:dave.ledsham@flintshire.gov.uk">dave.ledsham@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
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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.

## MONTH 9 - SUMMARY

Service	Movement between Periods (£m)	Narrative for Movement between Periods greater than £0.025m
<b>Social Services</b>		
<b>Older People</b>		
Localities	0.376	This month residential care costs increased by £0.280m due to ongoing demand. Homecare increased by £0.143m which includes a contribution of (£0.113m) Welsh Government grant for the Charging Policy cap. Workforce costs have decreased by (£0.034m) and Daycare reduced by (£0.013m).
Minor Variances	-0.004	
<b>Adults of Working Age</b>		
Resources & Regulated Services	0.352	There was a decrease in the Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impaired service of (£0.054m) due to net changes to care packages. The in-house supported living service costs have increased by £0.040m and the Learning Disability costs increased by £0.380m due to changes to care packages. Day services costs reduced by (£0.014m).
Intensive Support	-0.026	There has been an increase in income due to a back dated claim being raised.
Residential Placements	0.055	This is due to changes to care packages.
Minor Variances	-0.036	
<b>Children's Services</b>		
Residential Placements	-0.042	The closure of an in-house short term care facility has resulted in this saving
Professional Support	0.317	The managed agency teams have finished but to meet demand and safeguarding requirements additional agency staff are required.
Minor Variances	0.012	
<b>Safeguarding &amp; Commissioning</b>		
Charging Policy income	-0.075	There is an increase to the expected income amounts from charging for homecare.
Minor Variances	0.004	
<b>Total Social Services (excl Out of County)</b>	<b>0.933</b>	
<b>Out of County</b>		
Children's Services	-0.228	Various new placements, offset by ending placements and a significant increase to Home Office income relating to 2023/24 and 2024/25. A £0.200m contingency has been included to cover any future new placements to mitigate any significant variance movements between now and year end.
Education & Youth	0.053	A number of new Education placements have been agreed.
<b>Total Out of County</b>	<b>-0.175</b>	
<b>Education &amp; Youth</b>		
Inclusion & Progression	-0.235	Favourable movement of (£0.235m) due to an additional in-year grant variation of (£0.500m) from Welsh Government for the Local Authority Education Grant - Additional Learning Needs Provision. The terms and conditions of spend has allowed the service to allocate this grant against 1:1 tuition within Creative and Excellence and also provision within Canolfan Enfys. The two areas within the service that had an in-year pressure due to an increase in pupil numbers requiring additional support.
School Improvement Systems	-0.037	In-year additional grant variation relating to the Local Authority Education Grant - School Standards. This grant will be utilised against Early Entitlement top-up payments to non-maintained settings and mitigate the current shortfall on the grant.
Minor Variances	0.010	
<b>Total Education &amp; Youth</b>	<b>-0.262</b>	
<b>Schools</b>	<b>-0.024</b>	
<b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>		
Highways Network	-0.450	Fleet Savings - A significant projected underspend in Fleet services. Following the Asset Purchase Agreement when Go Plant Services went into administration, the subsequent sale of replaced vehicles throughout recent months has generated additional funds returned to the service.
Transportation	0.148	Increase in projected school transport costs to financial year end.
Regulatory Services	0.053	Adverse Recycling Income Market Prices.
Other Minor Variances	-0.020	
<b>Total Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>-0.269</b>	
<b>Planning, Environment &amp; Economy</b>		
Business	-0.055	Budget saving following review of Contaminated Land - no further expenditure expected to March, 2025
Development	0.329	Review of projected planning fee income in Development Management based on actuals received and current information known regarding potential future applications
Access	-0.040	Maximisation of Grant Income received

## MONTH 9 - SUMMARY

Service	Movement between Periods (£m)	Narrative for Movement between Periods greater than £0.025m
Regeneration	-0.120	One-off windfall of Interest payment from Gwynedd CC relating to the Shared Prosperity Fund Grant Income - this relates to the Flintshire percentage of the total balance.
Management & Strategy	-0.026	Minor movements across the Service each less than £0.025m
Minor Variances	-0.010	
<b>Total Planning &amp; Environment</b>	<b>0.077</b>	
<b>People &amp; Resources</b>		
HR & OD	0.010	
Corporate Finance	-0.008	
<b>Total People &amp; Resources</b>	<b>0.002</b>	
<b>Governance</b>		
Procurement	-0.024	Removal of commitment for external procurement work
ICT	0.035	Cost relating to an IT networking, security, and VoIP telephony solution which was higher than previously anticipated
Revenues	-0.070	Revised projection on the potential surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund
Minor Variances	-0.010	
<b>Total Governance</b>	<b>-0.069</b>	
<b>Assets</b>		
Policy	-0.017	Salary Savings of (£0.041m) mitigated by minor movements across the Portfolio
Minor Variances	0.004	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>-0.013</b>	
<b>Housing and Community</b>		
Minor Variances	0.000	
<b>Total Housing and Community</b>	<b>0.000</b>	
<b>Chief Executive's</b>	<b>-0.002</b>	
<b>Central &amp; Corporate Finance</b>	<b>-0.670</b>	Favourable movement relates to a further improvement on the CLIA (£0.110m) at Month 9 and a further (£0.077m) from the Teachers Pay funding than was originally anticipated following actual allocations to Schools. There is also the full annual saving of the annual service agreement from Mynydd Isa school of (£0.495m) due to the delays in the school opening.
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>-0.471</b>	

## Budget Monitoring Report - Month 9

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Moratorium related Savings (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
<b>Social Services</b>							
<b>Older People</b>							
Localities	23.749	26.207	2.458	2.082		Residential care costs for older people are projecting an overspend of £1.543m for this service. This amount is net of client income from property recharges and reimbursements for deputyships and assets held in trust. Homecare is £0.872m overspent due to demand, included in this amount is income from two grants of £0.429m and £0.113m. Locality workforce and professional support budgets are overspent by £0.0032m, day care is overspent by £0.006m and the minor adaptations budget is £0.005m overspent. There is a significant risk that costs will continue to escalate as pressures to minimise stays in hospital continues. The risk increases as we enter the winter months.	To attempt to mitigate expected escalating costs a number of policies are being reviewed and amended to maximise financial benefit and reduce costs.
Resources & Regulated Services	10.475	10.328	-0.147	-0.142		In-house residential care is projecting an overspend of £0.373m due to employee and running costs. Homecare is predicted to underspend by £0.495m, demand is high but recruitment challenges mean that demand cannot be fully met. The Extra Care budget is expected to overspend by £0.085m from employee costs and day care will underspend by £0.110m.	
Minor Variances	1.560	1.593	0.033	0.033			
<b>Adults of Working Age</b>							
Resources & Regulated Services	36.133	37.188	1.055	0.703		The PDSI (Physically Disabled and Sensory Impaired) budget is reporting a £0.064m overspend due to net costs of care packages. The in-house Supported Living service is £0.494m overspent due to care hours and agency costs. The care package costs for independently provided care for Learning Disability service is a £0.638m overspend. There is an underspend of £0.141m for Day Services.	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	1.086	0.238	0.238		This is the cost of care packages for young adults transferring from Childrens 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 this estimate. This year some confirmed care packages have already been confirmed as higher than the initial estimate.	
Professional and Administrative Support	0.467	0.342	-0.126	-0.123	-0.126	This underspend is due to staff vacancies.	
Transition & Disability Services Team	0.929	0.866	-0.063	-0.063	-0.063	In-year vacancies are causing this underspend.	
Intensive Support	0.505	0.443	-0.062	-0.036		There are in-year vacancies and additional income expected.	
Community Living	0.565	0.510	-0.055	-0.048	-0.055	The underspend is due to vacant posts.	
Supporting People	-0.386	-0.487	-0.101	-0.101	-0.101	Additional Supporting People funding is expected this financial year.	
Residential Placements	2.729	2.660	-0.069	-0.124		This is the underspend on care packages for people with a mental health illness.	
Minor Variances	2.203	2.192	-0.012	0.014			
<b>Children's Services</b>							
Early Years & Family Support	0.352	0.205	-0.147	-0.146		Service balances have been drawn upon to offset eligible spend to reduce the overall projected outturn.	
Legal & Third Party	0.283	0.757	0.473	0.455		Legal costs are overspent by £0.274m 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 £0.120m and Direct Payments are overspent by £0.079m.	
Residential Placements	1.906	1.845	-0.061	-0.019		An in-house childrens residential facility for short term care has shut due to challenges with recruitment of staff and cost of agency staff.	
Professional Support	6.408	8.446	2.038	1.721		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, both have now ended and there is an overspend of £0.903m as a result. Other team costs are overspending by £0.273m which is due to agency but are slightly mitigated by vacancies and grant funding. The Leaving Care budget, which supports young people who are Looked After Children, is overspending by £0.560m due to increased numbers of care leavers which includes unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who have become young adults. The costs for some external contracts are £0.074m overspent due to inflationary pressures. Costs for Direct Payments to provide support to children with disabilities are £0.288m overspent because of demand.	Alternative accommodation for UASC is being explored and cheaper rates have been negotiated with an alternative accommodation provider.
Minor Variances	3.973	4.056	0.083	0.088			
<b>Safeguarding &amp; Commissioning</b>							

## Budget Monitoring Report - Month 9

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Moratorium related Savings (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Charging Policy income	-2.333	-2.652	-0.319	-0.244		This is income from service users who financially contribute towards their care.	
Vacancy Management	-0.611	-0.521	0.091	0.091		This budget holds in-year portfolio efficiencies achieved through vacancy savings and grant maximisation. There is a target set for these efficiencies which is unlikely to be achieved this year.	
Minor Variances	3.812	3.855	0.043	0.039			
<b>Total Social Services (excl Out of County)</b>	<b>93.567</b>	<b>98.917</b>	<b>5.350</b>	<b>4.417</b>	<b>-0.345</b>		
<b>Out of County Placements</b>							
Children's Services	13.795	15.420	1.625	1.853		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 a £0.200m contingency for future new placements exceeding current caseload	
Education & Youth	5.504	5.714	0.210	0.158			
<b>Total Out of County Placements</b>	<b>19.299</b>	<b>21.134</b>	<b>1.835</b>	<b>2.010</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Education &amp; Youth (Non-Schools)</b>							
Inclusion & Progression	5.752	5.746	-0.006	0.229		In year additional grant variation relating to the Local Authority Education Grant - Additional Learning Needs Provision of £0.500m has been used to offset the service overspend in line with the grant terms and conditions.	
Integrated Youth Provision	0.927	0.861	-0.065	-0.066	-0.066	Recruitment delays, enabling grant utilisation against trainee costs. Income generation increases on room hire.	
School Planning & Provision	0.638	0.533	-0.105	-0.094	-0.105	Reduction in expenditure from transition budget due to delayed Capital Projects and reduction in the number of mobile classrooms.	
Minor Variances	3.192	3.193	0.001	0.018	-0.010		
<b>Total Education &amp; Youth (Non-Schools)</b>	<b>10.509</b>	<b>10.333</b>	<b>-0.175</b>	<b>0.086</b>	<b>-0.181</b>		
<b>Schools</b>							
	<b>117.424</b>	<b>117.234</b>	<b>-0.190</b>	<b>-0.166</b>		The variance primarily relates to the following:- Free School Meals (FSM) budget - (£0.098m) underspend, due to meal take up and levels of eligible FSM children. The Unallocated budget containing Added Years and Copyright Licenses indicates a (£0.153m) underspend. The above underspends are offset by a number of insignificant adverse variances within Primary and Secondary non-delegated, totalling £0.061m.	
<b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>							
Service Delivery	9.228	10.258	1.030	1.050		Significant variance of £0.400m in highways maintenance costs, £0.240m Alltami 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.	Method Statements have been submitted for ongoing budget pressures into 2025/26.
Highways Network	11.707	12.041	0.335	0.785		Projected impact of weather events to date of £0.150m. Winter Maintenance costs of £0.470m are anticipated to escalate for the provision of equipment, labour and salt, which have seen significant year-on-year inflation, plus the first prolonged snow event of the season, higher fleet costs for gritter hire, which is more than the previous purchased model. We continue to investigate options to reduce operational costs and ensure appropriate income/funding. Public Conveniences reporting £0.034m overspend due to increased maintenance costs. Street-lighting energy cost increases of £0.131m are forecast and built into the projections. Estimated costings are being collated following the significant impacts on the highway network from Storms Ashley, Bert and Darragh, together with Storm Eowyn in January. Fleet Services underspend of (£0.450m) reported at Month 9 from sales of replaced vehicles in recent months.	A method statement has been completed for the projected overspend on Winter Maintenance and severe storm events as a 2025/26 budget consideration.
Transportation	11.125	11.434	0.309	0.161	-0.140	School transport significant variances increasing due to transport contractor costs increasing driven by inflation and cost of living (fuel, energy, insurance, wages and NI). 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.	

## Budget Monitoring Report - Month 9

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Moratorium related Savings (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Regulatory Services	11.510	11.693	0.183	0.130	-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	0.000	0.000	0.000			
<b>Total Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>43.570</b>	<b>45.427</b>	<b>1.856</b>	<b>2.125</b>	<b>-0.249</b>		
<b>Planning, Environment &amp; Economy</b>							
Business	2.399	2.151	-0.248	-0.193	-0.234	Part year vacancy savings	
Development	-0.143	0.474	0.617	0.289		Estimated fee income shortfall in Building Control, Land Charges and Planning Fees	
Access	1.638	1.736	0.098	0.138		Commitment for the cost Ash Die Back tree works £0.140m projected to March, 2025 mitigated in part by maximisation of grant income	
Regeneration	0.731	0.527	-0.204	-0.084		Maximisation of Grant Funding - re-allocating staff costs against the eligible grant	
Management & Strategy	1.955	1.811	-0.144	-0.117	-0.105	Part year vacancy savings	
Minor Variances	1.419	1.427	0.008	0.018	-0.015		
<b>Total Planning, Environment &amp; Economy</b>	<b>7.998</b>	<b>8.126</b>	<b>0.128</b>	<b>0.050</b>	<b>-0.354</b>		
<b>People &amp; Resources</b>							
HR & OD	2.308	2.368	0.060	0.050		Historic efficiency target for DBS checks not realised	
Corporate Finance	2.199	2.052	-0.147	-0.139	-0.104	Part year vacancy savings	
<b>Total People &amp; Resources</b>	<b>4.507</b>	<b>4.421</b>	<b>-0.087</b>	<b>-0.088</b>	<b>-0.104</b>		
<b>Governance</b>							
Legal Services	1.025	0.972	-0.053	-0.048	-0.040	Minor variances across the Service	
Revenues	0.430	0.191	-0.238	-0.168	0.000	Anticipated surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund which has increased at Month 9	
Minor Variances	10.920	10.839	-0.081	-0.087	-0.065		
<b>Total Governance</b>	<b>12.375</b>	<b>12.002</b>	<b>-0.372</b>	<b>-0.303</b>	<b>-0.140</b>		
<b>Assets</b>							
Policy	0.754	0.713	-0.041	-0.024	-0.041	Favourable variance of (£0.041m) due to Salary Savings	
Minor Variances	10.717	10.726	0.009	0.004			
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>11.471</b>	<b>11.439</b>	<b>-0.032</b>	<b>-0.020</b>	<b>-0.041</b>		
<b>Housing and Communities</b>							
Housing Solutions	4.379	6.721	2.342	2.342		Adverse variance to the Housing Solutions budget of £2.342m, £2.326m attributed to Homelessness costs with £0.016m on minor variances.	
Minor Variances	13.975	13.973	-0.002	-0.002	-0.002		
<b>Total Housing and Communities</b>	<b>18.354</b>	<b>20.694</b>	<b>2.340</b>	<b>2.340</b>	<b>-0.002</b>		
<b>Chief Executive's</b>	<b>1.674</b>	<b>1.653</b>	<b>-0.022</b>	<b>-0.020</b>	<b>-0.020</b>		
<b>Central &amp; Corporate Finance</b>	<b>27.357</b>	<b>20.114</b>	<b>-7.242</b>	<b>-6.572</b>		The Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA) for the 2024/25 indicates an increased underspend of (£0.770m) at Month 9 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 was agreed at a level that has resulted in a favourable movement of £0.755m compared to what was originally budgeted for. Additional funding to support pay pressures has been confirmed by Welsh Government totalling (£3.255m) including the 2024-25 Teachers Pay Deal. At Month 9 the actual figure is revised to (£3.333m) with an increase in funding from Schools. There is also the full annual saving of the annual service agreement from Mynydd Isa school of (£0.495m) due to delays in opening.	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>368.106</b>	<b>371.495</b>	<b>3.389</b>	<b>3.860</b>	<b>-1.436</b>		

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2024/25 Budget Reductions Outturn Tracker - Month 9

Budget Reduction Description		Accountable Officer	Budget Reduction Target	Projected Budget Reduction	(Under)/Over Achievement	Budget Reduction Open/Closed (O/C)	Confidence in Achievement of Budget Reduction - Based on (see below) R = High Assumption A = Medium Assumption G = Figures Confirmed	Confirmation of Achievement	Reason for variation	Mitigating Action if Amber or Red	
<b>Portfolio</b>			2024/25 Em	2024/25 Em	2024/25 Em		R A				
<b>Corporate</b>											
1	Actuarial Review	Portfolio budget reductions	Gary Ferguson	4.000	4.000	0.000	C	G	Both monthly income and one-off income received from Chwyd Pension Fund	On target	
2	Central Loans and Investment Account	Increased income/reduced borrowing	Chris Taylor	1.000	1.770	0.770	C	G	CLIA reporting an additional surplus of £0.770m over and above the £1m budget reduction	Additional income than originally anticipated	
3	Additional Income from Fastrack Project	Portfolios	Debbie Griffiths	0.018	0.018	0.000	O	G	Fastrack income anticipated to be in surplus beyond the £0.018m budget reduction.	Expected to meet the budget reduction	
<b>Total Corporate Services</b>				<b>5.018</b>	<b>5.788</b>	<b>0.770</b>					
<b>Assets</b>											
4	Strategic Funding		Damian Hughes	0.028	0.028	0.000	O	G	Vacancy savings - position not appointed to	Achieved	
5	Rent Review - Commercial Assets		Damian Hughes	0.021	0.021	0.000	O	G	Rental Income increased	Achieved	
6	Valuation & Estates	Restructure	Damian Hughes	0.010	0.010	0.000	O	G	Reduced expenditure	Achieved	
<b>Total Assets</b>				<b>0.059</b>	<b>0.059</b>	<b>0.000</b>					
<b>Assets - ADMs</b>											
7	ADM Budget	Reduction in ADM Budget	Rachael Corbelli	0.065	0.065	0.000	O	G	Reduced contribution to ADM's	Achieved	
8	Review of External Partners		Rachael Corbelli	0.087	0.087	0.000	O	G	Reduced contribution to ADM's	Achieved	
<b>Total Assets - ADMs</b>				<b>0.152</b>	<b>0.152</b>	<b>0.000</b>					
<b>Chief Executives</b>											
9	Executive Office	Reduction in Promotions Budget	Joanne Pierce	0.010	0.010	0.000	C	G	Budget removed and no expenditure	Budget Removed	
10	IT - Mobile Phone contract	Chief Executive's element	Joanne Pierce	0.001	0.001	0.000	C	G	Expenditure reduced by 55% from 23/24 costs	Budget Removed	
<b>Total Chief Executives</b>				<b>0.011</b>	<b>0.011</b>	<b>0.000</b>					
<b>People &amp; Resources</b>											
11	Corporate Finance	Reduction in Staffing	Gary Ferguson	0.104	0.104	0.000	C	G	Vacancy savings - positions not appointed to	Budget Removed	
12	Feasibility Study budget	Reduction in Budget	Gary Ferguson	0.050	0.050	0.000	C	G	Reduced expenditure	Budget Removed	
13	HR & OD	Reduction in TU facilities budget	Sharon Carney	0.030	0.030	0.000	C	G	Budget savings	Budget Removed	
14	Flintshire Trainees	Recruitment Freeze 2024/25	Sharon Carney	0.138	0.138	0.000	C	G	Recruitment stopped for 24/25 and future years	Budget Removed	
<b>Total People &amp; Resources</b>				<b>0.322</b>	<b>0.322</b>	<b>0.000</b>					
<b>Governance</b>											
15	RSA Tags	Governance element	Gareth Owen	0.003	0.003	0.000	C	G	No requirement to purchase RSA tags due to new microsoft authenticator protocols	Budget Removed	
16	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 over recover	Fee Income expected to meet target	
17	Discretionary Rate Relief		Gareth Owen	0.004	0.004	0.000	C	G	Reduced expenditure	Budget Removed	
18	Internal Audit	Removal of Vacant Posts	Gareth Owen	0.104	0.104	0.000	C	G	Vacancy savings - positions not appointed to	Budget Removed	
19	IT - Equipment reduction in requirements		Gareth Owen	0.018	0.018	0.000	C	G	Reduced expenditure	Budget Removed	
			Gareth Owen	0.015	0.015	0.000	C	G	Mobile phone budget requires realigning- although costs have reduced from 23/24	Budget Removed	
20	IT - Mobile Phone contract	Governance element	Gareth Owen	0.010	0.010	0.000	C	G	Reduced expenditure	Budget Removed	
21	Contact Centre	Reduction in budget	Gareth Owen	0.250	0.250	0.000	C	G	Based on Council Tax information provided	Achieved	
22	Single Person Discount Review 24/25		Gareth Owen	0.009	0.009	0.000	C	G	Reduced expenditure	Budget Removed	
23	Procurement	Reduction in contribution	Gareth Owen	0.009	0.009	0.000	C	G	Reduced expenditure	Budget Removed	
24	HRA Recharging	Management Costs Apportionment	Gareth Owen	0.027	0.027	0.000	C	G	Recharge at year end already agreed	Recharge at increased rate agreed with HRA	
25	Granicus	GovDelivery	Gareth Owen	0.025	0.025	0.000	C	G	Software Contract ended	Budget Removed	
26	Registration Services		Gareth Owen	0.040	0.040	0.000	C	G	Fee Income expected to over recover	Fee Income expected to meet target	
27	Graphic Design		Gareth Owen	0.039	0.039	0.000	C	G	Vacancy savings - positions not appointed to	Removal of posts Sept 2024	
<b>Total Governance</b>				<b>0.546</b>	<b>0.546</b>	<b>0.000</b>					
<b>Planning, Environment &amp; Economy</b>											
28	Fees & Charges Review 2023	Increased income from 2023 Review	Andrew Farrow	0.050	0.050	0.000	O	A	Fee Income likely to be achieved in Services (not Planning, Building Control or Land Charges)	Dependant on actual fee income levels received in year	
29	Fees & Charges Review 2024	Increased income from 2024 Review	Andrew Farrow	0.017	0.017	0.000	O	A	Fee Income likely to be achieved in Services (not Planning, Building Control or Land Charges)	Dependant on actual fee income levels received in year	
30	IT - Mobile Phone contract	PE&E element	Andrew Farrow	0.008	0.008	0.000	C	G	Mobile phone budget allocation insufficient requires realigning - costs have reduced from 23/24	Budget Removed	
31	Planning Fee Income	Fee Income Target Increase	Andrew Farrow	0.295	0.000	(0.295)	O	R	Income not achieving originally anticipated levels	Dependant on actual fee income levels received in year	
32	Ambition North Wales Contribution	Budget Saving	Andrew Farrow	0.035	0.035	0.000	C	G	Budget saving as contribution % lower than previous years	Budget Removed	
33	Wales Rally GB	Budget Saving	Andrew Farrow	0.030	0.030	0.000	C	G	Rally unlikely to be held in Flintshire in the future	Budget Removed	
<b>Total Planning, Environment &amp; Economy</b>				<b>0.435</b>	<b>0.140</b>	<b>(0.295)</b>					
<b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>											
34	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	Reduced expenditure	Efficiency originated by Revenues but operated by S&T	
35	Fees & Charges Review 2023 - Green Waste	Increased income from 2023 Review	Katie Wilby	0.099	0.099	0.000	O	G	Additional Fee Income likely to be received within the Service		
36	Fees & Charges Review 2023 - Car Parking	Increased income from 2023 Review	Katie Wilby	0.063	0.063	0.000	O	G	Additional Fee Income likely to be received within the Service		
37	Fees & Charges Review 2023 - Bereavement Services	Increased income from 2023 Review	Katie Wilby	0.033	0.033	0.000	O	G	Additional Fee Income likely to be received within the Service		
38	Fees & Charges Review 2024 - Bereavement Services	Increased income from 2024 Review	Katie Wilby	0.012	0.012	0.000	O	G	Additional Fee Income likely to be received within the Service		
39	IT - Mobile Phone contract	S&T element	Katie Wilby	0.011	0.011	0.000	C	G	Mobile phone budget allocation insufficient requires realigning - costs have reduced from 23/24		
40	Part time opening of HWRC's		Katie Wilby	0.250	0.225	(0.025)	O	A	Separate working paper on non-achievement.	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.	Implementation Date 6th May
41	Review/reduce service standards	Grass cutting etc.	Katie Wilby	0.025	0.025	0.000	O	G	Service Changes implemented resulting in less Expenditure.	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.	

Budget Reduction Description		Accountable Officer	Budget Reduction Target	Projected Budget Reduction	(Under)/Over Achievement	Budget Reduction Open/Closed (O/C)	Confidence in Achievement of Budget Reduction - Based on (see below) R = High Assumption A = Medium Assumption G = Figures Confirmed	Confirmation of Achievement	Reason for variation	Mitigating Action if Amber or Red
Portfolio			2024/25 £m	2024/25 £m	2024/25 £m		R A G			
42	Review/reduce service standards	Cemetery maintenance	Katie Wilby	0.025	0.025	0.000	O	G	Expenditure has reduced in cemeteries	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.
43	Introduce Night Working		Katie Wilby	0.025	0.025	0.000	O	G	Reduced Expenditure in Plant & Equipment costs.	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 unsocial hours
44	Reduce cleansing standards and enforce zero balance for littering		Katie Wilby	0.030	0.030	0.000	O	G	Reduced Expenditure in Cleansing staff costs.	Potential consequential impact on littering and fly tipping, which would require additional resources for enforcement.
45	In-house services e.g. weed spraying, traffic management		Katie Wilby	0.035	0.035	0.000	O	G	Service Change to In-huse rather than Contractors.	Cost-benefit assessment to be undertaken to assess whether in-house provision would be more cost efficient than a contracted service
46	Full cost recovery for supporting community events		Katie Wilby	0.010	0.010	0.000	O	G	Income received from charging for services provided.	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.
47	Reduce non essential services on Bank Holidays (x5)		Katie Wilby	0.077	0.077	0.000	O	G	Reduced Expenditure in Staffing Overtime Costs.	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.
48	Charging for DIY Waste streams at HWRC's		Katie Wilby	0.300	0.075	(0.225)	O	A	Separate working paper on non-achievement.	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.
49	Remove vacancies for Schools Crossing Patrols		Katie Wilby	0.084	0.084	0.000	O	G	Vacancies removed from structure	The portfolio currently has vacancies for crossing patrol officers within the road safety team, which could be given up.
50	Remove Officer vacancies across the Portfolio		Katie Wilby	0.294	0.294	0.000	O	G	Vacancies removed from structure	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.
51	Charge for Trade Waste at one HRC site		Katie Wilby	0.200	0.050	(0.150)	O	A	Separate working paper on non-achievement.	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.
52	Increase fees for Bulky Waste		Katie Wilby	0.010	0.010	0.000	O	G	Income received from charging for Bulky Wastes.	Currently charge for bulky waste collections. The fee could be increased in line with inflation (by £5 per collection).
53	Reduce SmartClient for Technical Support		Katie Wilby	0.025	0.025	0.000	O	G	Reduced Expenditure.	ground surveys. Reduce budget available.
54	Winter Maintenance Review of Weather Stations for 2024/25		Katie Wilby	0.025	0.025	0.000	O	G	Reduced Expenditure.	Review is already underway for the use of route-based forecasting or domain-based forecasting instead of the current approach.
<b>Total Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>			<b>1.644</b>	<b>1.244</b>	<b>(0.400)</b>					
<b>Social Services</b>										
55	Fees & Charges Review 2023	Increased income from 2023 Review	Craig Macleod	0.063	0.063	0.000	O	G	A surplus for the client contribution to in-house residential care is being projected/reported.	
56	Fees & Charges Review 2024	Increased income from 2024 Review	Craig Macleod	0.021	0.021	0.000	O	G	A surplus for the client contribution to in-house residential care is being projected/reported.	
57	RSA Tags	Social Services element	Craig Macleod	0.002	0.002	0.000	O	G	This is assumed to be achieved as a very small efficiency	
58	IT - Mobile Phone contract	Social Services element	Craig Macleod	0.046	0.028	(0.018)	O	A	See additional paper on non-achievement.	The efficiency is a high proportion of the total cost of mobile units in 2023/24 and unlikely it will be achieved in full
59	Newydd Cleaning Contracts	Reduction to contract with Newydd	Craig Macleod	0.100	0.000	(0.100)	C	R	See additional paper on non-achievement.	Negotiations with Newydd have not yielded any efficiencies and therefore will not lead to cost reductions in 2024/25.
60	Reduce Regional Contribution	Reduction to in-year contribution to Regional Team	Craig Macleod	0.025	0.025	0.000	O	G	The agreed annual contribution to the Regional Team incorporates this reduction.	
61	Extra BCUHB contribution to Marleyfield	Additional Income from BCUHB for hospital discharge beds	Craig Macleod	0.040	0.040	0.000	O	G	BCUHB have been invoiced for this	
62	Service Review	Reduction in posts	Craig Macleod	0.075	0.035	(0.040)	O	A	See additional paper on non-achievement.	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.
63	Vacancy Management	In-year vacancy savings	Craig Macleod	0.100	0.100	0.000	O	G	This is expected to be achieved due to number of short term vacancies in-year	
64	Increase to Income budget	Older People Commissioning	Craig Macleod	0.050	0.050	0.000	O	G	Client contribution income is projected to achieve a surplus	
65	Disability Day Service	Reduced budget	Craig Macleod	0.040	0.040	0.000	O	G	The LD Day Services is reporting an underspend	
66	Appointeeship service charging	Increased income	Craig Macleod	0.050	0.025	(0.025)	O	A	See additional paper on non-achievement.	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.
67	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	BCUHB have been invoiced for this	
68	Efficiencies to Planned Contracts with Third Sector	Reduced expenditure	Craig Macleod	0.020	0.020	0.000	O	G	Contract payments have reduced in line with the reduction	
69	Grant Maximisation		Craig Macleod	0.100	0.100	0.000	O	G	Grant has been received to be allocated against this efficiency	
70	Reduced NEWCES contribution	Reduced expenditure	Craig Macleod	0.010	0.010	0.000	O	G	This is incorporated in the contribution payment to NEWCES	
71	Grant funding for Adult Social Services	2024/25 only	Craig Macleod	0.100	0.100	0.000	O	G	Grant has been received to be allocated against this efficiency	
72	Disability services	Charging for college placements pending financial assessments	Craig Macleod	0.020	0.020	0.000	O	G	Client contribution income is projected to achieve a surplus	
<b>Total Social Services</b>			<b>0.872</b>	<b>0.689</b>	<b>(0.183)</b>					
<b>Housing &amp; Communities</b>										
73	RSA Tags	Housing & Communities element	Vicky Clark	0.001	0.001	0.000	O	G	RSA Tags ceased	

Budget Reduction Description		Accountable Officer	Budget Reduction Target	Projected Budget Reduction	(Under)/Over Achievement	Budget Reduction Open/Closed (O/C)	Confidence in Achievement of Budget Reduction - Based on (see below) R = High Assumption A = Medium Assumption G = Figures Confirmed	Confirmation of Achievement	Reason for variation	Mitigating Action if Amber or Red
<b>Portfolio</b>			<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2024/25</b>		<b>R</b>			
			<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>		<b>A</b>			
74	IT - Mobile Phone contract	Housing & Communities element	Vicky Clark	0.009	0.009	0.000	C	G	Expenditure less than prior year, therefore indicates efficiency being achieved	
75	CTRS Reduction	Budget Reduction	Vicky Clark	0.254	0.254	0.000	O	G	The CTRS Reserve is currently sufficient to meet the in-year overspend of £0.789m (as at Month 8)	Use of the Reserve in 2024/25 instead of base budget pressure
<b>Total Housing &amp; Communities</b>			<b>0.254</b>	<b>0.254</b>	<b>0.000</b>					
<b>Education &amp; Youth</b>										
76	Fees & Charges Review 2023 - Integrated Youth Service	Increased income from 2023 Review	Claire Homard	0.001	0.001	0.000	O	G	Income generation has increased over and above £0.001m efficiency	
77	Fees & Charges Review 2024 - Integrated Youth Service	Increased income from 2024 Review	Claire Homard	0.007	0.007	0.000	O	G	RSA Tags ceased	
78	RSA Tags	Education & Youth element	Claire Homard	0.005	0.005	0.000	C	G	Expenditure £0.005m less than prior year up to P6, therefore indicates efficiency being achieved	
79	IT - Mobile Phone contract	Education & Youth element	Claire Homard	0.099	0.099	0.000	O	G	Contribution incurred at a lower total of £0.909m in comparison to prior years of £1.002m, resulting in a difference of £0.093m. The remaining balance (£0.006m) has been achieved through increased income generation of GwE's contribution to Flintshire	
80	GwE - Reduction in Contribution	Reduced numbers accessing Early Entitlement	Claire Homard	0.075	0.075	0.000	O	G	The Early Entitlement service is reporting a break-even position. Recently announced Welsh Government funding offsets any unplanned increases to projected expenditure	
81	Early Entitlement	Income generation	Claire Homard	0.010	0.010	0.000	O	G	Achieved through workforce reductions - 0.2 FTE reduction implemented	
82	Adult Community Learning	Buildings Asset transfer of some buildings	Claire Homard	0.032	0.032	0.000	O	G	Glanrafon Youth Centre has closed down, therefore efficiency achieved	
83	Youth Services	Mobile Classrooms	Claire Homard	0.010	0.010	0.000	O	G	Achieved through workforce reductions	
84	Business Support Review	Transition Funding	Claire Homard	0.010	0.010	0.000	O	G	Achieved via reduction in the number of mobile classrooms - reported underspend figure on SP&P is currently in excess of the £0.010m efficiency	
85	School Planning & Provision	Contribution towards PEP Caseworker	Claire Homard	0.020	0.020	0.000	O	G	Reported underspend on Transition Budget at Period 8 exceeds £0.010m efficiency	
86	School Planning & Provision							£0.020m pressure originally unfulfilled, so £0.020m was given up as an efficiency to reduce budget to £0.030m. Expenditure is fully committed to transfer funding to schools for Early Years pupils		
87	Inclusion & Progression									
<b>Total Education &amp; Youth</b>			<b>0.302</b>	<b>0.302</b>	<b>0.000</b>					
<b>Schools</b>										
88	Utility Costs		Claire Homard	0.600	0.600	0.000	O	G	Achieved - the delegated schools funding formula was apportioned less efficiency amount. Schools carry forward their surplus/deficit balances, so has no implication on the revenue monitoring position of council services.	
89	School Demography		Claire Homard	0.675	0.675	0.000	O	G	Achieved - the delegated schools funding formula was apportioned less efficiency amount. Schools carry forward their surplus/deficit balances, so has no implication on the revenue monitoring position of council services.	
90	3% Reduction in Delegated Funding		Claire Homard	3.273	3.273	0.000	O	G	Achieved - the delegated schools funding formula was apportioned less efficiency amount. Schools carry forward their surplus/deficit balances, so has no implication on the revenue monitoring position of council services.	
91	Remove Schools Deficit Subsidy for 1 year		Claire Homard	0.750	0.750	0.000	C	G	Achieved - budget removed and there will be no expenditure in 2024/25	
<b>Total Schools</b>			<b>5.298</b>	<b>5.298</b>	<b>0.000</b>					
<b>Total 2024/25 Budget Reductions</b>			<b>14.921</b>	<b>14.814</b>	<b>(0.108)</b>					

	%	£
<b>Total 2024/25 Budget Reductions</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14.921</b>
Total Projected 2024/25 Budget Reductions Underachieved	-1	(0.108)
Total Projected 2024/25 Budget Reductions Achieved	99	14.814
<b>Total 2024/25 Budget Reductions (Less Previously agreed Decisions)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.000</b>
Total Projected 2024/25 Budget Reductions Underachieved	0	0.000
Total Projected 2024/25 Budget Reductions 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)	
<b>Total Reserves above base level available for delegation to Cabinet</b>		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 - Illegal Tipping Costs approved at Month 7		(0.402)
Less - Illegal Tipping Costs recommended at Month 9		(0.380)
Less - Month 9 projected outturn		(0.389)
<b>Total Contingency Reserve available for use</b>		<b>2.987</b>

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**Budget Monitoring Report**  
**Housing Revenue Account Variances**

**MONTH 9 - SUMMARY**

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
<b>Housing Revenue Account</b>						
Income	(42.166)	(42.325)	(0.159)	(0.067)	There is a net pressure relating to void properties of £0.053m. 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 £(0.225m). Other minor variances of £0.013m.	
Capital Financing - Loan Charges	6.845	6.745	(0.100)		Reduction in borrowing costs against the Capital Programme . Grant funding utilised .	
Estate Management	3.206	2.794	(0.412)	(0.212)	Projected vacancy savings of approximately (£0.182m) which is being offset by agency costs of £0.084m. Additional allocation of Housing Support Grant (£0.295m). Other minor variances of £0.019m.	
Landlord Service Costs	1.798	1.666	(0.132)	(0.125)	Projected vacancy savings of approximately (£0.211m) which is being offset by agency costs of £0.118m. Material increased costs of £0.025m. Reduced utility costs (£0.092m). Other minor variances of £0.028m.	
Repairs & Maintenance	12.741	17.932	5.191	4.037	Adverse variance of £5.191m resulting from the drive to reduce the backlog of void properties within the HRA. An additional £3.500m CERA and £1.150m of reserves has been introduced to meet the overspend.	
Management & Support Services	2.787	2.637	(0.150)	(0.134)	Projected vacancy savings of approximately (£0.104m). Reduction in Support Recharge -(£.068m). Other minor variances of £0.022m	
Capital Expenditure From Revenue (CERA)	14.467	10.967	(3.500)	(3.500)		
HRA Projects	0.130	0.139	0.009	(0.000)		
Contribution To / (From) Reserves	0.193	0.193				
<b>Total Housing Revenue Account</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.747</b>	<b>0.747</b>	<b>(0.000)</b>		

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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>Report Subject</b>	Capital Programme Monitoring 2024/25 (Month 9)
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value
<b>Report Author</b>	Corporate Finance Manager
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report summarises changes made to the Capital Programme 2024/25 since it was set in December 2023 to the end of Month 9 (December 2024), along with expenditure to date and projected outturn.

The Capital Programme has seen a net decrease in budget of £12.126m during the period which comprises of:-

- Net budget decrease in the programme of £10.455m (See Table 2 – Council Fund (CF) (£7.961m), Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (£2.494m);
- Net Carry Forward to 2025/26 of (£1.671m) (All CF)

Actual expenditure was £62.062m (See Table 3).

Capital receipts received in the third quarter of 2024/25 total £0.342m. This provides a revised projected surplus in the Capital Programme at Month 9 of £2.932m (from a Month 6 funding position surplus of £2.590m) for the 2024/25 – 2026/27 Capital Programme, prior to the realisation of additional capital receipts and/or other funding sources. (See Table 5).

## RECOMMENDATIONS

	Cabinet are requested to:
1	Approve the overall report.
2	Approve the carry forward adjustments, as set out at 1.12
3	Approve the additional allocations, as set out in 1.14

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING POSITION – MONTH 9 2024/25</b>
1.01	<b>Background</b> Council approved a Council Fund (CF) Capital Programme of £25.326m for 2024/25 at its meeting on 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 and a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme of £29.498m for 2024/25 at its meeting on 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024.
1.02	For presentational purposes the Capital Programme is shown as a whole, with sub-totals for the Council Fund and HRA. The HRA programme is 'ring fenced' and can only be used for HRA purposes.
1.03	<b>Changes since Budget approval</b> Table 1 below sets out how the programme changed during 2024/25. More detailed cumulative information relating to each Portfolio is provided in Appendix A:-

**Table 1**

REVISED PROGRAMME	Original Budget 2024/25	Carry Forward from 2023/24	2024/25 Previously Reported			Changes (Current)	Revised Budget 2024/25
			Changes	Carry Forward to 2025/26	Savings		
			£m	£m	£m		
People & Resources	0.350	0.364	(0.328)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.386
Governance	2.353	0.283	0.015	(0.503)	0.000	0.000	2.148
Education & Youth	11.583	5.145	9.532	(2.481)	0.000	(3.223)	20.556
Social Services	4.800	1.420	14.301	(0.183)	0.000	(0.847)	19.491
Planning, Environment & Economy	0.240	0.779	3.160	(0.708)	0.000	(0.237)	3.234
Streetscene & Transportation	2.470	4.621	8.684	(1.796)	(2.405)	(3.582)	7.992
Housing and Communities	1.500	0.029	1.199	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.728
Capital Programme and Assets	2.030	1.595	23.272	(0.847)	(0.100)	(0.072)	25.878
<b>Council Fund Total</b>	<b>25.326</b>	<b>14.236</b>	<b>59.835</b>	<b>(6.518)</b>	<b>(2.505)</b>	<b>(7.961)</b>	<b>82.413</b>
<b>HRA Total</b>	<b>29.498</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>(7.153)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>(2.494)</b>	<b>19.851</b>
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>54.824</b>	<b>14.236</b>	<b>52.682</b>	<b>(6.518)</b>	<b>(2.505)</b>	<b>(10.455)</b>	<b>102.264</b>

**1.04 Carry Forward from 2023/24**

Carry forward sums from 2023/24 to 2024/25, totalling £14.236m (CF £14.236m, HRA £0.000m), were approved as a result of the quarterly monitoring reports presented to Cabinet during 2023/24.

**1.05 Changes during this period**

Funding changes during this period have resulted in a net decrease in the programme total of (£10.455m) (CF (£7.961m), HRA (£2.494m)). A summary of the changes, detailing major items, is shown in Table 2 below:-

**Table 2**

<b>CHANGES DURING THIS PERIOD</b>		
	<b>Para</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b><u>COUNCIL FUND</u></b>		
<b>Increases</b>		
Other Aggregate Increases		0.817
		0.817
<b>Decreases</b>		
Local Transport Grant	1.06	(3.368)
Schools Modernisation	1.07	(3.163)
Other Aggregate Decreases		(2.247)
		(8.778)
<b>Total</b>		<b>(7.961)</b>
<b><u>HRA</u></b>		
<b>Increases</b>		
Other Aggregate Increases		1.006
		1.006
<b>Decreases</b>		
WHQS Improvements	1.08	(3.500)
		(3.500)
<b>Total</b>		<b>(2.494)</b>

1.06 Local Transport Funding has been re-profiled to match expenditure across financial years.

1.07 Re-profiling of prudential borrowing and grant adjusted for in year expenditure in relation to the school modernisation programme.

1.08 Reduction of revenue funding for the WHQS programme from the HRA, to support with the in-year work required on voids as a result of the increased WHQS23 requirements.

**1.09 Capital Expenditure compared to Budget**

Expenditure as at Month 9, across the whole of the Capital Programme was £62.062m. The breakdown of expenditure is analysed in Table 3, along with the percentage spend against budget.

This shows that 60.69% of the budget has been spent (CF 57.27%, HRA 74.87%). Corresponding figures for Month 9 2023/24 were 46.78% (CF 44.09%, HRA 53.59%).

1.10 The table also shows a projected underspend (pending carry forward and other adjustments) of £2.429m on the Council Fund and a break-even position on the HRA.

**Table 3**

EXPENDITURE	Revised Budget	Cumulative Expenditure Month 9	Percentage Spend v Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance Budget v Outturn (Under)/Over
	£m	£m	%	£m	£m
People & Resources	0.386	0.000	0.00	0.386	0.000
Governance	2.148	0.992	46.18	2.009	(0.139)
Education & Youth	20.556	10.702	52.06	18.913	(1.643)
Social Services	19.491	11.759	60.33	19.408	(0.083)
Planning, Environment & Economy	3.234	0.850	26.28	3.009	(0.225)
Streetscene & Transportation	7.992	3.284	41.09	7.712	(0.280)
Housing & Communities	2.728	2.252	82.55	2.728	0.000
Capital Programme & Assets	25.878	17.361	67.09	25.819	(0.059)
<b>Council Fund Total</b>	<b>82.413</b>	<b>47.200</b>	<b>57.27</b>	<b>79.984</b>	<b>(2.429)</b>
Disabled Adaptations	1.100	1.063	96.64	1.100	0.000
Energy Schemes	5.232	2.964	56.65	5.232	0.000
Major Works	2.156	2.417	0.60	2.156	0.000
Accelerated Programmes	0.532	0.411	77.26	0.532	0.000
WHQS Improvements	9.494	7.310	9.48	9.494	0.000
SHARP Programme	1.337	0.697	52.13	1.337	0.000
<b>Housing Revenue Account Total</b>	<b>19.851</b>	<b>14.862</b>	<b>74.87</b>	<b>19.851</b>	<b>0.000</b>
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>102.264</b>	<b>62.062</b>	<b>60.69</b>	<b>99.835</b>	<b>(2.429)</b>

1.11 Details of the variances for individual programme areas are listed in Appendix B, which includes the reasons, and remedial actions which may be required, where those variances exceed +/- 10% of the revised budget. In addition, where carry forward into 2025/26 has been identified, this is also included in the narrative.

1.12 **Carry Forward into 2025/26**  
During the quarter, carry forward requirements of £2.429m (all CF) have been identified which reflects reviewed spending plans across all programme areas. These amounts can be split into two areas, those required to meet the cost of programme works and/or retention payments in 2025/26.

1.13 Information relating to each programme area is contained in Appendix B and summarised in Table 4 below:

**Table 4**

<b>CARRY FORWARD INTO 2025/26</b>						<b>Total</b>
	<b>Month 4</b>	<b>Month 6</b>	<b>Reversed</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>Month 9</b>	
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Governance	0.433	0.070	0.000	0.503	0.139	0.642
Education & Youth	1.745	0.736	0.000	2.481	1.643	4.124
Social Services	0.183	0.000	0.000	0.183	0.083	0.266
Planning, Environment & Economy	0.508	0.200	0.000	0.708	0.225	0.933
Streetscene & Transportation	3.951	0.250	(2.405)	1.796	0.280	2.076
Capital Programme & Assets	0.532	0.425	(0.110)	0.847	0.059	0.906
<b>Council Fund</b>	<b>7.352</b>	<b>1.681</b>	<b>(2.515)</b>	<b>6.518</b>	<b>2.429</b>	<b>8.947</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7.352</b>	<b>1.681</b>	<b>(2.515)</b>	<b>6.518</b>	<b>2.429</b>	<b>8.947</b>

1.14

**Additional Allocations**

Additional allocations have been identified in the programme in this quarter as follows:

- Office Rationalisation Programme and County Hall Campus (Phase One) - £0.350m. Following further investigation work, £0.100m is required to complete remediation work following the identification of RAAC at County Offices, Flint. Following the approval of phase 1 programme, it has been identified that additional budget of £0.250m is required to complete these works. This takes the full allocation to £1.156m.
- Installation of Columbaria - £0.020m. Request for funding to facilitate the installation of a Columbaria and associated development of a memorial garden as part of the Buckley cemetery extension works.

These can be funded from within the current 'headroom' provision.

1.15

**Savings**

No savings have been identified in the programme this quarter:

1.16

**Funding of 2024/25 Approved Schemes**

The position at Month 9 is summarised in Table 5 below for the three year Capital Programme between 2024/25 – 2026/27:-

**Table 5****FUNDING OF APPROVED SCHEMES 2024/25 - 2026/27**

	£m	£m
Balance carried forward from 2023/24		(0.819)
<b>Increases</b>		
Reduction of funding compared to estimated	0.051	
Additional allocation for office rationalisation	0.806	0.857
<b>Decreases</b>		
Surplus in 2024/25 to 2026/27 Budget	(0.052)	
Actual In year receipts	(0.413)	
Savings	(2.505)	(2.970)
<b>Funding - (Available)/Shortfall</b>		<b>(2.932)</b>

1.17 Capital receipts received in the third quarter of 2024/25 total £0.342m. This provides a revised projected surplus in the Capital Programme at Month 9 of £2.932m (from a Month 6 funding position surplus of £2.590m) for the 2024/25 – 2026/27 Capital Programme, prior to the realisation of additional capital receipts and/or other funding sources.

1.18 The 2025/26 – 2027/28 Capital Programme was approved on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024, with a funding surplus of £0.980m. Following the provisional local government settlement, the Council will receive an increased allocation in 2025/26 of £0.893m compared to the estimated funding. This gives a revised surplus of £1.873m over the three-year programme.

1.19 **Investment in County Towns**

At its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017, the Council approved a Notice of Motion relating to the reporting of investment in county towns. The extent and format of the reporting was agreed at the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

1.20 Table 6 below shows a summary of the 2023/24 actual expenditure, the 2024/25 revised budget and budgets for future years as approved by Council at its meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2024. Further detail can be found in Appendix C, including details of the 2024/25 spend to Month 9.

**Table 6**

<b>INVESTMENT IN COUNTY TOWNS</b>			
	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025 -</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Revised</b>	<b>2027</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>
		<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Buckley / Penyffordd	1.872	2.387	6.500
Connah's Quay / Shotton	1.150	0.362	0.000
Flint / Bagillt	5.452	24.304	5.139
Holywell / Caerwys / Mostyn	1.894	1.472	0.000
Mold / Treuddyn / Cilcain	17.880	28.964	12.900
Queensferry / Hawarden / Sealand	0.518	2.132	0.000
Saltney / Broughton / Hope	0.835	0.234	19.000
Unallocated / To Be Confirmed	0.856	3.867	26.642
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.457</b>	<b>63.722</b>	<b>70.181</b>

1.21 The inclusion of actuals for 2023/24 and approved schemes for future years allows a slightly fuller picture of investment plans. However, expenditure which has occurred in years prior to 2023/24 has not been included, and the expenditure and budgets reported should be considered in that context.

1.22 A significant factor which will increase allocations to areas is new or remodelled schools. The impact of these can be seen in the detail shown in Appendix C.

1.23 Some expenditure cannot yet be allocated to specific towns as schemes are not yet fully developed or are generic in nature and not easily identifiable to one of the seven areas. As such schemes are identified the expenditure will be allocated to the relevant area.

1.24 Information on the split between internal and external funding can be found in Appendix C.

1.25 In addition to the information contained in Appendix C, there is also considerable capital expenditure on the HRA Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS), which was originally outside the scope of this analysis. A summary is provided in Table 7 below, albeit using a slightly different catchment area basis.



**Table 7**

<b>WHQS Programme</b>		
	<b>2023/24 Actual £m</b>	<b>2024/25 Budget £m</b>
Holywell	5.588	4.776
Flint	1.610	0.693
Deeside & Saltney	1.410	0.693
Buckley	1.360	0.693
Mold	2.289	1.946
Connah's Quay & Shotton	0.160	0.693
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.417</b>	<b>9.494</b>

1.26 The 2021 Prudential Code introduced a new requirement that monitoring of prudential indicators should be reported quarterly as part of capital monitoring. This update is provided in Appendix D.

## **2.00 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

2.01 Financial implications - As set out in the body of the report.

2.02 Personnel implications - None directly as a result of this report.

## **3.00 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

3.01 The legacy impacts of the pandemic along with the supply and demand of materials, leading to cost increases, higher tender prices and project delays will continue to be monitored closely during the year. Due to the re-profiling of schemes from 2023/24 and resources available to manage and deliver schemes, the levels of planned expenditure in 2024/25 may be affected, resulting in a high level of carry forward requests to re-phase budgets into the 2025/26 programme.

Grants received will also to be closely monitored to ensure that expenditure is incurred within the terms and conditions of the grant. The capital team will work with project leads to report potential risks of achieving spend within timescales and assist in liaising with the grant provider.

The Council has a prudent policy of allocating its own capital receipts to fund capital projects only when receipts are received rather than when it is anticipated the receipt will be received, and this position continues to be the case. In line with current policy no allowance has been made for these receipts in reporting the Council's capital funding position.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	No consultation is required as a direct result of this report.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix A: Capital Programme - Changes during 2024/25
5.02	Appendix B: Variances
5.03	Appendix C: Investment in Towns
5.04	Appendix D: Prudential Indicators – Quarter 3 2024/25

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	Capital Programme monitoring papers 2024/25.

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Chris Taylor, Strategic Finance Manager <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 703309 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:christopher.taylor@flintshire.gov.uk">christopher.taylor@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<p><b>Budget Re-profiling:</b> Capital schemes are very dynamic and a number of factors can influence their timing and funding. Budget re-profiling assures that the correct resources are available in the correct accounting period to finance the actual level of expenditure.</p> <p><b>Capital Expenditure:</b> Expenditure on the acquisition of <b>non-current assets</b> or expenditure which extends the useful life of an existing asset</p> <p><b>Capital Programme:</b> The Council’s financial plan covering capital schemes and expenditure proposals for the current year and a number of future years. It also includes estimates of the capital resources available to finance the programme.</p> <p><b>Capital Receipts:</b> Receipts (in excess of £10,000) realised from the disposal of assets.</p> <p><b>Carry Forward:</b> Carry forward occurs when schemes due to be completed in a given financial year are delayed until a subsequent year. In this case the relevant funding is carried forward to meet the delayed, contractually committed expenditure.</p> <p><b>CERA:</b> Capital Expenditure charged to Revenue Account. The Council is</p>

allowed to use its revenue resources to fund capital expenditure. However the opposite is not permissible.

**Council Fund (CF):** The fund to which all the Council's revenue and capital expenditure is charged.

**Housing Revenue Account (HRA):** The fund to which all the Council's revenue and capital expenditure relating to its housing stock is charged.

**MRA:** Major Repairs Allowance. A general capital grant from WG for HRA purposes.

**Non-current Asset:** A resource controlled (but not necessarily owned) by the Council, from which economic benefits or service potential are expected to flow to the Council for more than 12 months.

**Section 106:** Monies are received from developers/contractors pursuant to Section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990. These sums are available for use once the relevant terms of the individual agreement have been met. The monies are most commonly used for educational enhancement, play areas, highways and affordable housing.

**Target Hardening:** Measures taken to prevent unauthorised access to Council sites.

**Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB), commonly referred to as Supported Borrowing** - Each year Welsh Government provide Councils with a Supported Borrowing allocation. Councils borrow to fund capital expenditure equivalent to that annual allocation, Welsh Government then include funding to cover the revenue costs associated with the borrowing for future years within the Revenue Support Grant. The Council decides how this funding is spent.

**Unsupported (Prudential) Borrowing:** Borrowing administered under the Prudential Code, whereby Authorities can set their own policies on acceptable levels and types of borrowing. The Prudential Framework allows Authorities to take out loans in response to overall cash flow forecasts and other factors provided they can show that the borrowing is to meet planned capital expenditure in the current year or the next three years.

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## CAPITAL PROGRAMME - CHANGES DURING 2024/25

	Original Budget 2024/25	Carry Forward from 2023/24	2024/25 Previously Reported			Changes (Current)	Revised Budget 2024/25
			Changes	Carry Forward to 2025/26	Savings		
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Council Fund :</b>							
<b>People &amp; Resources</b>							
'Headroom'	0.350	0.364	(0.328)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.386
	<b>0.350</b>	<b>0.364</b>	<b>(0.328)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.386</b>
<b>Governance</b>							
Information Technology	2.353	0.283	0.015	(0.503)	0.000	0.000	2.148
	<b>2.353</b>	<b>0.283</b>	<b>0.015</b>	<b>(0.503)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>2.148</b>
<b>Education &amp; Youth</b>							
Education - General	0.600	3.944	2.579	(1.546)	0.000	0.009	5.586
Primary Schools	1.000	0.228	(0.437)	(0.035)	0.000	0.090	0.846
Schools Modernisation	9.483	0.001	5.284	0.000	0.000	(3.163)	11.605
Secondary Schools	0.000	0.458	2.226	(0.600)	0.000	(0.159)	1.925
Special Education	0.500	0.514	(0.120)	(0.300)	0.000	0.000	0.594
	<b>11.583</b>	<b>5.145</b>	<b>9.532</b>	<b>(2.481)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>(3.223)</b>	<b>20.556</b>
<b>Social Services</b>							
Services to Older People	4.800	1.337	9.237	(0.183)	0.000	(0.865)	14.326
Learning Disability	0.000	0.000	4.319	0.000	0.000	0.070	4.389
Children's Services	0.000	0.083	0.745	0.000	0.000	(0.052)	0.776
	<b>4.800</b>	<b>1.420</b>	<b>14.301</b>	<b>(0.183)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>(0.847)</b>	<b>19.491</b>
<b>Planning, Environment &amp; Economy</b>							
Closed Landfill Sites	0.000	0.250	0.000	(0.250)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Engineering	0.000	0.383	0.259	(0.258)	0.000	0.000	0.384
Energy Services	0.000	0.000	0.380	0.000	0.000	0.059	0.439
Ranger Services	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.467	0.467
Town Centre Regeneration	0.200	0.141	2.507	(0.200)	0.000	(0.763)	1.885
Private Sector Renewal/Improv	0.040	0.005	0.014	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.059
	<b>0.240</b>	<b>0.779</b>	<b>3.160</b>	<b>(0.708)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>(0.237)</b>	<b>3.234</b>
<b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>							
Waste Services	0.000	3.405	0.217	(1.000)	(2.405)	(0.214)	0.003
Cemeteries	0.490	0.259	0.000	(0.250)	0.000	0.000	0.499
Highways	1.980	0.911	0.899	(0.500)	0.000	0.000	3.290
Local Transport Grant	0.000	0.000	7.568	0.000	0.000	(3.368)	4.200
Solar Farms	0.000	0.000	0.000	(0.046)	0.000	0.000	0.000
	<b>2.470</b>	<b>4.621</b>	<b>8.684</b>	<b>(1.796)</b>	<b>(2.405)</b>	<b>(3.582)</b>	<b>7.992</b>

	Original Budget 2024/25	Carry Forward from 2023/24	2024/25 Previously Reported			Changes (Current)	Revised Budget 2024/25
			Changes	Carry Forward to 2025/26	Savings		
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Housing &amp; Communities</b>							
Affordable Housing	0.000	0.000	0.861	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.861
Disabled Facilities Grants	1.500	0.029	0.338	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.867
	<b>1.500</b>	<b>0.029</b>	<b>1.199</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>2.728</b>
<b>Capital Programme &amp; Assets</b>							
Administrative Buildings	1.630	0.509	0.031	(0.041)	0.000	(0.194)	1.935
Community Asset Transfers	0.000	0.580	0.057	(0.431)	(0.100)	0.000	0.106
Leisure Centres & Libraries	0.200	0.245	(0.081)	(0.157)	0.000	0.000	0.207
Play Areas	0.200	0.233	0.205	(0.218)	0.000	0.022	0.442
Theatr Clwyd	0.000	0.028	23.060	0.000	0.000	0.100	23.188
	<b>2.030</b>	<b>1.595</b>	<b>23.272</b>	<b>(0.847)</b>	<b>(0.100)</b>	<b>(0.072)</b>	<b>25.878</b>
<b>Housing Revenue Account :</b>							
Disabled Adaptations	1.100	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.100
Energy Schemes	4.563	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.669	5.232
Major Works	1.538	0.000	0.618	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.156
Accelerated Programmes	0.000	0.000	0.532	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.532
WHQS Improvements	14.144	0.000	(1.150)	0.000	0.000	(3.500)	9.494
Modernisation / Improvements	4.000	0.000	(4.000)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
SHARP Programme	4.153	0.000	(3.153)	0.000	0.000	0.337	1.337
	<b>29.498</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>(7.153)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>(2.494)</b>	<b>19.851</b>
<b>Totals :</b>							
<b>Council Fund</b>	25.326	14.236	59.835	(6.518)	(2.505)	(7.961)	82.413
<b>Housing Revenue Account</b>	29.498	0.000	(7.153)	0.000	0.000	(2.494)	19.851
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>54.824</b>	<b>14.236</b>	<b>52.682</b>	<b>(6.518)</b>	<b>(2.505)</b>	<b>(10.455)</b>	<b>102.264</b>

PEOPLE & RESOURCES

Capital Budget Monitoring 2024/25 - Month 9

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
'Headroom'	0.386	0.000	0.386	0.000	0	0.000		Corporate provision - to be allocated as requested and approved.	Any unspent allocation will be the subject of a carry forward request at outturn.
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.386</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.386</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000</b>			

GOVERNANCE

Capital Budget Monitoring 2024/25 - Month 9

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Information Technology	2.148	0.992	2.009	(0.139)	-6	(0.070)	£0.092m laptop replacement and £0.047m telephone system works to fall into 2025/26.	<b>Carry Forward</b> - Request approval to move funding of <b>£0.139m</b> into 2025/26.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.148</b>	<b>0.992</b>	<b>2.009</b>	<b>(0.139)</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>(0.070)</b>			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn

EDUCATION & YOUTH

Capital Budget Monitoring 2024/25 - Month 9

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Education - General	5.586	1.916	4.914	(0.672)	-12	(0.101)	£0.108m fire alarms, £0.475m ALN schemes at feasibility stage so majority of expenditure to fall into 2025/26. £0.089m UPFSM works to fall into 2025/26.	Carry Forward - Request approval to move funding of <b>£0.672m</b> into 2025/26.	
Primary Schools	0.846	0.349	0.598	(0.248)	-29	(0.035)	Bro Carmel kitchen ventilation works to fall into 2025/26.	Carry Forward - Request approval to move funding of <b>£0.248m</b> into 2025/26.	
Schools Modernisation	11.605	7.140	11.605	0.000	0	0.000			
Secondary Schools	1.925	1.260	1.625	(0.300)	-16	(0.600)	Holywell ATP and survey works to fall into 2025/26 £0.300m.	Carry Forward - Request approval to move funding of <b>£0.300m</b> into 2025/26.	
Special Education	0.594	0.037	0.171	(0.423)	-71	0.000	£0.166m Flint High lift works to fall into May 2025. £0.257m programme of DDA works to fall into 2025/26.	Carry Forward - Request approval to move funding of <b>£0.423m</b> into 2025/26.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.556</b>	<b>10.702</b>	<b>18.913</b>	<b>(1.643)</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>(0.736)</b>			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn



## SOCIAL SERVICES

## Capital Budget Monitoring 2024/25 - Month 9

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Services to Older People	14.326	8.933	14.326	0.000	0	0.000			
Learning Disability Services	4.389	2.234	4.389	0.000	0	0.000			
Children's Services	0.776	0.592	0.693	(0.083)	-11	0.000	Delays in commencing Foster Care adaptation scheme due to architectural designs, planning and regulatory consents. Works likely to fall into 2025/26.	<b>Carry Forward</b> - Request approval to move funding of <b>£0.083m</b> into 2025/26.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.491</b>	<b>11.759</b>	<b>19.408</b>	<b>(0.083)</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>0.000</b>			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn

PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY

Capital Budget Monitoring 2024/25 - Month 9

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Closed Landfill Sites	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000			
Engineering	0.384	0.146	0.259	(0.125)	-33	0.000	Engineering projects are due to be progressed in 2025/26 following recommendations deriving from statutory inspection reports.	<b>Carry Forward</b> - Request approval to move funding of <b>£0.125m</b> into 2025/26.	
Energy Services	0.439	(0.052)	0.439	0.000	0	0.000			
Ranger Services	0.467	0.028	0.467	0.000	0	0.000			
Townscape Heritage Initiatives	1.885	0.678	1.785	(0.100)	-5	(0.200)	The Shotton Green Infrastructure project is currently at a feasibility stage with physical works likely to be delivered in 2025/26.  The Historic Building Repair Grant expenditure is incurred as and when suitable grant applications are received.	<b>Carry Forward</b> - Request approval to move funding of <b>£0.100m</b> into 2025/26.	
Private Sector Renewal/Improvement	0.059	0.050	0.059	0.000	0	0.000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.234</b>	<b>0.850</b>	<b>3.009</b>	<b>(0.225)</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>(0.200)</b>			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn

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## STREETSCENE &amp; TRANSPORTATION

## Capital Budget Monitoring 2024/25 - Month 9

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Waste Services	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.000	0	0.000			
Cemeteries	0.499	0.204	0.219	(0.280)	-56	(0.250)	The purchase of required land at Hawarden Cemetery is anticipated to be completed in 2025/26.	<b>Carry Forward</b> - Request approval to move funding of <b>£0.280m</b> into 2025/26.	
Highways	3.290	2.144	3.290	0.000	0	0.000			
Local Transport Grant	4.200	0.932	4.200	0.000	0	0.000			
Solar Farms	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.992</b>	<b>3.284</b>	<b>7.712</b>	<b>(0.280)</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>(0.250)</b>			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn

HOUSING & COMMUNITIES

Capital Budget Monitoring 2024/25 - Month 9

Programme Area	Total Budget	Actual Exp.	Projected Outturn	Variance (Under)/ Over	Variance %age	Variance Prev Qtr	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
	£m	£m	£m	£m	%	£m			
Affordable Housing	0.861	0.861	0.861	0.000	0	0.000			
Disabled Facilities Grants	1.867	1.390	1.867	0.000	0	0.000			DFG spend is customer driven and volatile.
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.728</b>	<b>2.252</b>	<b>2.728</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000</b>			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn

CAPITAL PROGRAMME & ASSETS

Capital Budget Monitoring 2024/25 - Month 9

Programme Area	Total Budget	Actual Exp.	Projected Outturn	Variance (Under)/ Over	Variance %age	Variance Prev Qtr	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
	£m	£m	£m	£m	%	£m			
Administrative Buildings	1.935	0.743	1.904	(0.031)	-2	0.000			
Community Asset Transfers	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.000	0	(0.050)			
Leisure Centres & Libraries	0.207	0.072	0.207	0.000	0	(0.157)			
Play Areas	0.442	0.405	0.442	0.000	0	(0.218)			Playarea spend is volatile and is driven by the replacement rolling programme.
Theatr Clwyd	23.188	16.035	23.160	(0.028)	-0	0.000	The IT upgrade at Theatre Clwyd is expected to take place in 2025/26.	Carry Forward - Request approval to move funding of £0.028m into 2025/26.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.878</b>	<b>17.361</b>	<b>25.819</b>	<b>(0.059)</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>(0.425)</b>			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn

## HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

## Capital Budget Monitoring 2024/25 - Month 9

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Disabled Adaptations	1.100	1.063	1.100	0.000	0	0.000	Client led and volatile. Potential additional spend of £0.300m due to an increase in large adaptations required, a grant contribution from HFC will offset some of the additional spend. Will continue to monitor and review.		
Energy Services	5.232	2.964	5.232	0.000	0	0.000	ORP 3 works continuing in Leeswood and Holywell - £2.3m WG Funding secured to be spent in year.		Additional funding offered of £0.735m ORP bid for in year. Funding to be used within 2024/25, additional properties identified.
Major Works	2.156	2.417	2.156	0.000	0	0.000	Smoke Alarm Installation programme, Urgent Capital Works and Fire Risk Assessments. Full spend assumed.		Fire Safety Heights Grant awarded from WG, £3m. Work to be carried on in 2024/25. Works currently delayed. Current shortfall in funding due to these delays, WG have offered to meet this shortfall in additional funding.
Accelerated Programmes	0.532	0.411	0.532	0.000	0	0.000	Asbestos Removal programme. Full spend assumed.		
WHQS Improvements	9.494	7.310	9.494	0.000	0	0.000	Additional £0.516m received from WG for WHQS Implementation which is to be used for Stock Condition Surveys. WHQS 2023 Schemes ongoing.		Budget reduced by £3.5m to meet the voids spend in revenue.
S/TACP	1.337	0.697	1.337	0.000	0	0.000	A number of pipeline schemes at feasibility stage. A number of buy backs identified to assist with the Homelessness issues. £2.9m TACP funding awarded to contribute to the acquisition of the buy backs and the repairs costs.		Additional £2.9m TACP Funding awarded for 24/25 which could potentially contribute to any buy backs identified.
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.851</b>	<b>14.862</b>	<b>19.851</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000</b>			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn

## SUMMARY

## Capital Budget Monitoring 2024/25 - Month 9

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
People & Resources	0.386	0.000	0.386	0.000	0	0.000			
Governance	2.148	0.992	2.009	(0.139)	-6	(0.070)			
Education & Youth	20.556	10.702	18.913	(1.643)	-8	(0.736)			
Social Services	19.491	11.759	19.408	(0.083)	-0	0.000			
Planning, Environment & Economy	3.234	0.850	3.009	(0.225)	-7	(0.200)			
Streetscene & Transportation	7.992	3.284	7.712	(0.280)	-4	(0.250)			
Housing & Communities	2.728	2.252	2.728	0.000	0	0.000			
Capital Programme & Assets	25.878	17.361	25.819	(0.059)	-0	(0.425)			
<b>Sub Total - Council Fund</b>	<b>82.413</b>	<b>47.200</b>	<b>79.984</b>	<b>(2.429)</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>(1.681)</b>			
Housing Revenue Account	19.851	14.862	19.851	0.000	0	0.000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>102.264</b>	<b>62.062</b>	<b>99.835</b>	<b>(2.429)</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>(1.681)</b>			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn

INVESTMENT IN COUNTY TOWNS - 2023/24 ACTUAL SPEND

APPENDIX C

TOWN FUNDING	23/24 ACTUAL £000	BUCKLEY		CONNAH'S QUAY		FLINT		HOLYWELL		MOLD		QUEENSFERRY		SALTNEY		UNALLOCATED		TOTALS			
		Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Total £000	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>																					
<b>HOUSING - HRA</b>																					
SHARP	2,399		273	158	644	131		619	50				99		126	299			1,207	1,192	2,399
<b>EDUCATION &amp; YOUTH</b>																					
Ysgol Croes Atti, Flint	847						847												0	847	847
Ysgol Penyffordd Extension	1,015	672	343																672	343	1,015
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES</b>																					
Croes Atti Newydd Residential Care Home, Flint	3,294						3,294												0	3,294	3,294
Relocation of Tri-Ffordd Day Service provision	43										43								0	43	43
<b>STREETSCENE &amp; TRANSPORTION</b>																					
Highways Maintenance	2,350	395		222		420		343		392		244		243		91			2,350	0	2,350
Transport Grant	3,490		189		126	760		5	877		426		175		466	4	462		9	3,481	3,490
<b>CAPITAL PROGRAMME &amp; ASSETS</b>																					
Theatr Clwyd - Redevelopment	17,019									1,747	15,272								1,747	15,272	17,019
	30,457	1,067	805	380	770	551	4,901	967	927	2,139	15,741	244	274	243	592	394	462		5,985	24,472	30,457

AREA TOTAL

1,872

1,150

5,452

1,894

17,880

518

835

856

INVESTMENT IN COUNTY TOWNS - 2024/25 REVISED BUDGET

APPENDIX C (Cont)

TOWN FUNDING	REVISED BUDGET £000	BUCKLEY		CONNAH'S QUAY		FLINT		HOLYWELL		MOLD		QUEENSFERRY		SALTNEY		UNALLOCATED		TOTALS			
		Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Total £000	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>																					
<b>HOUSING - HRA</b>																					
SHARP	1,337	318											337				682		1,000	337	1,337
<b>EDUCATION &amp; YOUTH</b>																					
Ysgol Croes Atti Flint	9,079						9,079												0	9,079	9,079
St Richard Gwyn, Flint	858					2	856												2	856	858
Mynydd Isa Campus	1,503		1,503																0	1,503	1,503
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES</b>																					
Croes Atti Newydd Residential Care Home, Flint	14,095					5,089	9,006												5,089	9,006	14,095
Relocation of Tri-Ffordd Day Service provision	4,389									1,499	2,890								1,499	2,890	4,389
<b>STREETSCENE &amp; TRANSPORTION</b>																					
Cemeteries	499	190											309						499	0	499
Highways Maintenance	3,290	182		286		221		358		435		414		217			839	338	2,952	338	3,290
Transport Grant	4,200		76		76		51		691		209		1,072		17			2,008	0	4,200	4,200
<b>CAPITAL PROGRAMME &amp; ASSETS</b>																					
Theatr Clwyd - Redevelopment	23,188									7,128	16,060								7,128	16,060	23,188
Greenfield Business Centre	423							423											423	0	423
<b>HOUSING &amp; COMMUNITIES</b>																					
Affordable Housing	861	118								743									861	0	861
	63,722	808	1,579	286	76	5,312	18,992	781	691	9,805	19,159	723	1,409	217	17		1,521	2,346	19,453	44,269	63,722
<b>AREA TOTAL</b>			2,387	362	24,304	1,472	28,964	2,132	234	3,867											

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TOWN FUNDING	ACTUAL TO DATE £000	BUCKLEY		CONNAH'S QUAY		FLINT		HOLYWELL		MOLD		QUEENSFERRY		SALTNEY		UNALLOCATED		TOTALS			
		Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Total £000	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>																					
<b>HOUSING - HRA</b>																					
SHARP	674	318															356				
																			674	0	674
<b>EDUCATION &amp; YOUTH</b>																					
Ysgol Croes Atti Flint	6,165						6,165														
St Richard Gwyn, Flint	804						804														
Mynydd Isa Campus	408		408																		
																			0	6,165	6,165
																			0	804	804
																			0	408	408
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES</b>																					
Croes Atti Newydd Residential Care Home, Flint	8,827						8,827														
Relocation of Tri-Ffordd Day Service provision	2,234										2,234										
																			0	8,827	8,827
																			0	2,234	2,234
<b>STREETSCENE &amp; TRANSPORTION</b>																					
Cemeteries	202	188											14								
Highways Maintenance	2,113	182			286		221		358		435		414		217						
Transport Grant	541		76				51		136			205		42		17					
																			202	0	202
																			2,113	0	2,113
																			0	541	541
<b>CAPITAL PROGRAMME &amp; ASSETS</b>																					
Theatr Clwyd - Redevelopment	16,029										5,969	10,060									
Greenfield Business Centre	404								404												
																			5,969	10,060	16,029
																			404	0	404
<b>HOUSING &amp; COMMUNITIES</b>																					
Affordable Housing	861	118									743										
																			861	0	861
	39,262	806	484	286	0	221	15,847	762	136	7,147	12,499	428	42	217	17		356	14	10,223	29,039	39,262
<b>AREAS TOTAL</b>			1,290	286		16,068	898		19,646		470		234		370						

INVESTMENT IN COUNTY TOWNS - 2025 - 2027 BUDGET

APPENDIX C (Cont)

TOWN FUNDING	FUTURE BUDGET £000	BUCKLEY		CONNAH'S QUAY		FLINT		HOLYWELL		MOLD		QUEENSFERRY		SALTNEY		UNALLOCATED		TOTALS			
		Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Total £000			
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>																					
<b>EDUCATION &amp; YOUTH</b>																					
Joint Archive Facility, FCC and DCC	12,900										3,079	9,821							3,079	9,821	12,900
Ysgol Croes Atti Flint	5,139					1,225	3,914												1,225	3,914	5,139
Drury County Primary	6,500	2,275	4,225																2,275	4,225	6,500
Saltney/Broughton Area	19,000													11,200	7,800				11,200	7,800	19,000
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES</b>																					
Development of Children's Residential Care	1,000																1,000		1,000	0	1,000
<b>STREETSCENE &amp; TRANSPORTION</b>																					
Highways Asset Management Plan	5,000																3,000		3,000	0	3,000
<b>HOUSING &amp; COMMUNITIES</b>																					
Affordable Housing	22,642																22,642		22,642	0	22,642
	72,181	2,275	4,225	0	0	1,225	3,914	0	0	3,079	9,821	0	0	11,200	7,800	26,642	0	44,421	25,760	70,181	

AREA TOTAL 6,500 0 5,139 0 12,900 0 19,000 26,642

**Prudential Indicators Q3 2024/25**

The Council measures and manages its capital expenditure, borrowing and commercial and service investments with references to the following indicators.

It is now a requirement of the CIPFA Prudential Code that these are reported on a quarterly basis.

**Table 1 - Capital Expenditure in £ millions:** The Council has undertaken and is planning capital expenditure as summarised below. The increase in forecasted expenditure between 2023/24 to 2024/25, in the main relate to works at Theatr Clwyd, Ty Croes Atti and the Band B schools programme.

	<b>2023/24 Actual</b>	<b>2024/25 Forecast</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimate</b>	<b>2026/27 Estimate</b>
Council Fund	46.277	79.984	26.435	25.418
Housing Revenue Account	23.530	19.851	28.683	23.987
<b>Total</b>	<b>69.807</b>	<b>99.835</b>	<b>55.118</b>	<b>49.405</b>

**Table 2 - Capital Financing Requirement in £ millions:** The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces with MRP and capital receipts used to replace debt.

	<b>2023/24 Actual</b>	<b>2024/25 Forecast *</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimate</b>	<b>2026/27 Estimate</b>
Council Fund	219.706	315.506	323.482	337.463
Housing Revenue Account	133.150	132.921	139.734	142.410
<b>Total</b>	<b>352.856</b>	<b>448.427</b>	<b>463.216</b>	<b>479.873</b>

\* £77m of the CFR increase in 2024/25 arises from a change in the accounting for leases.

The increase in estimated CFR between 2023/24 and 2024/25 in the main, relates to the change in accounting for leases under IFRS 16. This means that under the new rules, the lease of any assets must be recognised on the Council's balance sheet.

In addition to this, is estimated expenditure for the HRA and NEW Homes, Supported Borrowing, and Council Fund schemes including the Sustainable Communities for Schools programme, Theatr Clwyd and Ty Croes Atti Residential Care Home.

**Table 3 - Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement in £ millions:** Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short term. The Authority has complied and expects to continue to comply with this requirement in the medium

term as is shown below.

	<b>2023/24 Actuals</b>	<b>2024/25 Forecast</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimate</b>	<b>2026/27 Estimate</b>
Debt (Incl Leases)	334.743	412.466	432.854	451.870
Capital Financing Requirement	352.856	448.427	463.216	479.873

**Table 4 - Debt and the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary in £ millions:** The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the Authorised Limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower “operational boundary” is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

	<b>2024/25 Limit</b>	<b>31.12.24 Actual</b>
Operational Boundary - Total	£485m	£412m
Authorised Limit - Total	£520m	£412m

Since the operational boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring it is not significant if the boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure.

**Table 5 - Net Income from Commercial and Service Investments to Net Revenue Stream in £ millions:** The Council’s income from commercial and service investments as a proportion of its net revenue stream has been and is expected to be as indicated below.

	<b>2023/24 Actual</b>	<b>2024/25 Forecast</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimate</b>	<b>2026/27 Estimate</b>
Total net income from service and commercial investment	1.710	1.674	1.673	1.673
Proportion of net revenue stream	0.49%	0.45%	0.44%	0.44%

**Table 6 - Proportion of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream in £ millions:** Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue.

The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants.

	<b>2023/24 Actual</b>	<b>2024/25 Forecast</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimate</b>	<b>2026/27 Estimate</b>
Council Fund	3.8%	4.1%	4.0%	4.2%
HRA	17.0%	17.3%	18.3%	18.7%

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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>Report Subject</b>	Update on the Regional Transport Plan as developed through the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Streetscene & Transportation
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Llwybr Newydd: The Wales Transport Strategy 2021 (WTS) sets out the Welsh Government's priorities and ambitions for transport in Wales. A detailed five-year National Transport Delivery Plan and Regional Transport Plans will tailor delivery of the WTS to the needs of every part of Wales.

Regulations were made by the Welsh Government on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021, which created four Corporate Joint Committees in Wales, with the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee being established on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. Further to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 transfers the function of developing transport policies in respect of the area of each of its constituent councils on the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC).

The development and implementation of a Regional Transport Plan is a statutory function exercised by the CJC through its sub-committee, supported by the Guidance to Corporate Joint Committees on Regional Transport Plans (Version 2) 2023. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Cabinet on the progress of the CJC to deliver a Regional Transport Plan for North Wales.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet supports the progress made by the CJC to deliver the Regional Transport Plan for North Wales.
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## REPORT DETAILS

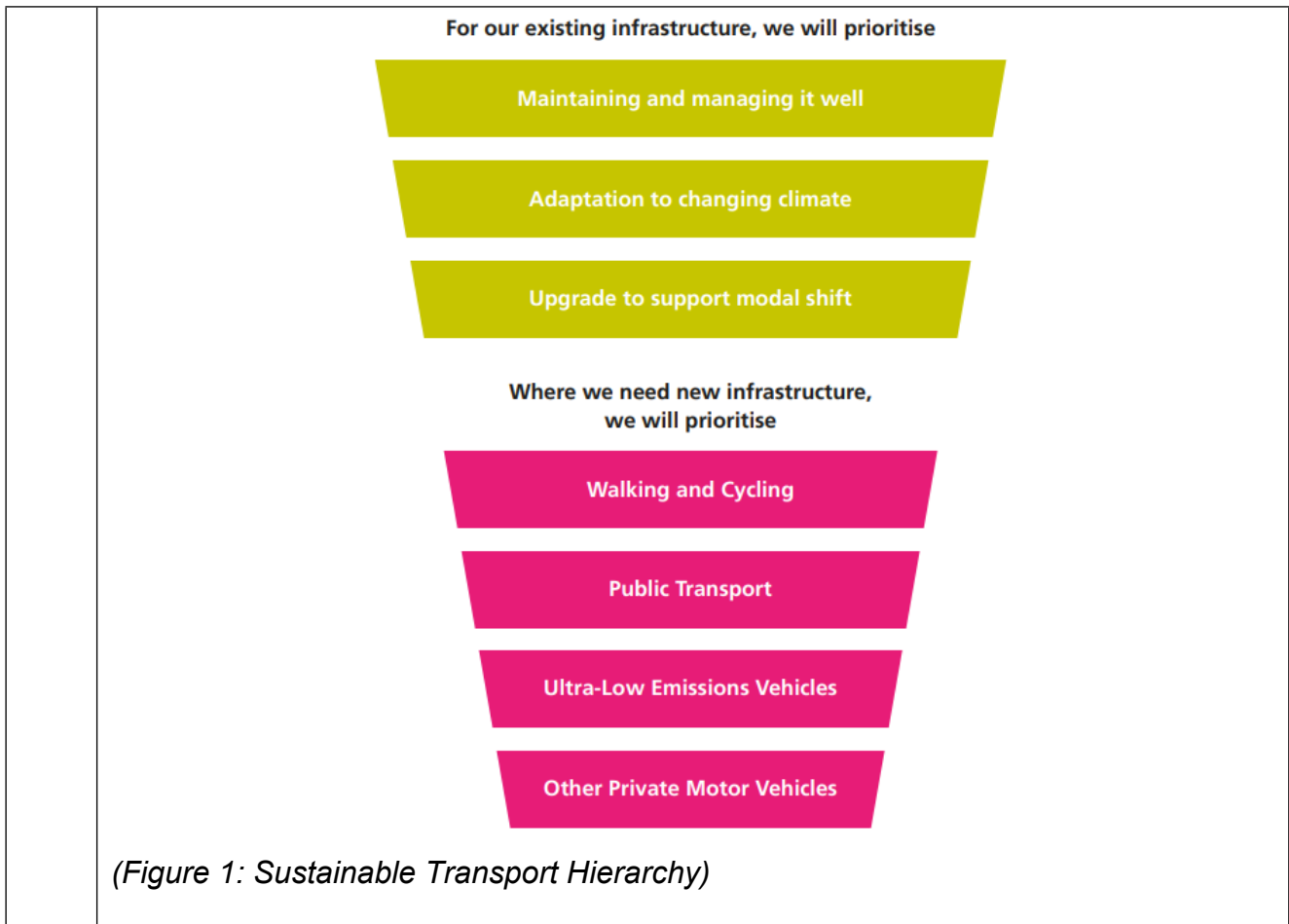
1.00	<b>Explaining the Background to the Corporate Joint Committee and developing Regional Transport Plan</b>
1.01	<p>The Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Transport (Wales) Act 2006<sup>1</sup>, introduced a statutory requirement for local transport authorities to produce a Local Transport Plan (LTP) every five years and to keep it under review.</p> <p>The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021<sup>2</sup> provided for the establishment of new Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) to enable selected local government functions to be delivered collaboratively at a regional level.</p>
1.02	<p>The Regulations that were made by the Welsh Government on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021, created four Corporate Joint Committees in Wales, with the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee being established on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.</p> <p>The 2021 Act also provided for Regulations which placed the duty to produce a Regional Transport Plan on CJCs from June 2022, as well as exercising functions relating to strategic development planning and promoting economic well-being. These functions came into force in June 2022 and the CJC has been meeting formally since January 2022 when it set its first budget. In addition to Statutory Guidance, further Regulations have come into force, as well as the publication of specific statutory guidance to Corporate Joint Committees on some elements of work, for example, the Regional Transport Plan Guidance in July 2023.</p>
1.03	<p>The CJC is established as a corporate entity with its own constitutional and democratic arrangements, which are operational and being developed. Committee agendas and reports can be found on the Cyngor Gwynedd Council website.</p> <p>The CJC has established its Strategic Transport and Planning Sub-committees to undertake its statutory functions. The Strategic Transport Sub-Committee has met, and work is underway to prepare the Regional Transport Plan in line with Welsh Government guidelines.</p> <p>The Strategic Development Plan (another deliverable of the CJC) is less advanced due to resource constraints. At present, there are no employees directly employed by the CJC and only one full-time contractor dedicated to driving forward the programme of work.</p>
1.04	<p>All statutory positions are currently being undertaken in a part-time capacity with the CEO role undertaken by the Growth Deal's Portfolio Director and the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer at Cyngor Gwynedd also appointed to these roles by the CJC.</p> <p>Before the CJC can start recruiting its own officers directly and be fully established and operational, there are several outstanding actions that need to be completed. A Project Implementation Board is established and is tasked with completing the establishment work and achieving operational delivery.</p>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/5/contents/enacted>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2021/1/contents>



	<p>One of the key tasks that is required is the transfer of the Growth Deal, its funding and the Programme Management Officers responsible for its delivery from the Economic Ambition Board into the CJC; this transfer is currently programmed to occur before or by 1 April 2025.</p>
1.05	<p>The CJCs sub-committees that are being established as part of the CJC implementation project are as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Transport</li> <li>• Strategic Planning</li> <li>• Economic Well-being</li> <li>• Governance and Audit</li> <li>• Standards</li> </ul> <p>Terms of reference have been adopted for the sub-committees and they now meet on a quarterly basis. Other sub-committees may be required in the future. The way in which the scrutiny of the CJC occurs will also change. It will have its own Governance and Audit Sub-Committee and currently is proposing a regional joint overview and scrutiny committee. The constituent Councils retain responsibility for Overview and Scrutiny arrangements.</p>
1.06	<p><b><u>Regional Transport Plan (RTP)</u></b></p> <p>The RTP is a strategic document that outlines the long-term vision for a region's transport system, including goals, objectives and priorities for improving the transport infrastructure and services.</p> <p>The RTP for North Wales will help us to address current and future local and regional transport issues over the next five years (2025-2030) by providing the framework for decisions on future investment. It sets out how transport can support the delivery of Llwybr Newydd, the Welsh Government's transport strategy, and contribute to the success, regeneration, and development of our region.</p>
1.07	<p>Under the new Regulations, the CJCs must develop policies for the implementation of the WTS in their area. In doing so, the CJCs must develop policies for the promotion of safe, integrated, efficient, and economic transport facilities and service within their area, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required to meet the needs of persons living or working in the area, or visiting or travelling through that area;</li> <li>• Required for the transportation of freight; and</li> <li>• Including facilities and services for pedestrians.</li> </ul> <p>RTPs must consider the transport needs of disabled persons (within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010) and of persons who are elderly or have mobility problems, and more widely consider overcoming barriers.</p> <p>Additionally, the duty to deliver the policies set out in the RTPs remains with local authorities. The existing LTPs remain live until the new RTPs are approved. There is no longer a duty for local authorities in Wales to produce separate LTPs.</p>
1.08	<p>The RTPs must use the Sustainable Transport Hierarchy set out in the Llwybr Newydd: Wales Transport Strategy 2021 as detailed below:</p>



*(Figure 1: Sustainable Transport Hierarchy)*

1.09 Local authorities will have a key role to play in implementing the RTP. It is local authorities that are responsible for delivering the schemes that are identified in the Regional Transport Delivery Plan (RTDP).

Implementation of the RTP is also supported by Transport for Wales (TfW), who will work with local authorities to develop the schemes that local authorities intend to deliver. TfW will also support the delivery of our rail aspirations for the region and will work with local authorities to identify enhancements to the bus network as we move towards franchising (proposed for 2028).

Welsh Government and North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent (NMWTRA) will support the delivery of our strategic road network aspirations, as the bodies responsible for managing, maintaining, and improving the strategic road network.

1.10 **Regional Transport Delivery Plan (RTDP)**

The Regional Transport Delivery Plan (RTDP) outlines the specific actions needed to implement the broader objectives and policies set out in the Regional Transport Plan (RTP). The RTDP sets out the interventions that the local authorities will be progressing over the next five years. It includes our priorities over time, considering likely costs, impacts, and contributions to our regional objectives.

The RTDP takes the form of a list of schemes that are ranked in order of priority in terms of impact on delivering against our priorities. These are the schemes that local transport authorities intend to invest in to deliver the RTP.

	It does not include strategic ‘trunk’ road schemes, or rail projects, which would be delivered and funded by other bodies such as the Welsh Government and Network Rail.
1.11	The strategic transport sub-committee is responsible for the preparation and development of the RTP, with approval reserved to the CJC following a period of public consultation and submission to Welsh Government over the coming months. The timeline for approval is July 2025.
1.12	<p><b><u>Funding the RTDP</u></b></p> <p>Currently, bids are submitted by each local authority each year on a competitive basis. Bids are assessed using the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG) process and awarded by Welsh Government.</p> <p>Once grants are awarded, local authorities are required to complete scheme delivery and quarterly claims, which are monitored and evaluated by Welsh Government. There are currently seven different grant funding schemes related to transport with processes requiring separate bids for each.</p> <p>There is now a grants modernisation programme underway to review this process, which is being led by Welsh Government.</p>
1.13	<p><b><u>Progress to Date</u></b></p> <p>During 2024 the programme has delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RTP Implementation Plan which defines the tasks, resources and budget required to develop and deliver the Regional Transport Plan (RTP) for North Wales.</li> <li>• The Case for Change and supporting Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which provide the evidence base and approach to engagement as specified in the Statutory Guidance</li> <li>• Integrated Well-Being Assessment (IWBA) scoping report was submitted to statutory consultees (including Natural Resources Wales and Cadw) for a 5-week period</li> <li>• Draft products for consultation including: RTP; Monitoring &amp; Evaluation Plan; RTDP; IWBA; consultation materials.</li> </ul>

1.14	<p><b><u>Timetable for Delivery of the RTP</u></b></p> <p>Below is the current roadmap for the publication of the RTP by July 2025: -</p> <p><i>(Figure 2: Timetable for drafting and publishing the Regional Transport Plan)</i></p>
1.15	<p><b><u>Investment Zone</u></b></p> <p>In addition to the development of the Regional Transport Plan, 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.</p> <p>The match funding is driven by the investment of private sector delivery partners across the three tax sites (Warren Hall, Deeside Gateway and Wrexham Industrial Estate) and some of the major investment projects delivered by private sector partners. One of the key components of the Investment Zones is transport and, 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 with an indicative figure allocated for local infrastructure (including innovation and transport) of around £87,150,000. A report on the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone was presented to Cabinet in December 2024 and approved.</p>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	<p>The CJC is a “levying body”, and it is mainly funded through charging a levy on the six North Wales local authorities together with Eryri National Park Authority (which contributes only towards the Strategic Planning function). It can also receive grants from Welsh Government. In this respect the CJC differs from the Police and Crime Commissioner, which is a “precepting body” which is able to charge Council Tax and is shown as a separate line on a Council Tax bill.</p>

The CJC is required to set an annual budget by 31 January, which will show how much of the CJC's income is to be obtained from the levy. A further decision is then made on the method of apportioning the levy to each of the constituent councils (and the NPA in respect of Strategic Planning).

For 2024/2025 the levy was apportioned using the same population figures as were used by Welsh Government in the funding settlement for local authorities and although it is anticipated that this will continue in future years, this will need to be subject to an annual, unanimous decision by all members.

The budget for the North Wales CJC for 2024-2025 can be found within the committee papers at its meeting on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Budget setting for 2025-2026 was presented for approval at the CJC meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025, which is as follows: -

Strategic Planning	Transport	Corporate Joint Committee	Budget Total
£	£	£	£
375,040	184,180	343,260	902,480

The CJC approved the levy on the constituent authorities as follows: -

	Strategic Planning	Other functions	Total Levy
	£	£	£
Conwy County Borough Council	(59,630)	(87,190)	(146,820)
Denbighshire County Council	(52,660)	(74,050)	(126,710)
Flintshire County Council	(84,450)	(118,820)	(203,270)
Cyngor Gwynedd	(53,860)	(90,830)	(144,690)
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(37,540)	(52,800)	(90,340)
Wrexham County Borough Council	(73,770)	(103,750)	(177,520)
Eryri National Park Authority	(13,130)		(13,130)
<b>Total Levy</b>	<b>(375,040)</b>	<b>(527,440)</b>	<b>(902,480)</b>

The budget is funded by means of a levy apportioned between the constituent authorities based on the population relevant to the field of work.

2.02

The Strategic Transport sub-committee membership is comprised of the transport portfolio leads from the Executives of each constituent Council. Co-opted onto the sub-committee are representatives from Eryri National Park and Transport for Wales (TfW). The Sub-Committee is responsible for the preparation and development of the RTP and, following its approval by the CJC, to undertake the role of monitoring its impact.

2.03	Officers from each of the Councils have an integral role in developing the RTP by working with their portfolio Members, their local authorities and the Strategic Transport Sub-Committee. Officers support the Sub-Committee by meeting regularly as an officer Advisory Group to prepare and develop policies and plans, which feed into the sub-committee. The officers have a lead role along with their portfolio lead Members in supporting and implementing the RTP.
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<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	This is an operational update to report on the progress made by the CJC to deliver the Regional Transport Plan for North Wales. Impact assessment is not required as this is a report on progress and this report provides an overview of legislation requirements and work that is ongoing.
3.02	<p>An Integrated Wellbeing Assessment (IWBA) is required as part of the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG) for the Regional Transport Plan (RTP). The IWBA is intended to show how the policies will contribute to well-being, supported by the impacts assessments that have been undertaken to consider issues such as the environment, health, equality, and biodiversity.</p> <p>The IWBA is not just a ‘tick box’ exercise. The information in the IWBA must be used to design in benefits and design out any potentially harmful impacts. An IWBA must show how well-being has been addressed and should identify both positive and negative impacts and show how any negative impacts have been avoided or mitigated.</p> <p>The IWBA should address four key questions based on the four ambitions in the Wales Transport Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How will the programme or project benefit people and communities? (equality, health and safety and confidence)</li> <li>• How will it benefit the environment? (reducing carbon emissions, benefiting biodiversity and ecosystems resilience, and reducing waste)</li> <li>• How will it benefit places and the economy? (place-making, innovation, freight)</li> <li>• How will it benefit culture and the Welsh language? (arts and sport and the historic environment)</li> </ul> <p>In helping answer these questions, the IWBA is supported by a range of impact assessments, including ones that are statutory, such as Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p>
3.03	<p>The RTPs must demonstrate they have been developed in accordance with the sustainable development principle and five ways of working advocated by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term – balances short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs</li> <li>• Prevention – identifying root causes of problems and considering how to prevent them occurring or getting worse</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration – Considering how the public body’s well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</li> <li>• Collaboration – Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.</li> <li>• Involvement – involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</li> </ul>
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<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	<p>The Guidance to CJsCs advises that Local Authorities and CJsCs should collaborate to produce the RTP, both amongst themselves and with Local Authorities in their area, in addition to wider stakeholders such as the Welsh Government, Transport for Wales, transport operators, and the public. This will help ensure the preparation of RTPs is cognisant of relevant information, plans, and budgets, in turn helping to ensure the usefulness and effectiveness of the plans.</p> <p>The RTP is required to set out the consultation process undertaken. To assist, CJsCs are advised to develop an Engagement Plan to prepare the RTP, and record feedback and how it has informed the RTP in a Consultation Report.</p>
4.02	<p>The Guidance recommends that as part of the WelTAG process, CJsCs should prepare an Engagement Plan at an early stage and update it as the RTP develops. WelTAG advises that an Engagement Plan should address five key topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• who you want to engage with;</li> <li>• why you want to engage with them;</li> <li>• how you will engage with them;</li> <li>• when you will engage; and</li> <li>• what you will do with the feedback they provide.</li> </ul> <p>Public consultation should also be undertaken and in accordance with best practice and meet the requirements of statutory procedures as part of the RTP development.</p>
4.03	<p>The draft Regional Transport Plan consultation is now live and runs until 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025.</p> <p>A “virtual engagement room” has been set up as part of the consultation, which can be found online at: <a href="https://ambitionnorth.wales/">https://ambitionnorth.wales/</a> The website also allows people to view or download the plans and respond to the consultation, by completing a questionnaire online.</p> <p>People can also download a printable questionnaire below and return by email or post. Email responses are welcomed by email to the following address: <a href="mailto:northwalesregionaltransportplan@arup.com">northwalesregionaltransportplan@arup.com</a></p>

	<p>Alternatively, people can write and post printed copies of the questionnaire to: FREEPOST UGC / ANW or if they wish to speak to someone about the plans, they can also call: 01172 405 350.</p> <p>Paper copies of the Regional Transport Plan (draft) can be provided on request by emailing or leaving a message on the above telephone service.</p> <p>We are also planning to hold some in-person drop-in events in Flintshire during late March and early April 2025 to feed back into the process. These will be published in due course.</p>
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<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	None

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>Written Statement: The role of Corporate Joint Committees  <a href="https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-role-corporate-joint-committees">https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-role-corporate-joint-committees</a></p> <p>North Wales Corporate Joint Committee further information and minutes of meetings:  <a href="https://ambitionnorth.wales/north-wales-corporate-joint-committee/">https://ambitionnorth.wales/north-wales-corporate-joint-committee/</a>  <a href="https://democracy.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/ielistmeetings.aspx?cid=439&amp;year=0">https://democracy.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/ielistmeetings.aspx?cid=439&amp;year=0</a>  <a href="https://democracy.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/documents/s43243/Adroddiad%20Cyllideb%202025-26%20-%20S.pdf">https://democracy.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/documents/s43243/Adroddiad%20Cyllideb%202025-26%20-%20S.pdf</a></p> <p>Corporate Joint Committees: Statutory Guidance  <a href="https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-01/corporate-joint-committees.pdf">https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-01/corporate-joint-committees.pdf</a></p> <p>The Corporate Joint Committees (General) (Wales) Regulations 2022  <a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2022/372/contents/made">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2022/372/contents/made</a></p> <p>Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WeITAG)  <a href="https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-02/welsh-transport-appraisal-guidance-weltag-2024.pdf">https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-02/welsh-transport-appraisal-guidance-weltag-2024.pdf</a></p> <p>Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone – Cabinet Report (December 2024)  <a href="https://committeemeetings.flintshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=391&amp;MIId=5736&amp;Ver=4&amp;LLL=0">https://committeemeetings.flintshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=391&amp;MIId=5736&amp;Ver=4&amp;LLL=0</a></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Katie Wilby, Chief Officer (Streetscene &amp; Transportation)  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704530  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:katie.wilby@flintshire.gov.uk">katie.wilby@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>



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8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	<p><b>CJCs = Corporate Joint Committees</b> have been formed to promote regional collaboration through a consistent and democratically controlled framework. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 created the framework for establishing the CJCs in Wales and they were established on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. The four CJCs in Wales are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham)</li><li>• The Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee (Ceredigion, Powys)</li><li>• The South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (Cardiff, Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Torfaen, The Vale of Glamorgan)</li><li>• The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire, Swansea)</li></ul> <p>Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) are regional corporate local government entities comprised of local authorities within their regional geographies. The CJC must exercise functions relating to strategic development planning and regional transport planning and are also able to promote economic well-being. CJCs are required to comply with all public body duties and have specific statutory duties including carrying out the function of the preparation of Regional Transport Plans (RTPs).</p> <p>For North Wales, the CJC must develop transport policies to implement the Llwybr Newydd: the Wales Transport Strategy 2021, providing a long-term vision for the next 25 years. This work is being carried out collaboratively across the six local authorities that make up the Membership of the North Wales CJC, and representatives from the Eryri National Park Authority and Transport for Wales. In contrast to other joint committee arrangements, the CJC is a separate corporate body, which can employ staff and hold assets. There are three initial functions prescribed to be discharged by the CJC, two of which are mandatory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the CJC must prepare, monitor, review and revise a regional Strategic Development Plan (SDP)</li><li>• the CJC must develop a Regional Transport Plan (RTP) with policies for regional transport</li><li>• the CJC may do anything which is likely to promote economic wellbeing. Regional economic well-being is currently a function of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (EAB).</li></ul>

**NTDP = The National Transport Delivery Plan** sets out the programmes, projects and new policies that the Welsh Government are intending to deliver over the next five years. The vision and priorities of the WTS will be delivered by the NTDP at a national level, and the RTPs at a regional level.

**WTS = Llwybr Newydd: The Wales Transport Strategy 2021**, which sets out the priorities and ambitions for transport in Wales. The WTS was published on 1 March 2021<sup>3</sup> with a vision to provide an accessible, sustainable and efficient transport system that is fit for future generations and places people and tackling climate change at the heart of decision making. The WTS states that the CJsCs will prepare RTPs for transport in their area and that these should be shaped by the WTS and aligned with Future Wales – the National Plan 2040<sup>4</sup>, and the emerging Strategic Development Plans (referred to as regional development plans in the WTS).

**RTP = Regional Transport Plan.** The RTPs must support the WTS priorities, to bring services to people in order to reduce the need to travel; to allow people and goods to move easily from door to door by accessible, sustainable and efficient transport services and infrastructure; and to encourage people to make the change to more sustainable forms of transport. The RTPs must take account of the four cross cutting pathways in the WTS; rural, decarbonisation, equality and integrated journey planning.

**RTDP = Regional Transport Deliver Plan.** North Wales CJC is required to produce a Regional Transport Plan (RTP) and Regional Transport Delivery Plan (RTDP) in accordance with Welsh Government guidance.

**WelTAG = Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance.** All transport policies, programmes and projects funded by Welsh Government must include an integrated well-being appraisal as part of the WelTAG business case.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://gov.wales/llwybr-newydd-wales-transport-strategy-2021>

<sup>4</sup> <https://gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040>



## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>Report Subject</b>	Review of the Community Ring and Ride Transport Service
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Streetscene & Transportation
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Launched in 2017, the Flintshire Community Ring and Ride Service is a pre-bookable, demand responsive transport service providing accessible door-to-door transport to Flintshire residents who experience difficulty travelling on existing public transport services. The service provides assistance to older people or those with a disability to essential medical services, such as travelling to GP appointments, hospital appointments or other health related appointments (e.g. dentist) for Flintshire residents who are unable to access bus services or do not have alternative transport.

It has recently been highlighted that the costs of providing this service have escalated to an unsustainable level, which is likely to cause a projected overspend, due to an increase in demand and a reported higher number of ineligible journeys being undertaken, which do not meet the criteria of the service. A review of the service is now required to ensure that only eligible journeys are being made, as well as reviewing the current criteria for eligibility to meet the available funding for providing the service.

This report details the methodology for completing the review and seeks approval to implement the recommendations.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1	Cabinet approves the eligibility criteria for the Community Ring and Ride Service and endorses the need to robustly apply the policy as outlined within this report.
2	Cabinet approves the withdrawal of the Ring and Ride service for those users, who do not meet the eligibility criteria, noting that adequate notice will be provided and signposting to alternative means of transport, such as the Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service (NEPTS) provided by the Welsh Ambulance Service and NHS or to community transport (where available).

3	Cabinet approves the annual registration fee and charges for the service to be increased to achieve a balanced budget position and that an annual review of the service takes place to ensure that the service continues to ensure value for money.
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## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE REVIEW OF THE FLINTSHIRE COMMUNITY RING AND RIDE TRANSPORT SERVICE</b>
1.01	<p>The Community Ring and Ride Service is a low-cost transport service provided for the local community in response to specific local transport needs. Such transport services are often regarded as an effective, flexible, and affordable solution for addressing the mobility needs of specific individuals. They are intended to connect older people or for those with a disability to access essential medical services, and they can provide an invaluable service to many residents who have difficulty accessing public transport.</p>
1.02	<p>The Flintshire operated Ring and Ride Service was set up in 2017 and it provides a pre-bookable, demand responsive transport service providing accessible door-to-door transport to Flintshire residents for NHS medical appointments, who are unable to use ordinary public transport services (bus, rail) or do not have access to alternative transport arrangements for travel to and from medical appointments within Flintshire, and/or to nominated out of county hospitals i.e. Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, Bodelwyddan, Wrexham Maelor Hospital or Countess of Chester Hospital.</p> <p>The service has continued in its current form since 2017 and has not been subject to review during this time. It is not intended to compete with or replace other services, which provide essential transport services, such as community transport provided by the third sector or non-emergency patient transport, but rather it plugs the gap when these services are not available.</p>
1.03	<p>To be eligible to use the existing service, applicants are required to live in Flintshire and must apply to become a member of the transport scheme. An annual subscription fee of £10 is applicable upon initial registration and registration for the service is completed by the Flintshire Contact Centre to confirm that applicants meet the eligibility criteria for the service. A further charge is made for each booked journey at 45 pence per mile regardless of the distance travelled. Bookings for journeys are made through the Contact Centre and transport is provided by a licensed hackney carriage or private hire operator using a taxi or private hire vehicle, which is subsidised by the Council. <b>Appendix 1</b> details the current criteria for the service and process followed for assessing applications.</p>
1.04	<p>The Flintshire service is well utilised with 1,139 members having utilised the service since its inception. Since 2020, there have been over 7,000 bookings made for the service with travel arranged to and from a wide range of health-related appointments.</p>

The table below shows the number of registered users of the Ring and Ride Service each year over the last 5 years.

2020/2021	253
2021/2022	255
2022/2023	330
2023/2024	415
2024/2025	427

As a result of the increased number of users and demand for the service, the costs for running the service have increased significantly and are projected to exceed the budget available for 2024-2025. The current costs for operating the Ring and Ride Service against the budget available are shown below.

Current Budget 2024/2025	£40,308
Projected Costs for the Service	£80,596
Shortfall	-£40,288

1.05 In response to the projected revenue budget monitoring 2024/25 overspend position (as at month 6), the Streetscene & Transportation portfolio has been required to produce a list of measures within an action plan to improve the financial position by the end of the financial year. The review of the Ring and Ride Service is included within the action plan.

1.06 Upon initial review by the portfolio, it has been found that a number of the journeys being booked were not deemed to be eligible under the current criteria for using the Ring and Ride Service, and as such, it has been determined that the increased usage can be attributed to the following: -

- Journeys to non-NHS appointments
- Journeys to locations outside of the service limitations (out of county0).
- Journeys used by residents with options to travel by alternative means (i.e. private transport, available bus services or access to the Welsh Ambulance Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service).

As a result, a more detailed review is being undertaken through the use of a customer survey, which has been sent to all registered users to determine continued eligibility of the service and identify whether any changes are required (see **Appendix 2** for a copy of the survey).

1.07 To address the issue of non-eligible users registering for the service and, in an attempt to tighten the controls for the booking process for journeys and bring the expenditure back in line with the budget, the following additional measures are being introduced: -

- Eligibility criteria amended to require evidence to demonstrate that the applicant is unable to access or use ordinary public transport or alternative means of transport to attend medical appointments (see **Appendix 3**).
- An e-form has been developed. The new e-form will be required to be completed by the Contact Centre upon registration and will ensure that only applicants who are eligible for the service are permitted to be registered.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition, the Integrated Transport Unit (ITU) has recently carried out further training with the Contact Centre to ensure that they are aware of the process to be followed, and only eligible residents are registered for the service and booking requests meet the criteria.</li> </ul>
1.08	<p>The review has also identified that bookings have been accepted for medical facilities that are not on the nominated list of hospitals named within the criteria, for instance journeys to NHS medical appointments at the Abergele Eye Hospital, NHS Orthopaedic Hospital in Gobowen, Nightingale House in Wrexham and other NHS appointments in Ruthin, Denbigh and Rhyl.</p> <p>Whilst on the surface it may appear that such appointments could be permitted under the Ring and Ride Service criteria, journeys to these facilities are not deemed to be eligible, as they are not located within Flintshire and are not one of the three nominated general hospitals. It is intended that no journeys to any facilities other than the three nominated general hospitals will be permitted in the future.</p>
1.09	<p>Although it is not possible to continue providing journeys to these facilities due to the budget pressures incurred and the fact that they do not meet the eligibility criteria, it is important to note that the risk of removing this transport may result in vulnerable people who currently utilise the service, not being able to access medical appointments as they may have become accustomed to, and having to seek alternative travel arrangements. It is therefore recommended that only eligible requests when assessed in accordance with the agreed eligibility criteria are approved going forward.</p> <p>Subject to approval, communication will be issued to service users to inform them of the eligibility criteria for the service and provide advice and guidance to signpost them to alternative means of transport, as detailed within this report. However, it is recognised that the increase in demand for this subsidised transport service could correlate to the increased cost of living affecting the affordability of goods and services bought by households.</p>
1.10	<p>The Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust provides a Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service for patients across Wales who are unable, for medical reasons, to make their own way to and from their appointments at clinics, hospitals and day centres. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outpatients appointments;</li> <li>• Dialysis and Oncology treatment;</li> <li>• Day centre and psycho-geriatric clinics;</li> <li>• Planned admissions and discharges including inter-hospitals transfers</li> </ul> <p>It is a vital resource to help those patients who rely on the service, and it should not be used by those without a medical need. Please note that a need for treatment does not automatically imply a need for transport. There is an eligibility process that all patients are required to go through to ensure that their needs are appropriate for the service.</p> <p>For patients who are found non-eligible, there is an Alternative Transport Team that can discuss transport options in their area. Eligibility for NEPTS is based on meeting the following criteria:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are receiving regular dialysis or cancer treatment;</li> <li>• You require a stretcher for the journey;</li> <li>• You require oxygen for the journey;</li> <li>• You need to travel in your own wheelchair;</li> <li>• You are unable to walk without continual support;</li> <li>• You are unable to use public transport because you have a medical condition that would compromise your dignity;</li> <li>• You have severe communication difficulties or;</li> <li>• You will experience side effects as a result of the treatment for your condition.</li> </ul> <p>For more details, information is available on the Welsh Ambulance Service's website detailed below or by telephone 0300 123 2303.</p> <p><a href="https://ambulance.nhs.wales/services/non-emergency-patient-transport-service-nepts/">https://ambulance.nhs.wales/services/non-emergency-patient-transport-service-nepts/</a></p>
1.11	<p>Whilst the withdrawal of ineligible journeys will have a positive effect on the current budget position, recent rises in transport costs (e.g. driver's wages, fuel, insurance etc.) and re-procurement of the service will inevitably still result in a budget deficit and, although the actions proposed are intended to bring the expenditure back in line with the budget, they will not ensure full cost recovery for the service.</p> <p>To mitigate this budget pressure, the ITU intends to apply for additional funding from the Welsh Government's Community Transport Grant for the 2025/2026 financial year, as it is understood that the Flintshire Ring and Ride Service could be accepted for the grant and deemed to be eligible.</p>
1.12	<p>Finally, as outlined previously, existing service users currently pay an annual registration fee of £10 to become a member of the scheme plus a further charge of 45 pence per mile regardless of the distance. These charges were originally implemented in 2017 and has not been reviewed since this time, despite the rising costs in transport provision. This membership fee remains low when compared to the fees of other similar schemes across the country, which range between £15.00 (Denbighshire) and £20.00 (Cheshire West and Chester).</p> <p>The charges for journeys also appear low when compared to other schemes. Some schemes charge a rate per mile, typically between £0.50 (plus a minimum fee of £2.50) and £1.20, while others charge a set rate for journeys between set points (e.g. Denbighshire).</p> <p>It is therefore proposed that the annual membership fee is increased to £20.00 and that a minimum charge of £2.50 is introduced for all journeys not exceeding five miles (similar to the scheme in Cheshire West and Chester) and all journeys exceeding five miles are subject to the minimum charge plus a charge of £0.50 per mile.</p> <p>The proposed charging structure for the Flintshire Community Ring and Ride Service showing typical fares for the service is included in <b>Appendix 4</b> by way of an example.</p>



1.12	Following completion of the procurement exercise, along with an understanding of the number of eligible users following completion of the detailed customer services review, it is proposed to review the annual registration fee in order to seek a balanced budget position.
1.13	<p>A report was presented to the Environment &amp; Economy Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 on the proposals detailed within this report. The recommendations were supported, and several points were noted by the Committee, which are detailed below and will be applied subject to approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of other transport options e.g. community transport, non-emergency patient transport, fflecsi service, public transport services</li> <li>• Consideration of future options, such as local authority operated services rather than contracted services or use of third sector</li> <li>• Ensuring that it was clear in the criteria that no charge was to be made for guide dogs</li> <li>• Inclusion of single one-way charges as well as return journey charges, which are permissible in the scheme</li> <li>• Annual review of the fees and charges for the service to increase more gradually and incrementally</li> <li>• Monitoring of the usage of the service to ensure that only eligible users are permitted to travel</li> <li>• Provision of the estimated income levels for Cabinet to consider</li> </ul>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	<p>As reported to Cabinet in November 2024, the significant projected overspend (and impact on available reserves) continues to be of major concern and needs to continue to be addressed urgently in an attempt to bring expenditure back in line with the approved budget. Based on current projections, the council still has a low level of contingency reserve, which it uses to deal with any significant in-year unforeseen events.</p> <p>As required by Financial Procedure Rules (FPRs), an action plan has been compiled by the Streetscene and Transportation portfolio, which details the measures being put in place to improve the position by the end of the financial year. The measures detailed within this report are intended to ensure that the level of expenditure is brought back in line with the approved budget.</p> <p>Based on the current number of registered users, the increase in membership fee is estimated to increase the income by approximately £4k. The increased income level generated from journeys is more challenging to calculate, due not knowing where customers are likely to come from in the future; however, based on the data for 2024/2025 to date, we estimate that the average fare income will increase by around 11.11%. The income forecasted from fares for journeys is approximately £10k, therefore the increase to fares is expected to yield between £11-12k.</p> <p>The majority of the cost reductions for the service are anticipated to come from the new controls put in place to ensure that only eligible journeys are made in accordance with the approved eligibility criteria for the service, which are estimated to be around a third of all journeys made.</p>



2.02	<p><b>Revenue:</b> There could be implications for the approved revenue budget for this service for either the current financial year or for future financial years if no action is taken to address the projected overspend. Actions are as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-procurement of the service is likely to result in further increases in costs.</li> <li>• Review of service criteria and eligibility to reduce costs.</li> <li>• Strict application of the policy following approval</li> <li>• Application to the Community Transport Grant to supplement funding and mitigate against the increased contractor costs.</li> </ul> <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> The review, amendment and implementation will be undertaken by the Council's in-house Integrated Transport Unit (ITU). The revised process is not likely to increase the workload for the Customer Contact Centre or administration of the scheme and will improve controls.</p>
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3.00	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	<p>Withdrawing the service from ineligible users, may have an impact on vulnerable people who currently utilise the service, in terms of them not being able to access medical appointments that they may have become accustomed to, and will therefore, need to seek alternative arrangements. Consultation is being undertaken with all registered users of the service, and ineligible users will be signposted to alternative transport solutions.</p>
3.02	<p><u>Alternative Transport Options</u></p> <p>The Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service is for patients across Wales who are unable, for medical reasons, to make their own way to and from their hospital appointments. It is a vital resource to help those patients who need and rely on it and it should not be used as a method of getting to appointments unless deemed eligible to do so.</p> <p>For patients who are found to be non-eligible through the NEPTS eligibility process there are a range of options to consider below for alternative means of transport: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asking family or friends if they can help with transport</li> <li>• Contact my Health Journey: <a href="https://myhealthjourney.traveline.cymru/">https://myhealthjourney.traveline.cymru/</a></li> <li>• Using public transport (it may be possible to claim back the costs of transport from the local health board)</li> <li>• If someone receives Personal Independence Payments (PIP) or has the use of a mobility car – this is intended to be used to help with travel to any appointments.</li> <li>• Visit the NHS 111 Wales webpage and scroll down to 'Not Eligible for NEPTS?' for alternative transport options. <a href="https://111.wales.nhs.uk/localservices/ViewLocalService.aspx?id=8173&amp;s=Non-Emergency%20%20Alternative%20Transport">https://111.wales.nhs.uk/localservices/ViewLocalService.aspx?id=8173&amp;s=Non-Emergency%20%20Alternative%20Transport</a></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some people may be able to claim back some or all of the travel costs from the local Health Board, for more information please visit Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme (HTCS) – NHS  <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/help-with-health-costs/healthcare-travel-costs-scheme-htcs/">https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/help-with-health-costs/healthcare-travel-costs-scheme-htcs/</a></li> </ul>
3.02	The increases in membership fees and charges for journeys for those users who remain eligible are deemed to be reasonable and the increase will bring the charges broadly in line with similar schemes in neighbouring local authorities. Additionally, the charges are significantly lower than the normal taxi fares, given that they are subsidised.
3.03	The risk of not implementing the recommendations within this report will result in rising costs beyond the scope of the existing budget, as set out within the Cabinet report on 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2024, and would add to the pressures for 2025/2026.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	Cabinet Member for Streetscene & Transportation.
4.02	With service users via the customer survey and communication.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	<b>Appendix 1</b> – Current Criteria and Eligibility Process.
5.02	<b>Appendix 2</b> – Copy of Survey to Registered Members of the Current Scheme.
5.03	<b>Appendix 3</b> – Revised Eligibility Process and Criteria.
5.04	<b>Appendix 4</b> – Proposed Charging Structure & Example Fares.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	None.

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Katie Wilby, Chief Officer (Streetscene &amp; Transportation)  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704530  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:katie.wilby@flintshire.gov.uk">katie.wilby@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Anthony Stanford, Transport Service Manager  <b>Telephone:</b> 07966 430212  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:anthony.stanford@flintshire.gov.uk">anthony.stanford@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Helen Telford, Integrated Transport Unit Manager  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704531  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:helen.telford@flintshire.gov.uk">helen.telford@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

8.00	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
	<p><b>Community Transport Grant</b> – Grant provided by Welsh Government to deliver transport objectives set out in the Welsh Transport Strategy and the National Transport Finance Plan.</p> <p><b>Integrated Transport Unit (ITU)</b> – The Council’s in-house transport team, which coordinates transport arrangements for a range of different service needs e.g. community transport, public transport, school transport.</p> <p><b>NEPTS</b> – Non-emergency patient transport service provided by the Welsh Ambulance Services and NHS Health Board, which provides transport for patients in Wales needing to get to Non-Emergency appointments who have a specific medical need.</p>

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## Appendix 1 – Current Eligibility Criteria for the Flintshire Community Ring & Ride Service

### Eligibility Process – Taxishare scheme

#### Where do you live?

[check that they live within designated area for the service]

#### Where are you wanting to travel to?

[check that the place is one of those covered under the scope of the service - hospital, health centre, GP, clinic, dentist]

#### What is the purpose of the journey?

[check for medical purpose, either appointment, tests or visiting someone]

#### Is this the first time you have had to make this journey?

[If no - How did you make the journey last time? Why couldn't the same method be used this time?]

#### Do you have a car or access to a car?

[If yes - Why can't you make this journey by car? For example, treatment might mean that wouldn't be fit to drive]

#### Are you able to use bus services?

[If no - What prevents you from using the bus?]

[If yes - Could you use the bus for this journey?]

[Check that not possible due to unavailability of service, change of bus necessary, too far to bus stop]

[For those attending hospital for an appointment]

#### If you are going to hospital for an appointment, might you be eligible to use the Welsh Ambulance Service Patient Transport Service?

[If yes - Why are you not using the Patient Transport Service?]

[If no, check why they think they would not be eligible]

[If don't know, suggest they ask GP or hospital whether might be considered eligible]

If, following the above screening process, the applicant is deemed eligible to use the service then the following details will be needed:

**Name**

**Address**

**Contact details**

**Pick-up location**

**Destination**

**Any particular needs (e.g. have walking aids or have to travel in wheelchair)**

**Initial registration fee / take payment**

Bookings can be made between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday

Bookings must be made at least 24 hours before the intended travel (however we will try to accommodate journeys at shorter notice where possible)

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## Appendix 2 – Ring & Ride Customer Survey

### Ring and Ride Customer Survey

Please return completed surveys by email to [bus.registrations@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:bus.registrations@flintshire.gov.uk) in the pre-paid envelope enclosed by **8<sup>th</sup> December 2024** to confirm your continued registration of service.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Do you wish to continue to be registered for the Ring and Ride service?**

- Yes – please continue with the remaining questions
- No – please return and we will remove you from our mailing list

**2. What do you use the service for?**

- NHS doctor appointments
- NHS dental appointments
- Other NHS appointments (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Where do you travel to? (Name of Centre & location) Please list all that apply:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Do you have a car or access to a car?**

- Yes
- No

**5. Are you able to use a bus service?**

- Yes
- No

**6. What prevents you from using a car and/or bus service?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. If you are going to hospital for an appointment, you might be eligible to use the Welsh Ambulance Service Patient Transport Service. Could you use the Welsh Ambulance Patient Transport Service (for hospital appointments)?**

- Yes
- No, please state why not \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Are you aware of the Council's Fflecsi transport services for residents in the Holywell and Buckley areas?**

- Yes
- No

**9. Are you aware of the following voluntary services in Flintshire?**

Welsh Border Community Transport Yes  No

Estuary Voluntary Car Scheme Yes  No

Have you considered using them? Yes  No  why not? \_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you for your time, we will be in touch with all members of the Ring and Ride service with more information in the coming months.***

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# Community Ring & Ride Service

## Providing assistance for travel to GP Appointments, Hospital Appointments and other Health related Appointments

The Flintshire operated Ring and Ride Service is a pre-bookable, demand responsive transport service providing accessible door-to-door transport to Flintshire residents for NHS medical appointments, who are unable to use ordinary public transport services (bus, rail) or do not have access to alternative transport arrangements for travel to and from medical appointments within Flintshire, and/or to nominated out of county hospitals i.e. Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, Bodelwyddan, Wrexham Maelor Hospital or Countess of Chester Hospital.

### The service will provide assistance in travelling to:

- GP Appointments • Hospital Appointments • Other Health Related Appointments

### The service is open to:

- **Registered members** of the scheme only
- An annual subscription **fee of £15** will apply (payments can be made by telephone or by cheque made payable to Flintshire County Council).
- A **minimum charge of £2.50** applies for all journeys **not exceeding five miles** and **all journeys exceeding five miles** are subject to the **minimum charge of £2.50 plus a charge of 50 pence per mile**.
- A charge may be made for waiting time (For each 1 minute or uncompleted part thereof £0.20 per minute)
- Waiting time for 1 hour - £12.00
- No charge is made for guide dogs

### Passengers are requested to:

- Give at least 24 hours' notice of individual journeys, (however we will try to accommodate journeys at shorter notice where possible).

### At initial registration, members will also be required to answer the following questions in order to meet the criteria to use the service:

- Where do you live?
- Where are you wanting to travel to?
- What is the purpose of the journey?
- Is this the first time you have had to make this journey?
- Do you have a car or access to a car?
- Are you able to use bus services?
- If you are going to hospital for an appointment, might you be eligible to use the Welsh Ambulance Service Patient Transport Service?

### Example journey costs are for the following return journeys are:

Higher Kinnerton to Hope Medical Centre **£3.50**

Llanfynydd to Wrexham Maelor Hospital **£6.20**

Northop Hall to Bradley Medical Practice in Mold **£4.90**

Whitford to Holywell Community Hospital **£3.50**



701234 (between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday-Friday)

## Registration E-Form

Application date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**What difficulty do you have using normal public transport?** Please tick one box.

Can't complete journey / stamina	<input type="checkbox"/>	Can't get on / off transport	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can't get to / from transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fear / anxiety	<input type="checkbox"/>

**What is your main disability?** Please tick one box.

Arthritic / Rheumatoid	<input type="checkbox"/>	Learning / Behavioural	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sensory	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cerebral / Neurological	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limb Disfunction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Short Term Illness	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frail / Elderly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Long Term Illness	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fear / Phobia	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heart / Respiratory	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A or None	<input type="checkbox"/>		

**Do you use a wheelchair?** Yes  No

**Can you transfer to a seat?** Yes  No

**Can you use a taxi?** Yes  No

If yes, please indicate wheelchair type:  
 Electric  Manual  Folding   
 Other  \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of emergency contact person (neighbour / relative):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have a bus pass?** Yes  No

Type of bus pass:

60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card  Bus pass number: \_\_\_\_\_

Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card  Bus pass number: \_\_\_\_\_

If you don't have a bus pass, you may still be eligible to use the Community Ring and Ride service if you're an eligible disabled person and your primary residence is in Flintshire. You're eligible if you:

- Have a high enough level/award on state benefits such as PIP and DLA, or from the Veterans UK or MOD
- Registered blind or severely sight impaired (with the appropriate evidence to confirm this)
- Are profoundly or severely deaf
- Are without speech
- Have a disability, or have suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long-term effect on your ability to walk
- Don't have arms or have long-term loss of use of both arms
- Have a learning disability
- Would be refused a driving licence under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988 pursuant to section 92 of that Act (physical fitness)
- Are seriously injured armed personnel or veterans who fall within the above categories of disability

*The application can be processed fastest if you can provide proof of State benefits such as your PIP or DLA.*

## Eligibility Process for Booking Journeys – Contact Centre

### Are you registered for the Community Ring & Ride Scheme?

[check that the individual is registered for the scheme and note the registration number]

### Where do you live?

[check that they live within designated area for the service i.e. primary residence in Flintshire]

### Where are you wanting to travel to?

[check that the place is one of those covered under the scope of the service:

NHS medical centre, health centre, GP surgery, clinic, NHS dentist, community hospital in Flintshire

Out of county hospitals – we only serve the following three hospitals:

Ysbyty Glan Clwyd Hospital in Bodelwyddan, Wrexham Maelor Hospital and the Countess of Chester Hospital]

We do not serve any other facilities out of county.

### What is the purpose of the journey?

[check that the journey being made is for a medical purpose, such as a GP appointment, tests, treatment]

### Is this the first time you have had to make this journey?

[If no - How did you make the journey last time? Why couldn't the same method be used this time?]

### Do you have a car or access to a car?

[If yes - Why can't you make this journey by car? For example, treatment might mean that wouldn't be fit to drive]

### Are you able to use bus services? What difficulty do you have using normal public transport?

[If no - What prevents you from using the bus?]

[If yes - Could you use the bus for this journey?]

[Check that the journey is not possible due to the unavailability of a bus service, change of several buses is necessary, too far to the nearest bus stop]

[For those attending hospital for an appointment]

### If you are going to hospital for an appointment, might you be eligible to use the Welsh Ambulance Service Patient Transport Service?

[If yes - Why are you not using the Patient Transport Service?]

[If no, check why they think they would not be eligible]

[If don't know, suggest they ask GP or hospital whether might be considered eligible]

**Do you use a wheelchair?** [If yes, please can you tell me the wheelchair type? Electric / Manual / Folding]

**Can you use a taxi? Can you transfer to a seat?**

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**Appendix 4 - Proposed charging structure for the Flintshire Community Ring and Ride Service showing example fares for the service**

**Proposed Journey Rates:**

Journeys not exceeding 5 miles: minimum charge of **£2.50**

Journeys exceeding 5 miles: minimum charge **£2.50 plus £0.50 per mile** after 5 miles

Waiting time: For each 1 minute or uncompleted part thereof **£0.20 per minute**

Waiting time for **1 hour - £12.00**

Luggage **£0.20**

For each person in excess of two (children under 5 yrs of age exempt) **£0.30 per person**

Animals (except Guide Dogs) **£1.00 per animal**

Soilage (up to) **£35.00**

**Example costs per return journey:**

	Alltami	Bryn-y-Baal	Drury	Little Mountain	Mynydd Isa	Spon Green	Penyffordd
Buckley Medical Centre	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.90
Clwyd House Surgery, Buckley	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.60
Mill Lane Surgery, Buckley	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50

	Cadole	Gwernaffield	Gwernymynydd	Nercwys	New Brighton	Northop	Sychdyn
Glanrafon Medical Centre Mold	£2.70	£3.80	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£3.30	£2.50
Pendre Surgery, Mold	£3.00	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£3.20	£2.50
Mold Community Hospital	£2.80	£2.50	£2.50	£3.80	£2.50	£3.60	£2.70

	Golftyn	Wepre	Northop Hall	Higher Shotton	Garden City	Queensferry	Sealand
The Quay Health Centre, Connah's Quay	£2.50	£2.50	£3.10	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£4.20
Shotton Lane Surgery	£2.60	£2.50	£4.10	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£3.60
Deeside Medical Centre	£2.50	£2.50	£4.60	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£3.60
Queensferry Medical Practice	£3.10	£2.50	£4.00	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.60

	Aston	Bretton	Ewloe	Mancot	Pentre	Saltney Ferry	Sandycroft
The Stables Medical Practice Hawarden	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£4.10	£2.50
Marches Medical Practice, Broughton	£3.90	£2.50	£3.90	£3.40	£4.00	£2.50	£3.20
Saltney Surgery	£6.20	£2.70	£5.80	£5.70	£5.30	£2.50	£4.50

	Bagillt	Cornist	Coed Onn	Croes Atti	Flint Mountain	Northop	Oakenholt
Allt Goch Medical Centre Flint	£2.70	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£3.30	£2.50
Flint Health & Well-Being Centre	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.70	£3.70	£2.50
Eyton Place Surgery, Flint	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£3.30	£2.50

	Coed Talon	Pontblyddyn	Pontybodkin	Treuddyn	Ffrith Llanfynydd	Cefn-y-Bedd	Cymau
Leeswood Surgery	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50	£3.90	£4.70	£5.10
Caergwrle Medical Practice	£3.80	£2.70	£3.50	£5.40	£2.80	£2.50	£2.50
Hope Family Medical Centre	£4.40	£3.20	£4.10	£5.90	£2.80	£2.50	£2.50
Wrexham Maelor Hospital	£7.90	£7.50	£8.40	£7.90	£4.90	£4.20	£5.60

	Brynford	Caerwys	Carmel	Gorsedd	Greenfield	Pen-y-Maes	Whitford
Panton Surgery Holywell	£2.50	£6.30	£2.50	£2.60	£2.50	£2.50	£3.10
Bodowen Surgery Holywell	£2.50	£6.70	£2.50	£3.00	£2.50	£2.50	£3.50
Pendre Surgery Holywell	£2.50	£6.40	£2.50	£2.70	£2.50	£2.50	£3.20
Pennant Surgery Holywell	£2.50	£6.30	£2.50	£2.60	£2.50	£2.50	£3.10

	Gronant	Gwespyr	Llanerch-y-Mor	Mostyn	Penyffordd	Trelogan	Trelawnyd
Ffynnonogyw Surgery	£3.20	£2.50	£3.30	£2.50	£2.50	£3.10	£4.60
Holywell Community Hospital	£9.90	£8.50	£3.50	£5.50	£6.80	£6.70	£7.50

	Broughton	Buckley	Connah's Quay	Flint	Holywell	Mold	Shotton
Bodelwyddan, Ysbyty Glan Clwyd Hospita	£25.80	£23.10	£23.10	£21.60	£14.00	£22.10	£25.10
Wrexham Maelor Hospital	£13.60	£10.30	£20.30	£22.80	£26.20	£11.00	£19.20
Chester Countess Hospital	£8.80	£11.80	£10.00	£13.00	£19.70	£14.20	£9.00

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## Cabinet

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	18 February 2025
<b>Report Subject</b>	Place Making Plans update.
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Since December 2022, work has been led by the Council's Regeneration team to progress the development and completion of the first tranche of Place Making Plans. Work has also been underway to develop the initial stages of tranche two and three and to deliver projects in the town centres. This report outlines the current stages of completion for each of the seven plans and highlights positive engagement from residents and partner organisations to date in the development process.

Welsh Government's expectation is that Place Making Plans take a broad approach to increasing the vibrancy of our towns. The Council has worked with external stakeholders to create long-term visions, identify local needs and establish priorities that respond to the needs of each town. The Place Making Plans will improve the well-being and quality of life of residents, increase attractiveness to local people, visitors and investors and help to boost the overall economic vitality of each town.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1	Cabinet to review and note the progress made in developing Place Making Plans.
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### **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>Explaining the Place Making Plan process and progress</b>
	<u>Background</u>

1.01	<p>In 2020 Welsh Government launched its “Town Centres First” policy to help breathe new life into town centres by locating services and buildings in town centres wherever possible. It subsequently launched a national £90 million ‘Transforming Towns’ investment package and encouraged the public sector to support towns through delivering regeneration activity which aims to increase footfall and create or sustain vibrancy.</p>
1.02	<p>In May 2022 Welsh Government asked local to develop Place Making Plans and provided a framework to inform this work. As part of this, Welsh Government confirmed that the award of future Transforming Town Place Making Grants would be conditional based on Place Making Plans being developed and locally approved. Welsh Government’s guidance suggests Place Making Plans should include a vision for each town, bring together a range of existing plans and strategies, and be informed by local engagement, consultation and a range of data and statistics to evidence local need.</p>
1.03	<p>At its meeting in October 2022, Cabinet approved seven Flintshire towns that Place Making Plans should be developed for, to be brought forward in three separate tranches:</p> <p>Tranche 1: Buckley, Holywell and Shotton  Tranche 2: Connah’s Quay and Queensferry  Tranche 3: Flint and Mold.</p> <p>This report provides an update on the process and on the progress made towards developing the seven Place Making Plans in advance of the first two completed Place Making Plans being presented in March 2025 to Scrutiny for review and to Cabinet for approval.</p>
	<p><u>Process and progress</u></p>
1.04	<p>The development of each Place Making Plan involves an eight-stage approach as outlined below.</p>



Stage	Programme of work
1	Review of statistical information, complete range of audits, assessments and site visit(s)
2	Design and undertake public consultation – phase 1 (online and in person)
3	Quantitative and Qualitative Data Analysis of consultation findings
4	Creation of draft Place Making Plan
5	Stakeholder consultation on draft Plan – internal and external to the Council
6	Design and undertake public consultation – phase 2 (online and in person)
7	Analysis of feedback and complete Place Making Plan and Executive Summary
8	Finalisation of Place Making Plan – ready for submission to Scrutiny for review and Cabinet for approval
1.05	<p>The draft Place Making Plans have been informed and shaped by consultation and dialogue with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Over 9,500 online responses to the public consultation using ‘Give My View’ platform (nine campaigns: seven towns at first stage consultation, and two towns at second stage consultation).</li> <li>2. 302 in-person consultation responses from events held in each of the seven towns.</li> <li>3. Regular meetings of multi-agency officer working groups to ensure that the developing plans are suitable wide-reaching in the scope and prioritisation.</li> <li>4. Engagement and participation of colleagues from a range of Council portfolios/ service areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Policy</li> <li>• Streetscene and Transportation</li> <li>• Regeneration</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Youth &amp; Inclusion</li> <li>• Social Care</li> <li>• Homelessness</li> <li>• Housing Strategy</li> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Valuation &amp; Estates</li> <li>• Communications/ Governance</li> <li>• Business Development</li> <li>• Access &amp; Natural Environment</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

5. Engagement and participation of colleagues from over 20 external organisations including:
- North Wales Police and Crime Commissioners Office
  - Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
  - Natural Resources Wales
  - Design Commission for Wales
  - Welsh Government
  - Actif North Wales
  - AURA
  - Federation of Small Businesses
  - Flintshire Local Voluntary Council
  - Age & Dementia Friendly Group
  - Theatr Clwyd
  - NHS Wales, Public Health Board
  - Town Councils
  - Greenfield Valley Trust
  - Buckley Working Group
  - Multiple Churches and Faith Groups
  - Commissioned external consultants / field experts

1.06 In line with the Cabinet approval in October 2022 the Place Making Plans are being developed in tranches to reflect the availability of resources. Progress towards the development of the plans is set out below.

Schedule of work agreed by FCC Cabinet	Town	Stage of completion	Status/Progress.
Tranche 1	Shotton	8	Shotton Place Making Plan: work is complete to Stage 8. Final Plan now completed and ready for consideration by FCC and partner organisations.  To be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in March 2025.
	Holywell	8	Holywell Place Making Plan: Public consultation completed – findings being used to shape final version and Executive Summary.  To be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in March 2025.
	Buckley	6	Buckley Place Making Plan: Public consultation at design stage – public consultation in February- March 2025  Expected to be considered by Overview

				and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in May-June 2025.
	Tranche 2	Connah's Quay	5	Stages 1-3 completed. External funds secured to fund external Placemaking consultant to develop Plan. Consultant procured, work underway. Expected to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in October 2025
		Queens-ferry	5	Stages 1-3 completed. External funds secured to fund external Placemaking consultant to develop Plan. Consultant procured, work underway. Stage expected to be completed by mid-May 2025. Expected to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in October 2025.
	Tranche 3	Flint	3	Stages 1-3 completed. Stage 4 to commence from May/June 2025. Expected to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in April 2026.
		Mold	3	Stages 1-3 completed. Stage 4 to commence from June/July 2025. Expected to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in April 2026.
1.07	The Place Making Plans will create a long-term vision which will require a broad mix of projects and actions to be implemented to achieve them. Each Plan will be supplemented by an action plan to reflect available resources (revenue and capital) and the action planning process will identify key partners, funding sources, resources, timescales. Funding within the Council and amongst partner organisations will undoubtedly limit the amount of financial resource available to implement the plans, but at the same time will result in them being realistic in terms of what can be delivered.			
	<u>Town centre regeneration projects</u>			
1.08	Alongside the development of the seven Place Making Plans, the Council has a wider work programme which includes a broad range of projects across the seven town centres in Flintshire.			

	<p>The projects delivered reflect the emerging priorities of the Place Making Plans and include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental improvements and green infrastructure development.</li> <li>2. Improvements to the physical appearance of the built environment.</li> <li>3. Renovating and bringing buildings back into active use.</li> <li>4. Facilitating the development of community-run facilities in town centres.</li> <li>5. Facilitating community-run activities and events in town centres.</li> <li>6. Undertaking feasibility work to enable future projects to progress in the development journey.</li> </ol>
1.09	A summary of the current regeneration work programme is attached in Appendix 1. This work programme summary includes projects for which external funding totalling £4,702,711 has already been secured and outlines a further £.1 million to be sought from external funding sources for 2025-26

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	To date, the development of the Place Making Plans has been supported by £168,065 from the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund and Welsh Government Transforming Towns programmes. This has covered the cost of Place Making Plan development activity in full. Further WG revenue funding will be sought in April 2025 to fund the remaining activity to be delivered in 2025-26 financial year.
2.02	The current wider regeneration programme of work, together with individual project costs (capital and revenue) and funding sources is detailed in Appendix 1.
2.03	The staff team to deliver the Council's regeneration programme is almost entirely funded through past grant funding and a Council Invest to Save allocation of £148,144, supplemented by additional income from external funding when it can be secured. Since 2021, over £4.7m has been secured by the team to deliver the regeneration programme, a return on investment of £12.02 for every £1 spent.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	<p><b>Capacity</b></p> <p>The regeneration team comprises six officers. The workload connected to the development of seven Place Making Plan development is considerable, especially given this is being delivered alongside the wider Regeneration work programme. The sequencing of Place Making Plans being developed in tranches enables work to progress alongside project delivery and implementation of externally funded regeneration projects and activities.</p> <p>The risk of insufficient officer resource and being reliant upon external funding to fund staff posts is documented in the Council strategic risk register.</p>

	<p><b>Capital and revenue resources</b></p> <p>There is expected to be a mismatch between the scale of need identified in the emerging Place Making Plans and the availability of resources to address them.</p> <p>The main Welsh Government Transforming Towns capital programme has funded a range of investment activities in town centre across Flintshire in 2024-25, further details about projects are outlined in Appendix 1. Further Transforming Towns funding for will continue to be available to local authorities from April 2025. The funding available in North Wales remains small (£8m per annum for six counties) and is highly likely to be oversubscribed. However, Welsh Government are eager to see Place Making Plans inform and set the context for future town centre investment and may make further funding available.</p> <p>In addition, £1,542,000 was secured through the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund to deliver the ‘Town Centre Investment Programme’ between July 2023 and March 2025. Further funds albeit on a smaller scale (anticipated £500,000) are likely to be available through the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund Transition Programme for 2025-26. The Council’s Regeneration Team aim to apply for further funds to support ongoing place making and regeneration activity in 2025-26. The Council will need match funding or loan repayment funding in order to make full use of these opportunities.</p> <p>The Council’s long-term capital strategy includes the need to make investments in the town centres but does not, at this point, quantify this or identify specific proposals.</p> <p><b>Political</b></p> <p>Resources will not allow the Council to do everything everywhere and viable property interventions will not be present in every town. Managing expectations will be key in the process, particularly given that over 9,500 local people have already participated in consultation as part of the Place Making Plan development process. Interventions that change the form and function of towns may not always be popular locally. Where significant change is proposed then the development of local action plans and masterplans allow for extensive local consultation and discussion on options.</p>
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<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	<p>Multiple engagement and consultation activities have been carried out for each Place Making Plan developed involving the general public, partner organisations, and internal officers across the Council. This has resulted over 9500 responses to date from a range of activity undertaken, as follows</p> <p>Stage 1 Consultation: before the Place Making Plan was developed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give My View online public consultation</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21 individual in-person consultation events (3 per town)</li> <li>• Engagement and consultation with 20 stakeholder organisations</li> <li>• Engagement with 23 local school children</li> <li>• 6 meetings each of the ‘People’s Group’ and ‘Places Group’.</li> <li>• Age and Dementia friendly audit</li> <li>• Meeting with local Members to present data findings from online consultation/ initial emerging priorities.</li> </ul> <p>Stage 2 Consultation – after the Place Making Plan was developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give My View online public consultation.</li> <li>• Week-long consultation exhibition/ in person events.</li> <li>• 1 joint meeting of both the ‘People’s Group’ and ‘Places Group’.</li> <li>• Town Council: one-off meeting, followed up by written feedback.</li> <li>• Draft Plans shared with local elected Members.</li> </ul>
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<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1: Current Regeneration Work Programme.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<b>1. Further reading about Placemaking in Wales:</b> <a href="https://dcfw.org/placemaking/">https://dcfw.org/placemaking/</a>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Karen Whitney-Lang, Regeneration Manager <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702141 (English) / 01267 224923 (Welsh) <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:karen.whitney-lang@flintshire.gov.uk">karen.whitney-lang@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b> <b>These are provided corporately on the Infonet (link) and maintained by the Executive Office</b>
	<p><b>Place Making Plan</b> - a plan that sets out a long-term vision for a place typically developed using robust evidence including data, consultation findings and visual assessments of a place. The aims of a Place Making Plan is to identify priorities for how the place can be improved to deliver multiple benefits to the local population, economy and environment.</p> <p><b>Give My View</b> – an online platform supplied by external supplier in partnership with Flintshire County Council which was used to engage and</p>

consult (survey) local people as part of the Place Making Plan development programme.

**Welsh Government Transforming Towns** – a funding programme currently worth £8million per annum in North Wales, designed to support investment in town centres across Wales as part of the implementation of Welsh Government's 'Towns Centre First' policy.

**Welsh Government's Town Centre First Policy** – a cross government policy that aims to tackle vacant premises, combatting dereliction and breathing new life into town centres across Wales.

**Shared Prosperity Fund** – a £2.6 billion investment fund from UK Government distributed to projects via regional lead bodies and local authorities for investment across the UK between 2023 and 2025.

**Shared Prosperity Fund Transition Programme** – a £900 million UK government funding programme for 2025-26 to be distributed across local authorities in the UK, to follow on from previous investment made between 2023 and 2025.

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**APPENDIX 1:**

**Current Regeneration Work Programme**

In addition to the development of 7 Place Making Plans, the Regeneration team (comprising 6 staff) has a wider ambitious work programme which includes a broad range of projects across the 7 town centres in Flintshire, these currently include:

Project	Description	Project funding source & value (£)	Timeframe for delivery
'Town Centre Investment Programme'	<p>Programme of 10 projects aimed at bringing economic, social and environmental benefits and impacts to 7 towns across Flintshire.</p> <p>Projects include capital investment (town centre properties), management and administration of open-call grant schemes, developing future projects through feasibility works, green infrastructure investment, markets promotion and engagement activity and communication projects (e.g Films to showcase work/ investment opportunities, Social Media promotion, Placemaking Animation development)</p>	<p>UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund</p> <p>£1,864,192.00 (Capital &amp; Revenue)</p>	1 July 2023 – 31 March 2025
Placemaking investment Projects 2024-25	Working with private sector to deliver investment such as property improvements across towns in Flintshire	Welsh Government Transforming Towns Place Making Grant £1,168,869.00 (Capital)	1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025
Placemaking activities for 2024-25	<p>Delivery of revenue funded Place Making Activity in 2024-25.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procurement of Built-ID consultation software for further 12 months</li> <li>- Social Media Campaigns to encourage participation in Place Making Plan consultations online.</li> <li>- Procurement and design of Placemaking E-learning module.</li> </ul>	<p>Welsh Government Transforming Towns Place Making Grant</p> <p>£35,110 (Revenue)</p>	1 October 2024 – 31 March 2025.
Placemaking investment 2025-26	Development of portfolio of investment projects to be included in WG funding application. Projects to be delivered in 2025-26	TBC – expected to be minimum of £500,000 (Capital)	1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026
Town Centre Investment Programme – Phase 2	Development of portfolio of investment projects to be included in SPF Transition funding request for projects to be delivered in 2025-26.	<p>UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund</p> <p>£TBC – anticipated to be minimum of £500,000</p>	TBC. Likely 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026,
Holywell Investment	Co-ordination of activity – including leading the delivery of 2 of 4	Safer Streets 5 £69,000 (revenue)	1 October 2023 –

Strategy Workstreams	workstreams: - Holywell Intervention Hub Feasibility Study  - Greenfield Valley Visionary Study	Cost part of £1,863,192 SPF Investment Programme	31 March 2025. 1 July 2024 – 30 January 2025
Completion of WG projects awarded funding in previous financial years	i) The Dolphin redevelopment (phase 1), High Street Mold  ii) Completion of regeneration funded element of 31 Chester Road West improvements.  iii) Green Infrastructure Investment (now separated from Active Travel scheme, Shotton)	£389,000 WG & Private Sector Investment (Capital)  £158,000 (Capital)  £245,000 (Capital)	By 31 March 2025.  By 31 March 2025.  Works to be procured and started before 31 March 2025. End date TBC.
Redevelopment of Rivertown, Shotton	Refurbishment of existing church to provide multi-functional facility in Shotton town centre – project being led by Rivertown URC, with support from FCC Regeneration & WG. Including decant to Bryn Tyrion, Shotton.	WG Strategic Placemaking Grant 2025-26  £750,000 WG Capital (£2.4 million in total)	1 April 2025- 31 March 2026.
Old Buckley Baths, Buckley	Support to Old Buckley Baths Trustees & new OBB Working Group – including contract management of Do-Well and their legal team (commissioned in October 2024 through to March 2025) to support increasing capacity of the group to drive forwards the potential redevelopment of the asset. To commission surveys/ studies to assist the working group with project preliminaries/ feasibility works.	UK Government ‘Shared Prosperity Funds’ £23,650 (Phase 2)	By 31 March 2025.
Ongoing incoming enquiries from Town centre businesses and property owners	Responding to investment enquiries and supporting the development of projects for future funding including use of loan/ grant funding/ business support intervention and signposting.	Staff time	Ongoing



## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>Report Subject</b>	Expansion of Specialist Education Provision
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks to inform Cabinet of the responses from the Statutory Objection period (“the Objection Report”), under section 49 of ‘The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, School Organisation Code’ for expansion of inhouse specialist education provision at Ysgol Pen Coch primary special school, Flint to include the management of the centre Canolfan Enfys which is currently under the management of the Pupil Referral Unit Plas Derwen.

Cabinet is requested to determine on the Statutory Proposals put forward for the expansion of inhouse specialist education provision at Ysgol Pen Coch primary special school, Flint, to include the management of the centre Canolfan Enfys.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet is requested to consider the responses from the Statutory Objection period for expansion of inhouse specialist education at Ysgol Pen Coch primary special school, Flint, to include the management of the centre Canolfan Enfys and make a final determination on the proposal.
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## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE EXPANSION OF SPECIALIST EDUCATION PROVISION</b>
1.01	The Council is experiencing challenges in meeting its statutory duties with regards to educational provision for children with additional learning needs due a lack of specialist placements both inhouse and externally. Since the pandemic, there has been a rise in the number of children for whom mainstream schools are unable to meet their presenting needs.
1.02	The Council has a range of specialist provision which includes county Resource Bases in mainstream schools which allows for those with a higher level of need to be co-educated in designated settings. These cater for needs such as social communication, hearing impairment and behaviour/social emotional difficulties. Apart from two secondary Resources for dyslexia and hearing impairment, our Resource provision is full or oversubscribed.
1.03	The Council also has two specialist schools namely Ysgol Pen Coch (primary) and Ysgol Maes Hyfryd (secondary) which cater for those children with more severe learning difficulties, along with the recently newly built Plas Derwen Pupil Referral Unit. Both specialist schools are at capacity resulting in the need to seek external placements known as out of county (OOC) provision.
1.04	A review of the presenting need indicates that investment in the primary specialist sector at Ysgol Pen Coch is a priority at this time pending any future decisions around further significant investment in the Council's specialist educational provision. The school is currently at capacity with 98 learners on roll. The number of places the school can accommodate is subject to need and dependent on the nature of the learners' needs and accommodation requirements, e.g., specialist equipment and staffing support requirements. The existing building cannot cater for any additional learners. This, alongside the lack of OOC provision has led to a waiting list for specialist placements.
1.05	Following the statutory inspection of Plas Derwen Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), Estyn questioned the suitability of the foundation phase centre Canolfan Enfys sitting under the registration and management of the portfolio PRU and tasked the Council with seeking alternative arrangements.
1.06	Canolfan Enfys caters for 30 children aged 3 to 7 with a range of complex needs, the majority of which transfer to Ysgol Pen Coch. Prior to 2012, the Centre had been an assessment facility under the management of Ysgol Pen Coch. However, operational challenges at the time resulted in the provision coming under the management of the Council. Having considered the options, the preference is to re-register the provision with Ysgol Pen Coch given the similarities in presenting needs and the Governing Body has been approached to consider this proposal.
1.07	On 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2023 Cabinet approved to proceed to issue a statutory notice for an increase in pupil places at Ysgol Pen Coch, Flint. Expansion

	of places at this point will include for taking over management of Canolfyn Enfys, increasing the current capacity of Ysgol Pen Coch from 98 to 128 from 1 April 2025.
1.08	Statutory consultation commenced on 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 and ended on 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2024. 80 responses were received including a formal response from Estyn and school pupil council. 91% of responders supported the proposal.
1.09	The Cabinet Report and consultation responses for Ysgol Pen Coch were considered by Cabinet on 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2024. The consultation report was published on 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2024.
1.10	Cabinet determined that Statutory Notices be issued for the proposal. These were published on 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 and ran until 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2024.
1.11	Under the School Organisational Code the Statutory Proposals for Ysgol Pen Coch are to be determined by the Council's Cabinet, rather than Welsh Ministers.  Objections must be conscientiously considered alongside the arguments, provided by other stakeholders in respect of the proposals and in light of the following factors:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quality and Standards in Education</li> <li>- Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools</li> <li>- Resourcing of education and other financial implications</li> <li>- Other general factors</li> </ul>
1.12	<b>Objection Period</b>  During the objection period the Council received no objections for the expansion of Ysgol Pen Coch.
1.13	Subject to Cabinet approval on determination for the proposal to enlarge Ysgol Pen Coch, a decision letter will be issued.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	A number of options for expanding the provision at Ysgol Pen Coch are still under consideration including the addition of building extensions and refurbishment of other facilities within the Education & Youth Portfolio. All options are being fully considered and further information will be provided to Cabinet as part of any future consultation process.

2.02	<p>There are associated revenue costs attached to the proposal and these are outlined below. These have been captured within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS):</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Revenue Pressure</th> <th>Estimated full year cost</th> <th>Implementation date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Canolfan Enfys reregistration</td> <td>£0.194m</td> <td>Summer Term 2025</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Revenue Pressure	Estimated full year cost	Implementation date	Canolfan Enfys reregistration	£0.194m	Summer Term 2025
Revenue Pressure	Estimated full year cost	Implementation date					
Canolfan Enfys reregistration	£0.194m	Summer Term 2025					
2.03	<p>An additional financial consideration is that of transport costs. The Council provides transport for children who are deemed to required specialist provision. Pupils accessing Canolfan Enfys already access transport and this arrangement will not change under this proposal. Any additional pupils moving from mainstream provision will be entitled to transport.</p>						

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>												
3.01	<p>All projects and consultations within the school modernisation programme are managed using a risk register. Risks are managed accordingly, and financial risks are managed through a programme contingency. Any high-level risk which cannot be managed with the projects/programme will be incorporated into the risk register for the Education and Youth Portfolio.</p>												
3.02	<p>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ways of Working Principle</th> <th>Impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td>Positive - Ensures that high quality specialist education places are available to communities to meet demand of specialist educational</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> <td>Positive - preventing inappropriate placements for the most vulnerable learners.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> <td>Positive – the additional specialist education places will integrate children from varying backgrounds.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> <td>Positive – partnership arrangements inhouse and with external parties including school governing bodies.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> <td>Positive - The proposed projects involves a range of stakeholders to enable its delivery.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ways of Working Principle	Impact	Long-term	Positive - Ensures that high quality specialist education places are available to communities to meet demand of specialist educational	Prevention	Positive - preventing inappropriate placements for the most vulnerable learners.	Integration	Positive – the additional specialist education places will integrate children from varying backgrounds.	Collaboration	Positive – partnership arrangements inhouse and with external parties including school governing bodies.	Involvement	Positive - The proposed projects involves a range of stakeholders to enable its delivery.
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Collaboration	Positive – partnership arrangements inhouse and with external parties including school governing bodies.												
Involvement	Positive - The proposed projects involves a range of stakeholders to enable its delivery.												
3.03	<p>Well-being Principle Impacts</p> <p>Against the seven well-being goals of the Act, the potential impact of the</p>												

report and its recommendations would be evaluated as follows:-	
<b>Well-being Principle</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Prosperous Wales	Positive - Ensuring our schools are in the right place and of the right type.
Resilient Wales	Positive - Use of sustainable and recycled materials during construction, more energy efficient, potential reduction in carbon
Healthier Wales	Positive - Improved physical infrastructure, facilities and services which positively impact on the wellbeing of the school and its community.
More Equal Wales	Positive - Assessments are already embedded in school culture. Opening up more specialist education places to those who need them.
Cohesive Wales	Positive - School network widens its number of places for specialist provision through delivery of facilities of the right type in the right place and services are appropriately aligned.
Vibrant Wales	Positive - Enables facilities and services to work together to improve, both curricular, extra-curricular and community use of school buildings.
Globally Responsible Wales	Positive - Delivers more sustainable services and added benefits for the community.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	Determination on statutory proposals is the responsibility of Cabinet.
4.02	Subject to Cabinet determination, no further consultations are required through the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, School Organisation Code by the School Modernisation Team. The Council must publish the Objection Report at the same time that the decision is issued.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – Objection Report summarising the process and responses from the objection exercise.

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6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>School Organisation Code – The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2018</p> <p><a href="https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/schoolorganisation-code-second-edition.pdf">https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/schoolorganisation-code-second-edition.pdf</a></p>
6.02	<p>All documents related to the Statutory proposals including the Consultation Document, the Consultation report and the published Statutory Notices are available at:</p> <p><a href="https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-ModernisationRelated/Home.aspx">https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-ModernisationRelated/Home.aspx</a></p>
6.03	<p>Canolfan Enfys Consultation Report</p> <p><a href="https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Modernisation-Related/Canolfan-Enfys.aspx">https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Modernisation-Related/Canolfan-Enfys.aspx</a></p>

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Jennie Williams, Senior Manager Planning and Provision</p> <p><b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704015</p> <p><b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:jennie.williams@flintshire.gov.uk">jennie.williams@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p><b>School Organisation Code</b> – The new School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2018 makes Local Authorities responsible (rather than the Welsh Ministers prior to October 2018) for the determination of most statutory school organisation proposals that receive objections.</p>





# **OBJECTION REPORT**

**Proposal to reorganise Canolfan Enfys under the management of Ysgol Pen Coch and increase the nominal capacity from 98 to 128 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025**

**February 2025**

**If you require a hard copy of this report in hard copy please email [21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk) with your name and postal address. Please indicate whether you would like to receive the document in Welsh, English or both.**

## Flintshire County Council - Education & Youth

### Objection Report

#### Proposal to reorganise Canolfan Enfys under the management of Ysgol Pen Coch and increase the nominal capacity from 98 to 128 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025

##### 1. Purpose

The report is published in line with the requirements under section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. This is a summary of the statutory objections – otherwise known as “the Objection Report”.

##### 2. Publication of the Statutory Notice

Following the formal consultation period, having been provided with the information gathered through the consultation, the decision was taken by Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to proceed to publish the proposal, by way of a Statutory Notice for 28 days from Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

The Statutory Notice was published in accordance with Section 41 & 43 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. The Statutory Notice was published on the Flintshire County Council website and posted at the main entrance of Ysgol Pen Coch and Canolfan Enfys. Each provision affected by the proposal received electronic copies of the notice and was provided with details of how to obtain hard copies of the notice. The table below sets out the list of recipients who received a copy of the Consultation Document and Statutory Notices, in accordance with the School Organisation Code.

Requirement under the Organisational Code 011/2018	It will be distributed to
School community	The Headteacher, teachers and staff of Ysgol Pen Coch.  Teachers and staff at Canolfan Enfys.  Pupils at Ysgol Pen Coch and Canolfan Enfys.  Parents, carers, and guardians (and where possible prospective parents, carers and guardians) of pupils attending Ysgol Pen Coch and Canolfan Enfys.  The Headteacher, teachers, staff of Plas Derwen (Pupil Referral Unit)
the maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for any school likely to be affected	Flintshire County Council is submitting the proposal

by the proposals;	
any other local authority likely to be affected - including in the case of dedicated Special Education Need (SEN)/Additional Learning Need (ALN) provision any authority placing or likely to place statemented pupils in it;	
the Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for the area in which any school likely to be affected is located;	
any other appropriate religious body for any school likely to be affected by the proposals;	
The governing body any school which is the subject of the proposals and of other schools likely to be affected by the proposals, including those that might receive any displaced pupils.	Governing Body of Ysgol Pen Coch Management Committee of Plas Derwen (Pupil Referral Unit)
The governing body of other schools which the proposer considers are likely to be affected by the proposals;	Governing Body of Maes Hyfryd
The Welsh Ministers.	
Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals.	MPs AMs
Estyn.	Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales
Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is the subject of the proposals.	Representatives of NASUWT; NEU; UCAC; ASCL; UNISON
The relevant Regional Education Consortium.	GWE advisor for Plas Derwen/Pen Coch
The relevant Regional Transport Consortium.	
The Police and Crime Commissioner for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals.	Police Commissioner for North Wales
Any community or town council for the area served by/ intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals	Flint Town Council Mold Town Council
The local Communities First Partnership (in relevant areas).	
In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, any independent providers who may be affected;	
In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, the Children and Young People's Partnership and/or the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships where present.	Early Years Wales PACEY
In the case of proposals affecting Special Education Need/Additional Learning Need provision, any relevant health or third sector	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

bodies with an interest.	
In the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, any further education institutions serving the area of the school.	
In the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, parents of pupils attending primary schools from which pupils normally transfer to that secondary school.	
In the case of proposals affecting Welsh language provision, the Welsh Language Commissioner.	
Other	All Flintshire Council Councillors

### 3. Objections

During the objection period, **0 objections were received** by Flintshire County Council in relation to reorganising Canolfan Enfys under the management of Ysgol Pen Coch and increasing the nominal capacity from 98 to 128 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

In accordance with the School Organisation Code (2013) this Objection Report is made available to stakeholders via an email link and also published electronically on Flintshire County Council's website at:

[www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation)

To request a hard (paper) copy of this document please email [21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk), or write to the School Modernisation Team, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 6ND, or contact the team on 01352 704015 or 704134.

### 4. Decision Notification

As outlined during the consultation process, the proposal to reorganise Canolfan Enfys under the management of Ysgol Pen Coch and increase the nominal capacity from 98 to 128 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, requires the approval of the Local Authority Cabinet Members.

This Objection Report alongside a copy of the consultation document; a copy of the consultation report, and a copy of the published notice will be forwarded to Cabinet Members for determination.



## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>Report Subject</b>	Terminating the GwE Partnership Agreement
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Culture
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GwE was established by agreement between the six Local Authorities in North Wales dated 18 February 2013 in response to changes for school improvement activity directed by Welsh Government.

It was agreed to establish a Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service which would be accountable to the six Councils and which would deliver a significant proportion of the statutory functions of the Councils in relation to the effectiveness and improvement of schools i.e. monitoring school performance, challenging school performance, providing support services where improvement needs were identified, providing professional development for the school workforce in relation to curriculum design, teaching and learning, in addition to providing other services that could be commissioned by schools and local authorities.

On 31 January 2024, the then Minister for Education and the Welsh Language published a written statement referring to a review of the roles and responsibilities of Education partners in Wales as well as current school improvement arrangements. This is generally referred to as 'The Middle Tier Review'. The statement made it clear that there was an intention from Welsh Government to move away from the wider regional model for supporting school improvement with local authorities taking back full responsibility for school improvement activity. This led to confirmation that GwE would cease to exist as a regional consortium.

As a result of that statement, a Transitional Board has been established to oversee the arrangements for transferring GwE services back to the local authorities in North Wales and structures have been developed to provide support to schools at individual local authority level. This is a complex piece of work and is ongoing.

Therefore, the agreement to work together in a formal regional partnership needs to be formally concluded. In order to do that, all six Councils need to agree in

writing to terminate the current agreement. Cabinet is asked to approve the recommendation to terminate this collaboration agreement and thereby confirm that GwE will end on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet approves the termination of the agreement to work in partnership with other North Wales local authorities in the context of the regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GwE) on 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2025 and subsequently dissolve the requirement for the Joint Committee.
2	That Cabinet confirms its contractual commitment in relation to ending the arrangement.

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE GWE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT</b>
1.01	<p>GwE was established by agreement between the six Local Authorities in North Wales dated 18 February 2013 in response to changes for school improvement activity directed by Welsh Government.</p> <p>It was agreed to establish a Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service which would be accountable to the six Councils and which would deliver a significant proportion of the statutory functions of the Councils in relation to the effectiveness and improvement of schools i.e. monitoring school performance, challenging school performance, providing support services where improvement needs were identified, providing professional development for the school workforce in relation to curriculum design, teaching and learning, in addition to providing other services that could be commissioned by schools and local authorities.</p>
1.02	The councils agreed to appoint Gwynedd Council as the Accommodation Authority for implementing and maintaining the Service by forming a Joint Committee, to keep an overview and give guidance as required, in accordance with Section 101(5) and 102(1 ) Local Government Act 1972 and Section 20 of the Local Government Act 2000.
1.03	On 31 January 2024, the then Minister for Education and the Welsh Language published a written statement referring to a review of the roles and responsibilities of Education partners in Wales as well as current school improvement arrangements. This is generally referred to as 'The Middle Tier Review'. The statement made it clear that there was an intention from Welsh Government to move away from the wider regional model for supporting school improvement with local authorities taking back full responsibility for school improvement activity. This led to confirmation that GwE would cease to exist as a regional consortium.

1.04	As a result of that statement, a Transitional Board has been established to oversee the arrangements for transferring GwE services back to the local authorities in North Wales and structures have been developed to provide support to schools at individual local authority level. This is a complex piece of work and is ongoing.
1.05	Since the Ministerial announcement, the Education Portfolio has developed a new school improvement model for Flintshire which has been endorsed by headteachers and by the Cabinet. This model has also been reviewed by Welsh Government who are content that our proposed model meets the principles and objectives of their national guidance on new school improvement arrangements.
1.06	The Chief Officer for Education and Youth is a member of the Transition Board overseeing the change process from a regional to a local service. As there are complex employment legislative requirements in relation to existing GwE staff, the Education Portfolio's Human Resources Business Partner is also a member of the Transition Board.
1.07	<p>The initial proposal was that all activity related to the transition of the regional service to individual local authorities would be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 to align with the financial year.</p> <p>However, the complex nature of this activity and the requirements of employment legislation in relation to staff currently employed in the regional service has resulted in the cessation of the service being pushed back to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025.</p>
1.08	<p>As the regional approach to school improvement has been ceased by Welsh Government, the GwE/North Wales Councils' Inter-Authority Agreement which established the original regional partnership needs to be formally concluded.</p> <p>In order to do that, all six Councils need to agree in writing to terminate the current agreement. Cabinet is asked to approve the recommendation to terminate this collaboration agreement and thereby confirm that GwE will end on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025 and subsequently dissolve the requirement for the Joint Committee.</p> <p>It should be noted that terminating the agreement does not affect cumulative rights or the commitments that have already been agreed upon. Those commitments are detailed in the agreement made between the six Authorities in 2013 (see Appendix 1).</p>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The partnership agreement required each Council to provide funding for GwE on an annual basis based on an agreed formula linked to pupil numbers. The other main source of funding for GwE came directly from Welsh Government in the form of grants to support their policy priorities.

2.02	From April 2024, Welsh Government ceased funding regional consortia and redirected grant funding to Local Authorities via the Local Authority Education Grant (LAEG). Noting that transition from regional to local arrangements would take time, the then Minister directed local authorities to return some elements of the LAEG back to regional consortia for the financial year 2024-25 to maintain school improvement activity. The Council complied fully with this directive and a revised commissioned plan for GwE involvement in Flintshire schools was put in place for the 2024-25 financial year. The amount of LAEG funding passed back to GwE for the 2024-25 financial year was £912,493.
2.03	Under the partnership agreement, the Council contribution to GwE for 2024-25 was maintained but was subject to a cost reduction of 10%. The total council contribution for 2024-25 was £801,988.
2.04	If the transition is successfully concluded by 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2025 then an agreement will need to be reached between the six North Wales authorities to set an interim proportional contribution from each council for the first two months of the new financial year in order to maintain the service until it formally ends.
2.05	<p>Amongst its responsibilities as the host authority, Cyngor Gwynedd is the employer of GwE staff. The Inter-Authority Agreement contains provisions to indemnify the Cyngor Gwynedd from costs, such as redundancy payments, which it may incur by reason of or arising out of the carrying out its obligations in its role as host authority.</p> <p>All efforts are being made to place as many GwE staff as possible into the new services hosted by each individual authority, but it is inevitable that there will be some redundancies. Every effort will be made to keep these costs to a minimum. The costs of redundancies will be met by residual GwE funds as much as possible and a transition grant from Welsh Government, but any remaining costs will have to be met by the six North Wales authorities, until that work is completed this cost cannot be quantified.</p>

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	The risk around the cessation of GwE is being managed via a Transition Board which is independently chaired and is comprised of the 6 North Wales Chief Education Officers, HR Business Partners from the 6 councils, senior managers from GwE and an independent HR consultant.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	Flintshire County Council conducted a consultation meeting with all Trade Union and Professional Associations regarding its School Improvement Model and the implications for GwE staff on 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025.



<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Inter-Authority Agreement 2013

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>Welsh Government Review of the Roles and Responsibilities of Education Partners in Wales (Middle Tier Review)</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.wales/terms-reference-review-roles-and-responsibilities-education-partners-wales-and-delivery-school-html">https://www.gov.wales/terms-reference-review-roles-and-responsibilities-education-partners-wales-and-delivery-school-html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.wales/review-roles-and-responsibilities-education-partners-wales-and-delivery-school-improvement-html">https://www.gov.wales/review-roles-and-responsibilities-education-partners-wales-and-delivery-school-improvement-html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-next-stage-review-school-improvement-roles-and-responsibilities-education">https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-next-stage-review-school-improvement-roles-and-responsibilities-education</a></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Claire Homard, Chief Officer Education &amp; Youth  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704601  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:claire.homard@flintshire.gov.uk">claire.homard@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
	<p><b>GwE</b> – the regional school improvement service for North Wales</p> <p><b>LAEG</b> – Local Authority Education Grant – grant funding from Welsh Government to deliver of their stated education improvement priorities</p> <p><b>Transition Board</b> – a ‘task and finish’ group of Chief Education Officers and HR Lead Officers with an independent Chair and independent HR consultant to oversee the cessation of GwE and the management of GwE staff, assets and resources on behalf of the six North Wales Councils and the Host Authority (Gwynedd).</p>

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18<sup>th</sup> Feb

2013

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- (1) CONWY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
- (2) DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
- (3) FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
- (4) GWYNEDD COUNCIL
- (5) ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL
- (6) WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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**INTER-AUTHORITY AGREEMENT  
REGIONAL SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS AND  
IMPROVEMENT SERVICE**

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THIS AGREEMENT is made on *16 Feb* 2013

## BETWEEN

- (1) **CONWY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL** of Bodlondeb, Conwy, North Wales, LL32 8DU ("**Conwy Council**");
- (2) **DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** of Council Offices, Ruthin, Denbighshire, ("**Denbighshire Council**");
- (3) **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** of County Hall, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 6NB ("**Flintshire Council**");
- (4) **GWYNEDD COUNCIL** of Council Offices, Shirehall Street, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH ("**Gwynedd Council**");
- (5) **ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL** of Council Offices, Llangefni, Anglesey, LL77 7TW ("**Isle of Anglesey Council**"); and
- (6) **WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL** of the Guildhall , Wrexham LL11 1AY ("**Wrexham Council**")

(together referred to as the "**Councils**" and individually as a "**Council**")

## BACKGROUND

- (A) The Councils have agreed to work together in a partnering relationship to establish a Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service to be accountable to, and undertake the statutory functions of the Councils in respect of school improvement and effectiveness (the "**Service**").
- (B) The Council's vision is to establish a Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement service to be accountable to, and undertake the statutory responsibilities of, the six local North Wales Authorities in respect of the duties to monitor; challenge; provide support services for curriculum continued professional development and management of schools, and in addition provide services that can be commissioned by schools and local authorities.



- (C) The Councils have agreed to enter into this Agreement to formalise their respective roles and responsibilities in relation to the Service and the appointment of Gwynedd Council as Host Authority in implementing and maintaining and carrying out the Service in accordance with the terms of the agreed Final Business Case.
- (D) The Councils wish to enter into this Agreement and implement the Service pursuant to the powers conferred on them by Section 9 of the Local Government Wales Measure 2009, Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 Sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 and associated Regulations.
- (E) The Councils acknowledge that this Agreement sets out the basis on which they will establish and manage the Service.

## 1. Definitions and Interpretation

- 1.1 In this Agreement, unless, the context otherwise requires the following terms shall have the meaning given to them below:-

“Assets”	means the Assets identified in Clause 9
“Business Day”	means any day other than a Saturday or Sunday or a public or bank holiday in Wales
“Chair”	means the chair of the Joint Committee (duly appointed pursuant to Clause 8.13)
“Chief Officer”	means the Chief Officer of the Service
“Commencement Date”	means the date hereof
“Commissioning Model”	The Model by which the Services to be provided to Councils, schools and learning settings will be

	established and agreed – Schedule 1B
“Confidential Information”	means all information whether commercial, financial, technical or otherwise relating to the business of Councils, which is contained in or discernible in any form whatsoever (including without limitation software, data, drawings, films, documents and computer-readable media) whether or not marked or designated as confidential or proprietary or which is disclosed orally or by demonstration and which is described at the time of disclosure as confidential or is clearly so from its content of the context of disclosure
“DPA”	means the Data Protection Act 1998
“Directive”	means Council Directive 2001/23/EC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the safeguarding of employees’ rights in the event of transfers of undertakings, businesses or parts of undertakings or businesses as applied by the Cabinet Office Statement of Practice: Staff Transfers in the Public Sector
“Employee”	means all those persons employed by the Councils in relation to the Service Functions under a contract of employment (excluding for the avoidance of doubt any person so engaged as an independent contractor or person employed by any sub-contractor employed by a Council in relation to a Service function in the period prior to the Implementation Date)
“Employee	means the information pertaining to the Transferring



Information”	Employees to be supplied by the Councils pursuant to Clause 15 and Schedules 5 and 6
“Final Business Case”	means the Final business case dated February 2012 (as amended from time to time) prepared and approved by the Councils before submission to Welsh Government for funding to support the Service
“Financial Year”	the period between 1 April and 31 March (inclusive)
“Fund”	the Gwynedd Pension Fund within the LGPS;
“Host Council”	means the Council appointed under Clause 6 as the administering authority for the Service whose duties are set out in this Agreement
“Implementation Date”	means the 1st day of April 2013 or such other date as may be agreed by the Councils being the date upon which the Service becomes operational
“Intellectual Property”	means any and all patents, trade marks, trade names, copyright, moral rights, rights in design, rights in databases, know-how and all or other intellectual property rights whether or not registered or capable of registration and whether subsisting in the United Kingdom or any other part of the world together with all or any goodwill relating to them and the right to apply for registration of them
“IP Material”	means the Intellectual Property in the Material
“Joint	shall have the meaning given to it in Clause 8.1

Committee”	
“Joint Committee Meeting”	means a meeting of the Joint Committee duly convened in accordance with Clause 8
“Key Aims”	means the aims listed in Clause 4.2
“Lead Finance Officer”	means the person so appointed from time to time by the Host Council to represent the interests of the Councils in respect of financial matters of the Service
“Lead Legal Officer”	means the person so appointed from time to time by the Host Council to represent the interests of the Councils in respect of legal matters of the Service
“LGPS”	the Local Government Pension Scheme established pursuant to regulations made by the Secretary of State in exercise of powers under section 7 and 12 of the Superannuation Act 1972 as amended from time to time
“LGPS Regulations”	the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008, the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 and the Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2008, as amended from time to time
“Liabilities”	all costs, expenses, losses, claims, proceedings, damages, awards and other liabilities including reasonable legal and other professional fees and expenses) whenever arising or brought

“Local Authority”	means a principal council (as defined in Section 270 of the Local Government Act 1972) or any body of government in Wales established as a successor of a principal council
“Loss”	actions, proceedings, losses, damages, awards, orders, liabilities (including any liability to taxation), claims, costs, demands and expenses, including fines, penalties, reasonable legal and other professional fees and expenses and “Losses” shall be construed accordingly
“Material”	means all data, text, graphics, images and other materials or documents created, used or supplied by a Council in connection with this Agreement unless before the first use or supply, the Council notifies the other Councils that the data, text supplied is not to be covered by this definition
“Matters Reserved To The Councils”	means the matters as defined in Clause 7.1.2
North Wales Consortium	The North Wales Consortium of Education Services.
“Outcomes”	The Outcomes set out in the Full Business Case and recited in clause 11.1
“Partnership Contributions”	Means the contribution of each Council towards the Service Budget calculated in accordance with the terms of this agreement
“Model”	means the Centre for Dispute Resolution Model

“Procedure”	Mediation Procedure
“Personal Data”	means personal data as defined in the DPA
“Records”	all books and records relating to the Service, the Assets and the Employees (including personnel files) to the extent the same are owned by and are in the possession and control of a Council and subject to any restrictions on records having transferred under legislation (including data protection) or by virtue of any confidentially restrictions to which a Council is subject and Host Council Officers or their agents shall be granted full access rights to those records which relate to the period prior to the Implementation Date
“Region”	Means the collective administrative areas of the Councils
“Regional Partnership Board”	Means the Partnership Board of the Leaders and Chief Executives of the Councils
“Relevant E L Policy”	means any contract of insurance remaining in force at the Implementation Date giving a Council indemnity against liability as an employer to Employees and, for the avoidance of doubt, a Relevant E L Policy will include compulsory employer’s liability policies, employment protection policies and any other policy which is designed to protect the Council from liability to Employees
“Relevant Employer”	means an employer providing services to a Council whether directly as main contractor or indirectly as

	sub-contractor to whom the contract of employment of any Transferring Employee or any other employee Council be employed in relation to the Service transferred or alleged to be transferred pursuant to the TUPE Regulations and/or the Directive
"Rights"	means the benefits of all rights, entitlements and claims (whether actual, prospective or contingent) to which Councils are entitled in relation to any Assets (including the benefit of any warranty, condition, guarantee, indemnity or policy of insurance) up to the Implementation Date and as of the Implementation Date
"Services"	Mean the Functions and Services set out in Schedule 1A
"Service"	means the North Wales Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service established pursuant to this agreement
"Service Budget"	Means the annual baseline budget for the Service as agreed between the Councils
"Service Employees"	Means staff employed from time to time by the Host Authority in that capacity
"SLA"	means an annual Service Level Agreement agreed between the Service and a Council or school or learning setting defining the respective roles and responsibilities of the Service and the Council or school and the Services ( including standards and



	performance ) which will be provided to that pursuant to this agreement and the relevant Commissioning Plan
"Service Section 151 Officer"	means the person so appointed by the Host Council (as their officer appointed pursuant to section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972) as the officer responsible for the proper administration of the financial affairs under the Service and who shall manage the Lead Finance officer and collate regular reports on Service accounting matters (provided that for the avoidance of doubt each Council's own officer appointed pursuant to section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 shall be entitled to attend Service Board Meetings and Joint Committee Meetings from time to time
"Transferring Employees"	means any employee of a Council in respect of whom the particulars set out in Schedule 5 of this Agreement are supplied to The Host Council as provided for in Clause 14 and whose contract of employment takes effect on the Implementation Date as if originally made between the Host Council and such employee
"TUPE Regulations"	means the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 or any subsequent re-enactment thereof as applied by the Cabinet Office Statement of Practice: Staff Transfers in the Public Sector
"User Group"	Means the RESIS Schools and Governors User Group established in accordance with Clause 9

“Vice-Chair”	means the vice-chair of the Joint Committee (duly appointed pursuant to Clause 8.13)
“Warranties”	means the warranties set out or referred to in Clause 13 and Schedule 4
“WG”	means the Welsh Government

- 1.2 Except where the context otherwise requires:
- 1.2.1 the singular includes the plural and vice versa;
  - 1.2.2 a reference to any clause, sub-clause, paragraph, schedule, recital or annex is, except where expressly stated to the contrary, a reference to such clause, sub-clause, paragraph, schedule, recital or annex of and to this Agreement;
  - 1.2.3 any reference to this Agreement or to any other document shall include any permitted variation, amendment or supplement to such document;
  - 1.2.4 any reference to legislation shall be construed as a reference to any legislation as amended, replaced, consolidated or re-enacted;
  - 1.2.5 a reference to a public organisation (to include, for the avoidance of doubt, any Council) shall be deemed to include a reference to any successor to such public organisation or any organisation or entity which has taken over the schools and education functions and responsibilities of such public organisation;

- 1.2.6 a reference to a person includes firms, partnerships and corporations and their successors and permitted assignees or transferees;
- 1.2.7 the schedule, clause, sub-clause and (where provided) paragraph headings and captions in the body of this Agreement do not form part of this Agreement and shall not be taken into account in its construction or interpretation;
- 1.2.8 words preceding "include", "includes", "including" and "included" shall be construed without limitation by the words which follow those words; and
- 1.2.9 any reference to the title of an officer or any of the Councils shall include any person holding such office from time to time by the same or any title substituted thereafter or such other officer of the relevant Council as that Council may from time to time appoint to carry out the duties of the officer referred to.

### 1.3 Schedules

The Schedules to this Agreement form part of this Agreement.

## 2. Commencement, duration and termination

2.1 This Agreement shall continue in full force and effect from the Commencement Date until the earlier of the following dates:-

- 2.1.1 all the Councils agree in writing to its termination; or
- 2.1.2 there is only one remaining Council who has not withdrawn from this Agreement in accordance with Clause 21( Withdrawal) or 22 (Service Underperformance).

2.2 Without prejudice to any other rights or remedies, this Agreement may be terminated in relation to any Council ("**Defaulter**") by the other Councils ("**Non-Defaulting Councils**") acting unanimously in giving written notice to the Defaulter ("Termination Notice") effective on receipt where the



Defaulter materially breaches any of the provisions of this Agreement and in the case of a breach capable of remedy fails to remedy the same within sixty (60) Business Days (or such other period as agreed by the Councils) of being notified of each breach in writing by the Non-Defaulting Councils and being required to remedy the same. The decision to Terminate shall be a matter reserved to the Councils.

2.3 In determining or responding to any decision or proposal to terminate the Agreement in accordance with this clause all Councils including, for the avoidance of doubt the Defaulting Council, shall have regard to the Partnership Principles and the appropriateness of instigation of the Dispute Resolution Procedure ( Clause 32) with a view to identifying a solution which maintains the Partnership.

2.4 The service of a Termination Notice shall be treated as if it were a Withdrawal Notice pursuant to Clause 21 and the provisions of the said clause in relation to the procedure to be followed by the Council's in response and the liabilities of the Defaulting Council shall apply accordingly.

2.5 The following clauses shall continue to apply after the termination or withdrawal from this agreement: clause 13 clause 14 and clause 16 and the associated schedules.

2.6 Termination or withdrawal from this agreement, for any reason, shall not affect the accrued rights, remedies, obligations or liabilities of the parties existing at termination.

### **3. Principles**

3.1 The Councils intend this Agreement to be legally binding.

3.2 The Councils agree to work together to carry out the Service in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

- 3.3 Without prejudice to the terms of this Agreement, the Councils agree that they will conduct their relationship in accordance with the following principles:-

**Openness and Trust**

in relation to this Agreement the Councils will be open and trusting in their dealings with each other, make information and analysis available to each other, discuss and develop ideas openly and contribute fully to all aspects of making the joint working successful;

**Commitment and Drive**

the Councils will be fully committed to working jointly, will seek to fully motivate employees and will address the challenges of the Service with drive, enthusiasm and a determination to succeed;

**Skills and Creativity**

the Councils recognise that each brings complementary skills and knowledge which they will apply creatively to achieving the Councils' objectives, continuity, resolution of difficulties and the development of the joint working relationship and the personnel working within it;

**Effective Relationships**

the roles and responsibilities of each Council will be clear with relationships developed at the appropriate levels within each organisation with direct and easy access to each other's representatives;

**Developing and Adaptive**

the Councils recognise that they are engaged in what could be a long term relationship which needs to develop and adapt and will use reasonable endeavours to develop and maintain an effective joint process to ensure that the relationship develops appropriately and in line with these principles and objectives;

### **Reputation and Standing**

the Councils agree that, in relation to this Agreement and the Service generally, they shall pay the utmost regard to the standing and reputation of one another and shall not do or fail to do anything which may bring the standing or reputation of any other Council into disrepute or attract adverse publicity to any other Council;

### **Reasonableness of Decision Making**

the Councils agree that all decisions made in relation to this Agreement and the Service generally shall be made by them acting reasonably and in good faith;

### **Necessary Consents**

each Council hereby represents to the other Councils that it has obtained all necessary consents sufficient to ensure the delegation of functions and responsibilities provided for by this Agreement; and

### **Members and Officers' Commitments**

each Council shall use its reasonable endeavours to procure that their respective members and officers who are involved in the Service shall at all times act in the best interests of the Service, and respond in a timely manner to all relevant requests from the other Councils.

## **4. The Service Functions**

4.1 Subject to this Agreement and as further particularised in Schedule 1 the Service shall have the function of implementing the Full Business Case by undertaking the following to achieve the Key Aims set out in 4.2 below:-

- 4.1.1 supporting the Councils to undertake their statutory functions in relation to school effectiveness;
- 4.1.2 provide support for both the Councils and Schools (jointly and separately as the case may be) in School Improvement activity;

- 4.1.3 specifically undertaking responsibility for the Implementation of SEF and for CIF accountability\*;
  - 4.1.4 making provision for the development, maintenance, and review of regional frameworks on a commissioned basis.
- 4.2 The Key Aims of the Service will be:-
- 4.2.1 Implementing the National School Effectiveness Framework to raise standards and improve wellbeing by reducing variations within and between schools and local authorities whilst taking account of local need;
  - 4.2.2 respond to the Estyn inspection regime;
  - 4.2.3 identify efficiency savings;
  - 4.2.4 provide a foundation that allows for the future regionalisation of education related services.
- 4.3 Nothing in this Agreement shall permit the Service to implement or consult on implementation of any statutory intervention in a specific school, Federation or cluster of schools pursuant to Section 15 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 or such other equivalent statutory power or provision which permits a Council to directly assume powers of management or re-organisation in respect of such establishments or in relation to the management of staff.
- 4.4 Subject to this agreement the Services will be provided to individual Councils, schools or learning settings under the terms of an SLA prepared in accordance with the Commissioning Model.

\* references to SEF and CIF shall be presumed to include any amendments or superseding policies or frameworks in so far as and to the extent that they encompass the Service Functions.

## **5. Language**

- 5.1 The Joint Committee shall within 12 months of the Commencement Date agree and implement a Welsh Language Scheme or Strategy for the Service in accordance with the Full Business Case in order to provide a bilingual service that can fully provide Welsh medium support across the Region.

## **6. Duties Of The Host Council And Other Councils**

- 6.1 The Councils (acting severally) have agreed, with effect from the Commencement Date, that Gwynedd Council will be the Host Council for the Service which shall be carried out for and on behalf of itself and the Councils and Gwynedd Council agrees to act in that capacity subject to and in accordance with and to the extent provided for by the terms of this Agreement For the avoidance of doubt the role of Host Council includes:-

- 6.1.1 subject to the indemnities and warranties act as the employing authority for any staff engaged in the discharge of the Service's functions (appointing, employing or accepting the secondment of staff) in accordance with this Agreement;
- 6.1.2 being the legal point of contact for the purposes of managing the Service;
- 6.1.3 providing such administrative resources and facilities that may be necessary for the purpose of discharging the Service and hold all central funds;
- 6.1.4 providing such Human Resources Services that may be necessary for the purpose of discharging the Service and hold all central funds;
- 6.1.5 provide senior officers who will act as Secretary, Monitoring Officer, and Treasurer (who will also be the section 151 officer) for the Service and who will therefore act as the primary legal and financial advisers to the Service;



- 6.1.6 power to enter into contracts for supplies and services as required for the purposes of the Service.
- 6.2 For the avoidance of doubt the duties and responsibilities of the Host Authority pursuant to this agreement shall only bind the Host Authority to the extent that they have been resourced by the Councils through this Agreement.
- 6.3 Save and except where otherwise required by law all staff employed by the Host Authority pursuant to this agreement shall be employed on the Host Authority's relevant terms and conditions of employment and related staff policies including salary structures.
- 6.4 If the Host Council defaults and the Agreement is terminated in respect of it pursuant to Clause 2 (Termination) or the Host Council withdraws pursuant to Clauses 21 (Withdrawal) or 22 Service Underperformance then a replacement Host Council will be appointed by the Councils and the withdrawing/defaulting Host Council will not have the right to vote in regard to any such appointment.
- 6.5 For the duration of this Agreement, the Host Council shall act diligently and in good faith in all its dealings with the other Councils and
- 6.6 For the duration of this Agreement, the other Councils shall act diligently and in good faith in all their dealings with the Host Council and shall use their reasonable endeavours to assist the Host Council to support the Service.

## 7. Decision Making

- 7.1 The Councils have identified the following two categories of decisions together with the means by which they will be taken:-
- 7.1.1 **"Joint Committee Matter"** – being a matter which is to be decided upon at a quorate meeting of the Joint Committee by those present and entitled to vote and any such decision will be binding on all the Councils;

7.1.2 **"Matter Reserved To The Councils"** – being a matter which will have to be referred to each Council for decision and, for the avoidance of doubt, any such matter will not be dealt with by the Joint Committee (as the case may be) until the matter has been determined by all of the Councils. If the Councils fail to reach the same decision in respect of such matter then the matter shall be referred under Clause 32 (Dispute Resolution) as a dispute for resolution, and such matters are identified in Schedule 2.

## 8. Joint Committee

8.1 The Councils have formed the joint committee ("**Joint Committee**") called the **REGIONAL SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPROVEMENT SERVICE JOINT COMMITTEE / CYD BWYLLGOR GWASANAETH GWELLA YSGOLION RHANBARTHOL** Pursuant to the Partnership Agreement to carry out the functions set out in Schedule 1.

8.2 The Joint Committee is a joint committee constituted by the Councils under section 101(5) and 102(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 and section 20 of the Local Government Act 2000. Meetings of the Joint Committee are subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 including the provisions on access to information and meetings held in public.

8.3 The Membership of the Joint Committee shall be as follows:-

<b>Voting Members</b>		<b>Officer Members –Non Voting</b>
6x Education Portfolio Members <i>one from each NW LA</i>		6x Statutory Chief Education Officers <i>one from each NW LA</i>
<b>Co-opted Members</b>	<b>Non-voting</b>	<b>Officers in Attendance</b>

1x Diocese Representative <i>nominated from across the Wrexham, St Asaph and Bangor Diocese, on a rotating two year term</i>	1x Legal Representative 1x S151 Representative Other specialists as requested
1x Primary Schools Representative	
1x Secondary Schools Representative	
1x Special Schools Representative	
1x Governor Representative	

(It is expected that all Members of the Joint Committee, including Deputies shall be appropriately authorised to participate in its business.)

- 8.4 Diocesan representatives of the Committee shall be jointly nominated in writing by the dioceses of Wrexham, St Asaph and Bangor on a rotation per diocese commencing on the Commencement Date. Representatives of individual Dioceses shall serve for a maximum term of 2 years per rotation.
- 8.5 The Primary, Secondary and Governor Members of the Joint Committee shall be nominated by the User Group from amongst the relevant sectoral representatives serving on the User Group.
- 8.6 Representatives nominated to the Joint Committee may only serve on the Joint Committee whilst concurrently remaining members of the User Group and subject thereto will be appointed for two years terms (for the avoidance of doubt nothing in this clause will prevent the a member of the User Group being nominated for a further two year period).



- 8.7 In nominating members to serve on the Joint Committee the User Group shall, as far as reasonably practicable have regard to the principle that their nominees as a whole provide a geographical spread of representation from across the North Wales region.
- 8.8 For the avoidance of doubt the Service Section 151 Officer and Service Legal Officer and/or their duly authorised representatives shall be entitled to attend all Joint Committee meetings.
- 8.9 Each Council may, at their discretion, replace their representatives appointed to the Joint Committee, provided that at all times, they have representatives appointed to the Joint Committee in accordance with the roles identified in 8.3 above; and
- 8.10 A body may nominate a Deputy to attend the Joint Committee on behalf of a member in the following circumstances:-
- (i) to take the place of a member of the Joint Committee;
  - (ii) where the member is unable to attend the whole meeting; and
  - (iii) if the member has notified the Chairman in advance of the relevant meeting.

A Deputy shall only have the right to speak and where relevant vote at that meeting- of the Committee or Sub Committee and no other function or appointment including appointments to Working Groups will be applicable to them when acting as a Deputy.

- 8.11 The Chair of the Joint Committee shall be an elected Executive member of a Council appointed by the Joint Committee pursuant to Clause 8.13.
- 8.12 The Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee shall be an elected Executive member of a Council appointed by the Joint Committee pursuant to

Clause 8.13 In the absence of the Chair for any reason, the responsibilities of the Chair can be discharged by the Vice-Chair.

- 8.13 The Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee shall be elected at the annual general meeting and appointments shall take effect until the next annual general meeting.
- 8.14 The Joint Committee shall meet as and when required to suit the needs of the Service in accordance with the Service timetable provided that there shall be a minimum of three meetings per year, one of which shall be specified as the annual general meeting. The venue for the meetings shall be agreed by the Joint Committee.
- 8.15 A printed copy of the agenda and reports for each meeting and the minutes of the previous meeting shall be despatched at least five (5) Business Days before such meetings to each representative appointed to the Joint Committee. The Chief Executive of the Host Council shall ensure that the agenda and all relevant papers meet this deadline. All Agendas, reports and minutes in relation to the Joint Committee shall be in both Welsh and English and simultaneous translation of proceedings will be available throughout all meetings of the Joint Committee.
- 8.16 Save as is inconsistent with the terms of this Agreement the Council Procedure Rules and Contract Procedure Rules of the Host Council shall apply.
- 8.17 The quorum necessary for a Joint Committee meeting shall be five (5) voting members of the Joint Committee.
- 8.18 At meetings of the Joint Committee each voting member shall have one (1) vote. Decisions at meetings of the Joint Committee will be taken by a simple majority vote.
- 8.19 The Joint Committee shall not have power to approve any Matter Reserved To the Councils pursuant to Clause 7.1.2 (Decision Making).

- 8.20 The Chair may summon a special meeting of the Joint Committee at any time by written notice to the Host Council specifying the business to be considered at the special meeting.
- 8.21 A special meeting shall be summoned on the requisition in writing of any Joint Committee Member acting on behalf of his/her Council, which requisition shall specify the business to be considered at the special meeting.
- 8.22 Arrangements for holding a special meeting will be in accordance with the timetable set out in Clause 8.15.
- 8.23 In the event that a special meeting is called the Host Council shall notify all Councils in writing as a matter of urgency.
- 8.24 If, at a meeting of the Joint Committee, a matter is not determined by a majority vote pursuant to Clause that matter ("**JC Unresolved Matter**") shall be deferred for consideration at the next Joint Committee Meeting which shall be convened within ten (10) Business Days of that meeting. If at the reconvened Joint Committee meeting the JC Unresolved Matter is not determined the matter shall be determined in accordance with Clause 32–**Dispute Resolution**.
- 8.25 Each Council shall provide all information reasonably required upon request by the Joint Committee and shall comply with any decisions of the Joint Committee to request such information.
- 8.26 Each Council shall consult with the other Councils to ensure the diligent progress of the day to day matters relating to the Service.

## 9. User Group

- 9.1 The Councils will establish the User Group to provide support and challenge to the Joint Committee.
- 9.2 The User Group shall have the following membership appointed in the manner indicated:-

Membership	Representation
6 Secondary representatives (1 Representative per Council)	The Chair of each respective Council Secondary Schools Headmasters Federation or Group
6 Primary representatives (1 Representative per Council)	Chair of each respective Council Primary Schools Headmasters Federation or Group
1. Special School representatives	One representative drawn from the North Wales Special Schools Federation.
School Governors – 1 Representative per Council	The Chief Education Officer for each respective Council will agree one representative drawn from the Governors elected onto their Overview and Scrutiny Committees pursuant to Parent Governor Representative and Church Representatives ( Wales ) Regulations 2001.

- 9.3 The User Group shall meet as and when required to suit the needs of the Service in accordance with the Service timetable provided that there shall be a minimum of three meetings per year, The venue for the meetings

shall be agreed by the User Group. All Agendas, reports and minutes in relation to the User Group shall be in both Welsh and English and simultaneous translation of proceedings will be available throughout all meetings of the User Group.

- 9.4 A written Agenda shall be sent to all members of the User Group no later than 5 working days prior to the date of the meeting. The Agenda shall include copies of all reports submitted to the Joint Committee at its previous meetings save and except for matters which were Exempt Items pursuant to Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 9.5 The User Group shall be entitled to report and make recommendations to the Joint Committee with regard to any matter falling within the scope of the functions of the Service.

## **10. Commitment of the Councils and Contributions**

- 10.1 The Councils agree and undertake to commit to the Service in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and not to commission any service that seeks or would procure the delivery of all or any part of the Services outside the terms of this Agreement save where the Service has been offered the opportunity to provide the service in question and has for reasons of capacity or technical ability agreed that it cannot provide the requested Service in accordance with the stated requirements of the particular Council or school, in which case the Service will assist them in the commissioning of the Services outside this agreement.
- 10.2 The Councils agree to pay the Partnership Contributions which shall be calculated by reference to the formulae in Schedule 3.
- 10.3 The Councils agree to pay the Partnership Contributions to the Host Authority in advance within 28 days of invoice by the Host Authority on to be submitted to the Councils on a six monthly basis by 31 May and 30 November in any given year.
- 10.4 The Host Authority shall prepare annual final accounts in relation to each Financial Year for the Service in accordance with the Host Council's



accounting policies by no later than 31 of May in the following Financial Year.

- 10.5 In the event that the annual expenditure of the Service exceeds the Service Budget the Service Chief Officer will by no later than 31 May in the succeeding Financial Year present a written report to the Joint Committee and serve on the Chief Education Officers and Respective Heads of Finance of the Councils detailing the extent of the over-spend, the cause and the recommended strategy to resolve the matter.
- 10.6 In the event that the Service generates a surplus in any Financial Year equal to or exceeding 5% of the Service budget for that year the Chief Officer will by no later than 31 May in the succeeding Financial Year present a written report to the Joint Committee and serve a copy on the Chief Education Officers and Respective Heads of Finance of the Councils detailing the extent of the surplus, the cause and the recommended strategy with regard to the under spend.
- 10.7 The baseline Service Budget may be jointly reviewed and revised commensurately by all Councils on the third anniversary of the Implementation Date and thereafter by three yearly intervals by reference to the following mechanism:
  1. A Council may upon prior written notice served on the Host Authority and the Chief Officer of the Service no later than 31 October in the year preceding the third anniversary request a review and revision of the Annual Service Budget.
  2. Such notice shall, having regard to the Principles, continuity of the provision of the Services and achievement of the Outcomes set out the proposed revision and the justification for such revision.
  3. On receipt of such a request the Chief Officer of the Service shall within 35 days prepare and serve on each Council a report ratified by

the Joint Committee in response setting out the anticipated effect of the proposed revision on the Service and its ability to deliver the Services and the Outcomes.

4. The response to the report shall be a Matter reserved to Councils and any variation will require agreement of all the Councils any variation will be commensurate for all Councils and require agreement of all Councils.

## **11. Performance Review**

11.1 The Service Chief Officer shall report annually to the Joint Committee and to the Councils individually on the performance of the Service in delivering the Service Functions and Key Aims. The report shall, in particular report on the performance of the Service in delivering the Full Business Case and without prejudice to the generality of the above delivering the Outcomes:

- O1 Improved standards in literacy (Welsh/English) and numeracy (maths) that compare well with the best in other countries,
- O2 A single coherent service for the monitoring, supporting, challenging and intervention within schools across the region,
- O3 Deployment of System Leaders with a consistent approach and recent proven record of school improvement,
- O4 All schools able to access a much broader range of specialist support than that available in individual LA's currently,
- O5 No Local Authorities, schools or learning settings in any Estyn Inspection category of needing significant improvement or special measures.

11.2 The Chief Officers report shall be provided to each Council by no later than 31 October in any given year.

## **12. Accommodation**

12.1 A Council may provide the Host Authority with accommodation and facilities for the Service in the Councils premises on a licence on terms to be agreed in writing between the Council and the Host Authority

12.2 Where premises are provided in a Council's Premises they should be provided with the following facilities

- a) Administration of visitors, trades people, post and deliveries during office hours;
- b) All management of central areas;
- c) Informal message-taking by central reception;
- d) Utilities
- e) Cleaning
- f) Provision of hygiene facilities and consumables;
- g) Maintenance of common parts to include boilers, light fittings; lifts, switchboard, cabling and communication facilities, fire and security systems;
- h) Maintenance of the grounds and window cleaning;
- i) Waste disposal;
- j) Building insurance and also including the common parts;
- k) Management of Health and Safety including fire and asbestos management arrangements
- l) Information Technology Infrastructure/
- m) Adequate car parking for Service staff and visitors

12.3 The fee for provision of accommodation by the Host Authority or the individual Councils shall be on a cost only basis and include a fair allocation of the cost of providing such facilities as are set out in 12,1 above or such other facilities as may be agreed from time to time.

## **13. Warranties**

13.1 The Councils jointly and severally:-

- 13.1.1 warrant to the Host Council in the terms of the Warranties and acknowledges that Host Council is entering into this Agreement in reliance on each of the Warranties and the Warranties will be deemed to be repeated on the Implementation Date with reference to the facts then subsisting PROVIDED that the



Warranties shall be deemed to have been repeated subject to disclosure of information arising at the date of this Agreement if and to the extent that this Agreement provides a mechanism for such disclosure;

- 13.1.2 will indemnify Host Council in full against any Liabilities which the Host Council may suffer or incur, directly or indirectly, as a result of any breach of the Warranties;
- 13.1.3 agree to disclose as soon as reasonably possible to the Host Council anything which comes to their notice which is or may be a breach of any of the Warranties;
- 13.1.4 Unless otherwise specified, where any Warranty refers to the knowledge, information, belief or awareness of a Council other than the Host Council (or similar expression), the Council will be deemed to have such knowledge, information, belief or awareness as Council would have obtained had they made reasonable enquiries into the subject matter of that Warranty;
- 13.1.5 A Council will not be liable in respect of any claim relating to a breach by it of the Warranties if and to the extent that the loss occasioning it has been recovered by the Host Council pursuant to any other claim.

#### **14. Liabilities**

- 14.1 Nothing in this Agreement will make the Host Council liable in respect of anything done or omitted to be done by a Council or any Relevant Council Employer up to the Implementation Date or in relation to the carrying on of the Service Functions generally up to the Implementation Date other than as may have been specifically assumed by Host Council under this Agreement.
- 14.2 The Councils will indemnify the Host Council in full against any Losses which the Host Council may suffer or incur, directly or indirectly, as a

result of anything so done or omitted to be done by a Council or any Relevant Council Employer including any act, default or transaction of a Council or any Relevant Council Employer or any circumstance occurring in respect of the carrying on of Service Functions up to the Implementation Date and so that where there are any claims by any third parties in respect of services rendered up to the Implementation Date the claims will be met in full by the relevant Council.

- 14.3 All income received in relation to work undertaken by Councils in respect to Service Functions up to the Implementation Date will be retained by the relevant Council which will remain liable for all costs relating to work undertaken, services received and good received up to the Implementation Date. Any payments in respect of such income paid to the Host Council shall be paid to the Relevant Council as soon as reasonably practicable but in any event within 28 Business Days of receipt.

## **15. The Tupe Regulations And Tupe Employees**

- 15.1 It is acknowledged that for the purposes of the TUPE Regulations and the Directive (whether the same apply as a matter of law or not) the transactions contemplated by this Agreement will be treated as a transfer of the undertakings of the Council's on the Implementation Date and that accordingly with effect from and on the Implementation Date the contracts of employment of each of the Transferring Employees will not be terminated by the transactions provided for in this Agreement but will continue to have effect from and on the Implementation Date as if originally made between each of such Transferring Employees and Host Council except to the extent provided by the Transfer Regulations and/or the Directive but subject to Clause 18 below.
- 15.2 the Councils agree that after the date of this Agreement it will not do any of the following without the consent of Host Council:

- 15.2.1 engage or employ any person who is not currently a Transferring Employee, who would or might as a consequence of such engagement or employment become a Transferring Employee; or
  - 15.2.2 make material changes to the terms and conditions of employment of any Transferring Employee or Employee.
- 15.3 The Councils will discharge all of their obligations in relation to the Transferring Employees, including, without limitation, all costs and expenses, salaries and other emoluments including without limitation accrued holiday pay, up to the Implementation Date. The Councils shall indemnify the Host Councils against all Losses arising from its failure to so discharge and the Host Council shall indemnify the Councils against all Losses arising from Host Council's failure to comply with its obligations under this clause.
- 15.4 At least 14 days prior to the Implementation Date the Councils will provide the Host Council with a Schedule of Transferring Employees in the format set out in Schedule 5 and with the Employee Information referred to in Schedule 6. The Councils will inform the Host Council as soon as is reasonably practicable of them becoming formally aware of any Transferring Employee giving notice to cease to be employed or ceasing to be employed prior to the Implementation Date.
- 15.5 The Councils shall provide Host Council with any other information in relation to the Transferring Employees that they may agree with the Host Council to provide from time to time.

## **16. Pensions**

- 16.1 The Councils are scheduled employers in the LGPS. The Employees employed in the Service will remain eligible to be active members of the LGPS from and including the Implementation Date by virtue of the LGPS Regulations. The Employees' LGPS membership with the Councils or

Cynnal Cyfyngedig a Relevant Employer will be aggregated with their membership with the Fund.

- 16.2 The Host Authority in its capacity as administering authority of the Fund shall treat the Service as a separate entity within the Fund. The Service will be the subject of specific actuarial reporting in accordance with the Host Authority's Policies by the Funds Actuaries and shall be liable for a discrete employers contribution rate (Employer's Contribution).
- 16.3 The Funds Actuary shall make a valuation to establish the relevant assets and liabilities attributable to the employees employed in the Service calculated as at the Implementation Date in accordance with the actuarial basis used in the Fund's ongoing valuation using the financial assumptions and market conditions existing as at the Implementation Date in order to calculate the required Employers Contribution.
- 16.4 The valuation referred to in clause 16.3 shall be reviewed triennially in accordance with the LGPS Regulations and the Employer's Contribution adjusted accordingly.
- 16.5 The Employer's Contribution established and reviewed in accordance with this clause 16 shall be incorporated in the annual Service Budget and form part of the Council's Commitments (clause 10).
- 16.6 In the event of Termination or Withdrawal by any or all Councils the Host Councils actuary shall make a valuation to establish the relevant assets and liabilities attributable to the employees employed in the Service as calculated at the Termination or Withdrawal Date in accordance with the actuarial basis used in the Fund's ongoing valuation in pursuant to clause 16.4 but using the financial assumptions and market conditions existing as at the Termination and Withdrawal Date. Notwithstanding the provisions of Clause 2, 21 or 22 the leaving Council shall pay to the Host Council within 28 days of demand a share of those liabilities (pension deficit) equivalent to its proportion of its share of the Service Budget for



the last full financial year immediately preceding the Termination or Withdrawal Date.

## **17. Consultation With Unions And Employee Representatives**

- 17.1 In good time in advance of the Implementation Date and in any event no later than is required by the TUPE Regulations, the Councils will provide information to and will consult with the Relevant Representatives in accordance with regulation 13 of the TUPE Regulations (“**the Consultations**”).
- 17.2 The Councils will keep the Host Council informed about the progress of the Consultations and will consent, if so requested by Host Council, to permit a representative of Host Council to attend any meeting between the Councils and the Relevant Representatives in respect of the Consultations, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.
- 17.3 The Councils will indemnify the Host Council and keep the Host Council fully indemnified from and against all Losses arising in connection with or as a result of any claim arising (directly or indirectly) from or connected with any failure by a Council to comply with any obligation to inform or consult under the TUPE Regulations or the Directive and whether or not such claim is brought before or after the Implementation Date except to the extent that such claim arises by virtue of the failure of Host Council to comply with its obligations under regulation 13 of the TUPE Regulations.
- 17.4 The Councils warrant that the employee liability information that they provide under regulation 11 of the TUPE Regulations shall be accurate, complete and provided within the time period required under regulation 11 of the TUPE Regulations.

## **18. Tupe Indemnities**

- 18.1 The Councils shall indemnify the Host Council and keep it indemnified against all Losses arising directly or indirectly in connection with:-

- 18.1.1 the employment or termination of employment by a Council of any of the Transferring Employees (whether or not terminated by notice and, if so terminated, whenever that notice expires) up to and including the Implementation Date;
  - 18.1.2 any act, omission or default of a Council up to and including the Implementation Date in respect of the employment by a Council of the Transferring Employees provided that this indemnity will not apply to the extent that Host Council recovers under a Relevant EL Policy;
  - 18.1.3 any claim or allegation by any former or existing employee of a Council (other than a Transferring Employee) in respect of which the Host Council incurs or is alleged by the employee or their representative to incur responsibility or liability as a result of the operation of the TUPE Regulations and/or the Directive;
  - 18.1.4 a Councils failure to provide the employee liability information under regulation 11 of the Regulations.
- 18.2 If, after the Implementation Date, Host Council becomes aware of any employee of a Council or Relevant Council Employer whose particulars do not appear in Schedule 5 but whose contract of employment takes effect after the Implementation Date (as if originally made between Host Council and that employee) or is alleged to so do pursuant to the Transfer Regulations and/or the Directive:-
- 18.2.1 within 14 days of becoming aware of that effect or allegation, the Host Council may terminate such person's contract of employment;
  - 18.2.2 the Council will keep the Host Council indemnified in full against all Losses arising (directly or indirectly) in connection with such termination and against any sums payable to or in relation to such person in respect of such person's employment

with the Council and from the Implementation Date to the date of such termination; and

18.2.3 For the avoidance of doubt, in relation to the indemnities set out in this Agreement in favour of Host Council any Losses incurred by Host Council which arise from claims made by or on behalf of a Transferring Employee shall be recoverable from a Council by Host Council notwithstanding that the Transferring Employee has been transferred to a Relevant Employer and regardless of whether the claim is made by a Transferring Employee against Host Council or the Relevant Employer.

18.3 In the event that a party has the benefit of an indemnity in relation to a claim, it shall not settle that claim or make any admission of liability without first obtaining the prior written consent of the party providing the indemnity (not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed).

18.4 It is agreed that Host Council will have the benefit of any right to indemnity which a Council has under or pursuant to a Relevant E L Policy. Each Council hereby assigns unconditionally and absolutely to the Host Council the benefit of and all its right, title and interest under or pursuant to any Relevant E L Policy insofar as the same gives a right to indemnity in respect of any Employees. The parties will give joint notice to the insurers of such assignment or the Host Council will be entitled to give such notice to insurers (on behalf of the when necessary). The parties will use their respective best endeavours to arrange to have the name of the Host Council endorsed upon any Relevant E L Policy as a named insured (either in addition to or in substitution for the name of the Seller as appropriate) in respect of claims brought by any Employee in respect of facts or circumstances arising on or before the Implementation Date.

## **19. Intellectual Property**

19.1 Each Council will retain all Intellectual Property in its Material.

- 19.2 Each Council will grant all of the other Councils a non exclusive, perpetual, non-transferable and royalty free licence to use, modify, amend and develop its IP Material for the purpose of the Service and any other purpose resulting from the Service whether or not the party granting the licence remains a party to this Agreement or the Service.
- 19.3 Without prejudice to Clause 18.1, if more than one Council owns or has a legal or beneficial right or interest in any aspect of the IP Material for any reason (including without limitation that no one Council can demonstrate that it independently supplied or created the relevant IP Material without the help of one or more of the other Councils), each of the Councils who contributed to the relevant IP Material will grant to all other Councils to this Agreement a non-exclusive, perpetual, non-transferable and royalty free licence to use and exploit such IP Material as if all the other Councils were the sole owner under the Copyright Design and Patents Act 1988 or any other relevant statute or rule of law.
- 19.4 For the avoidance of doubt, any entity or person who is at the date of this Agreement a party to this Agreement and who has licensed any Intellectual Property under this Agreement will have a non-exclusive, perpetual right to continue to use the licensed Intellectual Property.
- 19.5 Each Council warrants that it has or will have the necessary rights to grant the licences set out in Clauses 19.2 and 19.3 in respect of the IP Material to be licensed.
- 19.6 Each Council agrees to execute such further documents and take such actions or do such things as may be reasonably requested by any other Council (and at the expense of the Council(s) making the request) to give full effect to the terms of this Agreement concerning management and control of Intellectual Property<sup>1</sup>.

## **20. Liability Of The Councils**

- 20.1 Save where specifically provided for in clauses 13– 18 above:-



20.1.1 The Host Council shall indemnify and keep indemnified each of the other Councils to this Agreement against any losses, claims, expenses, actions, demands, costs and liability suffered by that Council to the extent arising from any breach by the Host Council of its obligations under this Agreement or any negligent act or omission in relation to such obligations and the Host Council shall make payment to the other Councils sums for which it becomes liable under this Clause within twenty (20) Business Days of the date of another Council's written demand;

20.1.2 No claim shall be made against the Host Council to recover any loss or damage which may be incurred by reason of or arising out of the carrying out by the Host Council of its obligations under this Agreement unless and to the extent such loss or damage arises from any breach by the Host Council under Clause 20.1;

20.1.3 Each of the other Councils (acting severally) shall indemnify and keep indemnified the Host Council against all losses, claims, expenses, actions, demands, costs and liabilities which the Host Council may incur by reason of or arising out of the carrying out by the Host Council of its obligations under this Agreement for that Council or arising from any breach by a Council of its obligations under this Agreement or any negligent act or omission in relation to such obligations unless and to the extent that the same result from any breach by the Host Council of any such obligations or any negligent act or omission by the Host Council and each Council shall make payment to the Host Council sums for which it becomes liable under this Clause within twenty (20) Business Days of the date of the Host Council's written demand.

20.2 The Councils agree and acknowledge that the amount to be paid to the Host Council by any of the other Councils under this Clause shall be borne by each of the Councils to the extent of its responsibility, however in

the event that the responsibility is a shared one between the Councils (so that it is not reasonably practicable to ascertain the exact responsibility between the Councils) then the amount to be paid shall be divided equally between the Councils.

- 20.3 In the event of a claim under this Clause in which it is not reasonably practicable to determine the extent of responsibility as between the Councils (including the Host Council), then the amount shall be divided equally between the Councils (including the Host Council).
- 20.4 A Council (including the Host Council) who receives a claim for losses, expenses, actions, demands, costs and liabilities shall notify and provide details of such claim as soon as is reasonably practicable to the other Councils.
- 20.5 No Council shall be indemnified in accordance with this Clause unless it has given notice in accordance with this Clause to the other Council against whom it will be enforcing its right to an indemnity under this Agreement.
- 20.6 Each Council ("Indemnifier") shall not be responsible or be obliged to indemnify the other Councils (including the Host Council) ("Beneficiary") to the extent that any insurances maintained by the Beneficiary at the relevant time provide an indemnity against the loss giving rise to such claim and to the extent that the Beneficiary recovers under such policy of insurance (save that the Indemnifier shall be responsible for the deductible under any such policy of insurance and any amount over the maximum amount insured under such policy of insurance).
- 20.7 In relation to all indemnities set out in this Agreement the party with the benefit shall take all reasonable steps to mitigate any Losses or other loss or liability suffered by it in consequence of any events or circumstances which give rise to a claim.

## 21. **Withdrawal**

- 21.1 Subject to Clause 2 if for any reason any Council (including the Host Council) determines to withdraw from this Agreement Clauses this clause shall apply. In determining or responding to any decision or proposal to Withdrawal from the Agreement in accordance with this clause the Councils, shall have regard to the Partnership Principles and the instigation of the Dispute Resolution Procedure (Clause 31) with a view to identifying a solution which maintains the Partnership.
- 21.2 If any Council wishes to withdraw from the Service it shall provide written notice specifying its intention to withdraw from the Service. Such notice shall be served on all Councils and shall provide a minimum of 12 months prior notice to expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of August. ("**Withdrawal Notice**"). The Host Council (or such other Council as nominated by the Joint Committee in the event that the Host Council issues the Withdrawal Notice) shall within twenty eight (28) days of receipt of the Withdrawal Notice provide to all the Councils a Liability Report in the form set out in Schedule setting out the anticipated consequential costs of such withdrawal for the remaining Councils which shall be discussed by the Joint Committee at its next meeting or a specially convened meeting if the next meeting falls more than twenty eight (28) days after the issue of the Liability Report. Those Councils who do not wish to withdraw from the Service shall have a duty, acting reasonably, to mitigate any losses which they suffer due to the financial and resource implications set out in the Liability Report.
- 21.3 Within 28 days of Service of the Liability Report the withdrawing Council shall indicate in writing either:-
- 21.3.1 that it withdraws from the Service and this Agreement; or
  - 21.3.2 that it wishes to continue with the Service and this Agreement.
- 21.4 Where a Council does not indicate its intentions as required by Clause 21.2.2 then it shall at the expiry of the Decision Period be taken to

have indicated that it wishes to continue with the Service and this Agreement.

21.5 Where a Council indicates that it wishes to withdraw from the Service in accordance with Clause 22.1 then the Council who shall have indicated its wish to withdraw shall pay all amounts due to be paid by it in accordance with the Liability Report within twenty (20) Business Days of the date of its notification under Clause 21.2 and comply with its obligation to contribute to the Service up to the date of its withdrawal;

21.6 For the avoidance of doubt, the Council who shall have indicated its wish to withdraw from the Service shall remove its representatives from the Joint Committee with effect from the date of its confirmation under Clause 21.3

## **22. Service Underperformance**

22.1 If, for any reason any Council (including the Host Council) considers that the Service is failing or is materially contributing to a failure to achieve the Outcomes it may serve a notice (**Default Notice**) on the Chief Officer in accordance with 21.2 below. A copy of the Default Notice and supporting information shall be served on each Council at the same time.

22.2 The Default Notice shall specify by reference to this agreement and the Full Business Case;

- the matters by reference to which the Default Notice has been served
- the evidence or information which the Council considers supports the Default Notice, to include supporting documentation data or other material.
- the specific steps which the Council considers are necessary to remedy or otherwise rectify the failure.



22.3 The Chief Officer shall within twenty eight (28) days of receipt of the Default Notice provide to all the Councils a response to the Default Notice which where appropriate shall include proposed actions and timetable (Rectification Timetable) to rectify any default identified which together with the Default Notice shall be discussed by the Joint Committee at its next meeting or a specially convened meeting if the next meeting falls more than twenty eight (28) days after the issue of the Chief Officers response .

22.4 The Joint Committee may resolve:

22.4.1 That the Default Notice requires no further action

22.4.2 That the proposed action plan be adopted in response

22.4.3 That a varied action plan may be adopted in response

22.5 If, at the expiration of the Rectification Period the Joint Committee determines that matters which gave rise to the Default Notice have not been rectified to a material extent the Council serving the Default Notice may serve a Withdrawal Notice in accordance with Clause 21 (Withdrawal) but shall not be subject to the Liability Report process. The Withdrawal Notice must be served on the Host Authority within twenty eight ( 28) days of the date of the Joint Committees resolution.

22.6 All the Councils and the Service shall, when initiating action or responding under this clause shall have regard at all times to the Partnership Principles and the instigation of the Dispute Resolution Procedure ( Clause 31 ) with a view to identifying a solution which maintains the Partnership.

### **23. Confidentiality And Announcements**

23.1 Each Council shall, both during the currency of this Agreement and at all times following its termination or expiry, keep private and confidential and shall not use or disclose (whether for its own benefit or that of any third party) any Confidential Information about the business of and/or belonging

to any other Council which has come to its attention as a result of or in connection with this Agreement.

23.2 The obligation set out in this Clause shall not relate to information which:-

23.2.1 comes into the public domain or is subsequently disclosed to the public (other than through default on the part of the Covenanter or any other person to whom the Covenanter is permitted to disclose such information under this Agreement); or

23.2.2 is required to be disclosed by law; or

23.2.3 was already in the possession of the Council (without restrictions as to its use) on the date of receipt; or

23.2.4 is required or recommended by the rules of any governmental or regulatory body including any guidance from time to time as to openness and disclosure of information by public bodies; or

23.2.5 is necessary to be disclosed to provide relevant information to any insurer or insurance broker in connection with obtaining any insurance required by this Agreement.

23.3 Where disclosure is permitted under Clauses 23.2, 23.2.4, 23.2.5 the recipient of the information shall be subject to a similar obligation of confidentiality as that contained in this Clause 22.1 and the disclosing Council shall make this known to the recipient of the information.

23.4 No Council shall make any public statement or issue any press release or publish any other public document relating, connected with or arising out of this Agreement without consultation with the Host Authority.

#### **24. Contracts (Third Party Rights)**

The Councils as parties to this Agreement do not intend that any of its terms will be enforceable by virtue of the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 by any person not a party to it.

## **25. Notices**

25.1 Any notice or demand in connection with this Agreement shall be in writing and may be delivered by hand, prepaid first class post, special delivery post, facsimile or email, addressed to the recipient at the address or facsimile number as the case may be set out in Schedule 8 (Addresses of the Councils) or such other recipient address or facsimile number as may be notified in writing from time to time by any of the parties to this Agreement to all the other Councils to this Agreement.

25.2 The notice or demand shall be deemed to have been duly served:-

25.2.1 if delivered by hand, when left at the proper address for service;

25.2.2 if given or made by prepaid first class post or special delivery post, forty-eight (48) hours after being posted (excluding days other than Business Days);

25.2.3 if given or made by facsimile, at the time of transmission;

25.2.4 if given or made by email, at the time of transmission,

provided that, where in the case of delivery by hand or transmission by facsimile or email such delivery or transmission occurs either after 4.00pm on a Business Day or on a day other than a Business Day service shall be deemed to occur at 9.00am on the next following Business Day.

25.3 For the avoidance of doubt, where proceedings to which the Civil Procedure Rules apply have been issued, the provisions of the Civil Procedure Rules must be complied with in respect of the service of documents in connection with those proceedings.

## **26. Governing Law**

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in all respects in accordance with the laws of England and Wales. Subject to Clause 31 (Dispute Resolution), the English and Welsh Courts shall have exclusive

jurisdiction to settle any disputes which may arise out of or in connection with this Agreement.

**27. Assignments**

27.1 The rights and obligations of the Councils under this Agreement shall not be assigned, novated or otherwise transferred (whether by virtue of any legislation or any scheme pursuant to any legislation or otherwise) to any person.

**28. Waiver**

28.1 No failure or delay by any Council to exercise any right, power or remedy will operate as a waiver of it nor will any partial exercise preclude any further exercise of the same or some other right, power or remedy unless a waiver is given in writing by that Council.

28.2 Each Council shall pay their own costs incurred in connection with the preparation, execution, completion and implementation of this Agreement.

**29. Entire Agreement**

This Agreement contains all the terms which the parties have agreed in relation to the subject of this Agreement and supersedes any prior written or oral agreements, representations or understandings between the Councils relating to such subject matter. No Council has been induced to enter into this Agreement or any of these documents by statement or promise which they do not contain, save that this Clause shall not exclude any liability which one Council would otherwise have to the other in respect of any statements made fraudulently by that Council.

**30. Counterparts**

This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts each of which so executed shall be an original but together shall constitute one and the same instrument.



### **31. Relationship Of Councils**

Each Council is an independent body and nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to imply that there is any relationship between the Councils of Partnership or (except as expressly provided in this Agreement) of principal/agent or of employer/employee. No Council shall have the right to act on behalf of another nor to bind the other by contract or otherwise except to the extent expressly permitted by the terms of this Agreement. In particular for the avoidance of doubt, none of the provisions relating to the principles of working in partnership shall be taken to establish any partnership as defined by The Partnership Act 1890.

### **32. Dispute Resolution**

- 32.1 Any dispute arising in relation to any aspect of this Agreement shall be resolved in accordance with this Clause . The Councils undertake and agree to pursue a positive approach towards dispute resolution which seeks (in the context of this Partnership and its aims) to identify a solution with a view to avoiding the need to instigate formal Dispute Resolution or legal proceedings and maintains a strong working relationship between the Councils.
- 32.2 In the event of any dispute or difference between the Councils relating to this Agreement or the Service (whether this may be a matter of contractual interpretation or otherwise) then save in relation to disputes or disagreements relating to a Matter Reserved To The Councils, the matter shall be dealt with as follows by referral in the first instance to the Regional Partnership Board who shall meet within ten (10) Business Days of notification of the occurrence of such dispute and attempt to resolve the disputed matter in good faith.
- 32.3 In relation to a dispute or disagreement relating to a Matter Reserved To The Councils, or if the Regional Partnership Board fails to resolve a dispute or disagreement within five (5) Business Days of meeting pursuant

to Clause 31.2, or fails to meet in accordance with the timescales set out in Clause 31.3, then the Councils in dispute (as the case may be) may refer the matter to:

32.3.1 a mediation facilitated by the Welsh Local Government Association or such other party as the Councils may agree for resolution by them; or

32.3.2 the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of England or Wales otherwise.

32.4 Any dispute and/or disagreement to be determined by the Regional Partnership Board (as appropriate), or the Courts of England and Wales or such other body as agreed by the Councils (as the case may be) under this Agreement shall be promptly referred for determination to them.

32.5 The Councils shall on request promptly supply to the Regional Partnership Board (as the case may be) all such assistance, documents and information as may be required for the purpose of determination and the Councils shall use all reasonable endeavours to procure the prompt determination of such reference.

32.6 The costs of the resolution of any dispute and/or disagreement between the Councils under this Agreement shall be borne equally by the Councils to the dispute in question save as may be otherwise directed by the Chief Executive(s) or the Courts of England or Wales (as the case may be).

### **33. Data Protection And Information Sharing**

33.1 In relation to all Personal Data, each Council shall at all times comply with the DPA, (as a data controller if necessary) which includes (but is not limited to) maintaining a valid and up to date registration or notification under the DPA covering the data processing activities to be performed in connection with the Service.

33.2 The Councils agree that they shall provide to the Service such information, data, statistics or records as are reasonably required by the Service to

provide the Services or such other services as are commissioned from time to time by the Councils. The Councils shall adhere to any Information Sharing Protocols that are developed within the SLA's in accordance with the WASPI framework when sharing personal data under this Agreement.

33.3 Notwithstanding the general obligation in clause 32.2, where any *Council including the Host Authority in that capacity on behalf of the Service or the Service* is processing personal data (as defined by the DPA) as a data processor *it* shall ensure that it has in place appropriate technical and contractual measures to ensure the security of the personal data (and to guard against unauthorised or unlawful processing of the personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, the personal data), as required under the Seventh Data Protection Principle in Schedule 1 to the DPA; and

- (a) provide any other Council with such information as that Council may reasonably require to satisfy itself that the Council is complying with its obligations under the DPA;
- (b) promptly notify any Council of any breach of security measures required to be put in place pursuant to clause 23.3; and

33.4 Ensure it does not knowingly or negligently do or omit to do anything which places any Partner in breach of its obligations under the DPA.

33.5 The Councils shall each take reasonable precautions (having regard to the nature of their respective obligations under this Agreement) to preserve the integrity of any Personal Data.

#### **34. Freedom Of Information And Environment Information**

34.1 Each Council acknowledges that the other Councils are subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("**FoIA**") and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ("**EIR**") and each Council shall where reasonable assist and co-operate with the other Councils (at

their own expense) to enable the other Councils to comply with these information disclosure obligations.

34.2 Where a Council receives a request for information under either the FoIA or the EIR in relation to information which it is holding on behalf of any of the other Councils in relation to the Service, it shall:-

34.2.1 transfer the request for information to the other Councils as soon as practicable after receipt and in any event within two (2) Business Days of receiving a request for information;

34.2.2 provide the other Councils with a copy of all information in its possession or power in the form that the Councils reasonably require within ten (10) Business Days (or such longer period as the Councils may specify) of the Council requesting that information; and

34.2.3 provide all necessary assistance as reasonably requested by the other Councils to enable the Council to respond to a request for information within the time for compliance set out in the FoIA or the EIR.

34.3 Where a Council receives a request for information under the FoIA or the EIR which relates to this Agreement or the Service, it shall inform the other Councils of the request for information as soon as practicable after receipt and in any event at least two (2) Business Days before disclosure and shall use all reasonable endeavours to consult with the other Councils prior to disclosure and shall consider all representations made by the other Councils in relation to the decision whether or not to disclose the information requested.

34.4 The Councils shall be responsible for determining in their absolute discretion whether any information requested under the FoIA or the EIR:-

34.4.1 is exempt from disclosure under the FoIA or the EIR;

34.4.2 is to be disclosed in response to a request for information.

34.5 Each Council acknowledges that the other Councils may be obliged under the FoIA or the EIR to disclose information:-

34.5.1 without consulting with the other Councils where it has not been practicable to achieve such consultation; or

34.5.2 following consultation with the other Councils and having taken their views into account.

### **35. Mitigation**

Each Council shall at all time take all reasonable steps to minimise and mitigate any loss for which the relevant Council is entitled to bring a claim against the other Council(s) pursuant to this Agreement.

### **36. Statutory Responsibilities**

Notwithstanding anything apparently to the contrary in this Agreement, in carrying out their statutory duties, the discretion of any Council shall not be fettered or otherwise affected by the terms of this Agreement.

### **37 Variations**

No amendment to this Agreement shall be binding unless it is in writing and signed by the duly authorised representatives of each of the Councils and expressed to be for the purpose of such amendment.

**IN WITNESS** whereof the parties hereto have caused their respective Common Seals to be affixed to this agreement as a Deed the day and year first above written:



## SCHEDULE 1

### SCHEDULE 1A

#### SERVICES

1. Pursuant to clause 4 the Service shall have the following functions.
  - 1.1 **Supporting LAs to undertake their statutory functions in relation to school effectiveness by:**
    - Monitoring the work and performance of schools on the basis of a range of evidence and reporting on this.
    - Challenging schools on the basis of whole school performance and provision, and in relation to individual learning programmes and pupil support arrangements so as to drive improvement in pupil outcomes.
    - Intervening in the provision made by a school when necessary, and supporting schools in difficulty and those with serious weaknesses.
    - Facilitating the use and interpretation of data to ensure intelligent accountability.
  - 1.2 **Provide Support for both LAs and Schools (jointly and separately as the case may be) in School Improvement activity by:**
    - Supporting schools to address issues of school effectiveness/improvement and pupil outcomes.
    - Providing advice and support for pedagogy (learning, teaching), leadership and management, and in intelligent accountability and professional development. (Self evaluation, assessment and monitoring).
    - Developing and deploying, on an associate basis, system leaders and progressing proactively the system leadership agenda.
    - Facilitating and supporting where required networking and networks of professional practice.

- Addressing issues of concern in schools and LAs and supporting schools needing significant improvement.
- Provide expertise on IT (Curriculum & Pedagogy) and Virtual Learning Environment

**1.3 Specifically undertaking responsibility for the Implementation of SEF\* and for CIF\* accountability by:**

- Providing and developing staff expertise and organisational knowledge in pedagogy and learning.
- Supporting school self evaluation.
- Supporting the LAs and schools in exercising their responsibilities in relation to SEF – including improvement in pupil outcomes and their wellbeing.
- Ensuring that all the activities of a regional service are undertaken in the context of SEF.
- Facilitating the development and work of Professional Learning Communities.
- Providing Support for, and addressing the needs of, Schools Causing Concern.
- Contributing to preparations for Estyn inspection of individual schools and other surveys.
- Making arrangements for continuous professional development through courses, brokerage, collecting and disseminating good practice, and developing a regional Portal.

\* references to SEF and CIF shall be presumed to include any amendments or superseding policies or frameworks in so far as and to the extent that they encompass the Service Functions.

**1.4 Making provision for the development, maintenance, and review of regional frameworks on a commissioned basis, to include:**

- Protocols.
- Operational guidance and documentation.
- Documentation and bulletins.

**2. The mechanisms for delivery of the Service shall include:**

- 2.1 The deployment, management, recruitment and CPD of School Improvement Professionals (now to be called Systems Leaders).
- 2.2 Routine Visits (now to be three per year per School) to Schools to undertake monitoring of a School's Performance.
- 2.3 Undertaking and managing interventions in Schools Causing Concern.
- 2.4 Thematic Interventions, e.g. concerned with specific, normally Under Achieving, groups of learners (e.g. whose first language is not Welsh or English, ALN, Looked After Children, etc.)
- 2.5 Collection, interpretation and dissemination of Schools and Pupil Performance Data to Schools, within the LA, to Elected Members, et al.
- 2.6 Provision of reports concerning School Standards and Performance to Elected Members, ESTYN, the Welsh Government and the general public.
- 2.7 Commentary upon and approval of a School's Post Inspection Action Plan. (These duties are more demanding in the case of a School which has been placed in a formal category by ESTYN).
- 2.8 Attendance at appointments of Headteacher, and routine attendance at appointments other than Headteachers



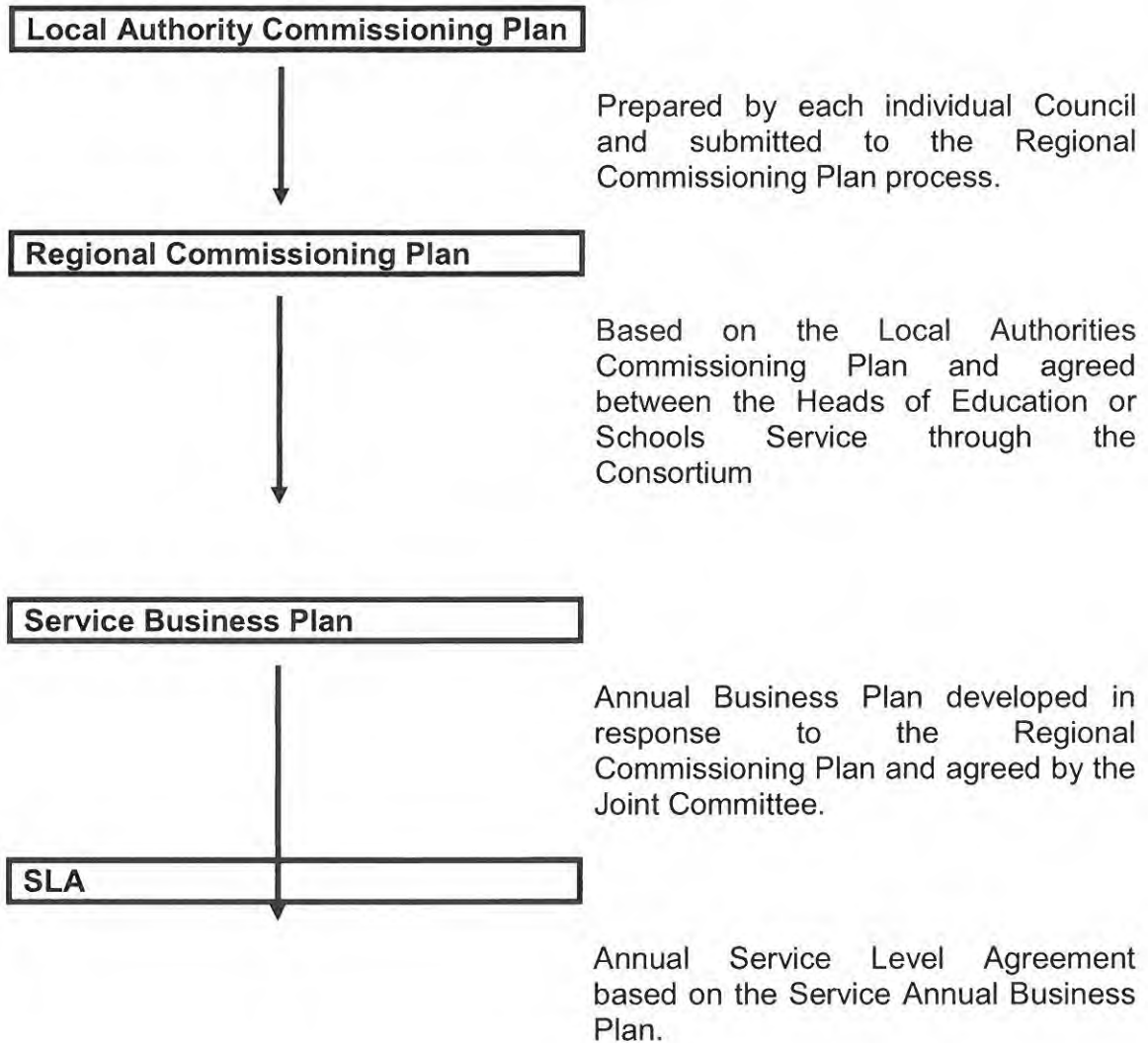
- 2.9 Management of Literacy and Numeracy Strategy and deployment of literacy and numeracy experts and literacy and numeracy CPD programmes.
- 2.10 Challenge to Schools only via Systems Leaders on: Leadership, Teaching, Learning, Under Achieving Groups, Attendance, Behaviour, Financial Management, use of Performance and Assessment data, Looked After Children, PLCs and use of resources to support improvement.
- 2.11 Support and guidance for NQTs.
- 2.12 Leading the development of School to School working.
- 2.13 Curriculum support, including subject advice, phase and aspect-specific advice.
- 2.14 Delivery of local initiatives.
- 2.15 Undertaking the performance management scheme functions and responsibilities.
- 2.16 ICT advice and support.
- 2.17 Convening and managing theme or phase-specific groups.
- 2.18 Professional Development Centres.
- 2.19 Undertaking research.
- 2.20 Notwithstanding the generality of the above the following minimum levels of service shall be provided to each Council.

School Visits	No of visits per annum per School ( based	Total Number
---------------	---	--------------

	on 466 inc Nursery, Primary, Secondary and Special)	of Days
<b>Regular Visit</b>	<b>3 days</b>	
<b>Planning and Preparation (including performance management</b>	<b>3 days</b>	
		<b>2769</b>

## SCHEDULE 1B

### Commissioning Model



## SCHEDULE 2

### JOINT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.1 The terms of reference of the Joint Committee are:

- 1) to promote joint working in the delivery of the Service through:
  - facilitating constructive partnership working;
  - engaging with key interested bodies and stakeholders when appropriate; and
  - carrying out such other activities calculated to facilitate, or which are conducive to the successful delivery of the Service; and
- 2) to oversee the management of the Service and ensure that the Service is provided and performs in accordance with the expectations of the Councils as reflected in the Full Business Case, Inter Authority Agreement and agreed Annual Business and Commissioning Plans;
- 3) to approve the budget for the Service on an annual basis’;
- 4) to approve the business plan for the Service on an annual basis;
- 5) to monitor and manage the risks associated with the Service;
- 6) to ratify requests from the Service for additional budget funding from individual Councils;
- 7) to approve the staff structure of the Service;
- 8) to appoint the Chief Officer of the Service;
- 9) to decide on disciplinary action against the Chief Officer; and where required, to determine or arrange for the determination of appeals in relation to Human Resources matters.

The following matters are specifically reserved for individual Cabinet decision:

- 1) approval of inter-Council partnership governance arrangements;
- 2) increase of budget over agreed Council contributions;
- 3) procuring the necessary audit and assurance checks; and
- 4) termination of the Partnership

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## Cabinet

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>Report Subject</b>	Childcare and Early Years Capital Programme 2025-2028
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Social Services)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The primary purpose of the Welsh Government funded capital programme is to facilitate and support the co-location of the Curriculum for Wales and childcare provision wherever possible. This is in line with the national Prosperity for All commitment.

The completion of these projects will help to further the Welsh Government's (WG) commitment to create a more equal Wales through the Well-Being of Future Generations Act (2015) by ensuring all children, regardless of socio-economic background, have access to high quality childcare that meets their needs to ensure that they are given every opportunity to reach their full potential.

The commitment and completion of these projects, supports the statutory duty under the Childcare Act for providing sufficient quality childcare places within Flintshire, and that Flintshire County Council (FCC) are continuing to consider the future needs of children and families.

The Welsh Government Childcare and Early Years Capital team have indicated that 2025-2028 capital grants will be available to local authorities for the purposes of providing seamless childcare provision to children in the early years, supported through several Welsh Government programmes including Flying Start, the 3–4-year-old Childcare Offer and early learning. The new potential areas of development are required to be identified through gaps and need identified within the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA).

The 3–4-year-old Childcare Offer is a Welsh Government funded childcare programme which provides up to 30 hours of funded childcare and early learning for up to 48 weeks of the year to 3–4-year-olds of eligible parents. During term

time the 30 hours is made up of 10 hours of early education (Early Entitlement) and up to 20 hours of childcare or 12.5 hours of nursery education and 17.5 hours of childcare with a registered childcare provider and/or school. Eligible children are entitled to three holiday weeks per term for 30 hours of funded childcare each week.

The Flying Start programme helps progress children under 4 years of age, who live in the more disadvantaged areas of Flintshire. The aim is to ensure all children are healthy and thriving, that their families are capable and coping and finally that these children are reaching their full potential. The primary focus is to ensure the continuous expansion of 2-year-olds part-time government funded childcare and meet the demand of childcare places in Flintshire, in accordance with Flying Start Phase 2 Plan and Phase 3 Expansion Plan (the Business Case is pending Welsh Government approval).

Feedback from parents, gathered through the most recent Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA), revealed that parents want to be able to drop their children off and pick them up from the same site, with a seamless transition from childcare to education or vice versa. For some parents, wrap around provision between schools and non-maintained childcare providers continues to be an important part of their childcare needs.

The CSA also identified areas in Flintshire that are most in need of further childcare provisions, and this has been included within the scoring system to ensure that the expansion of childcare services is being placed in the areas that are the most in need and most viable.

The scoring system also includes the Welsh Government funding criteria for capital projects:

- Welsh medium
- bilingual
- co-location of sites
- number of childcare places that will be created
- the scheme expands the Flying Start programme
- the setting supports the Childcare Offer
- the setting aligns with Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To seek approval and endorsement for the identified capital sites in Flintshire for the purpose of securing the WG Childcare and Early Years Capital Grant 2025-2028 (phase 3).
2	Approve the early screening, pre-construction work and the submission of Business Justification Cases to Welsh Government for the proposed sites.



## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>PREVIOUS AND CURRENT CAPITAL PROJECTS – FLINTSHIRE</b>
1.01	<p>Following the completion of the Phase 1 (2019-2022) Capital Projects, FCC have been able to increase the childcare provision significantly for eligible children through the government funded childcare programmes e.g. Flying Start childcare and Childcare Offer. Having access to quality childcare helps children with their development and school readiness.</p> <p>By increasing the reach of the government funded childcare programmes, more families now have access to quality childcare across Flintshire, which enables parents/carers to seek employment, increase their work hours or access training that would eventually lead them into employment.</p>
1.02	<p><b><u>Phase 1 Childcare and Early Years Capital 2019-2022</u></b></p> <p>Phase 1 of the Childcare and Early Years Capital Programme 2019-2022, Flintshire delivered nine new modular buildings and one renovation of an existing school classroom. One capital project completion was extended into 2023-2024 with Welsh Government approval.</p> <p>Completed projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ysgol Bro Carmel, Holywell</li><li>2. Ysgol Croes Atti, Shotton</li><li>3. Ysgol Sychdyn</li><li>4. Ysgol Caerwys</li><li>5. Ysgol Maes Y Felin, Holywell</li><li>6. Ysgol Derwen, Higher Kinnerton</li><li>7. Westwood CP School, Buckley</li><li>8. Ysgol Y Llan, Whitford (completed 15 March 2024)</li><li>9. Aston Family Centre (Early Years Family Centre)</li><li>10. Ysgol Merllyn, Bagillt (renovation)</li></ol> <p>The completion of these projects has added great benefits to the childcare providers and the children in their local areas as they now have custom built childcare buildings and facilities. These buildings were designed with the needs of the children at the heart, with greatly improved environments that attracts both parents and children to settings and creates seamless pathways for children from childcare to early education. All capital projects support the local authority's objectives e.g. WESP, CSA and supporting early learning.</p> <p>For example: Ysgol Croes Atti, Shotton - who received a new modular building on their site, have seen an increase in uptake of childcare. The childcare provider reported that it has been so successful since moving into the new building and they now have a waiting list of families who would like their children to attend the Welsh Medium provision.</p>

1.03	<p><b><u>Phase 2 Childcare and Early Years Capital 2022-2025</u></b></p> <p><b>Cornist Park, Flint</b> –This project will provide up to 40 additional childcare places to the Cornist area that currently has no available childcare provision on the school site, or the Cornist area, and the wider Flint area having large demands and gaps with sufficient childcare places. This project will bring the co-location of childcare and early education and will expand the Flying Start programme to an additional 18 children in the local area.</p> <p><b>Ysgol Terrig/Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn</b> – This project has been moved from the Phase 2 list to the Phase 3 Expression of Interest List. Design options are in discussion, however, agreement could not be reached in time to meet the Welsh Government timeline for Phase 2 funding.</p>
1.04	<p><b><u>Phase 3 Childcare and Early Years Capital 2025-2028</u></b></p> <p>Flintshire’s Early Years and Family Support Service Capital Team work closely with education, the design and building team, finance, legal and other council departments in the stage of Starting Up a Project in line with Prince 2’s project management methodology. At this stage Flintshire’s potential capital sites have been identified.</p> <p>WG has advised that all local authorities are to provide their potential capital site’s list in priority order.</p> <p>Flintshire proposed sites are in priority order below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ysgol Terrig/Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn</li> <li>2. Ysgol Caer Nant, Connah’s Quay</li> <li>3. Greenfield, Holywell (modular or renovation of an existing asset)</li> <li>4. Flint Family Hub (early years element)</li> <li>5. Garden City centre (renovation)</li> <li>6. Ysgol Bryn Pennant, Mostyn</li> <li>7. Flint – Diocese campus - collaboration with Sustainable Communities for Learning Grant (SCfL)</li> <li>8. Saltney area primary school - collaboration with Sustainable Communities for Learning Grant</li> </ol> <p>Further site information is provided in section 1.05.</p> <p>The potential areas below could be considered if any of the above sites become unfeasible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buckley area – Welsh Medium seadling school/cylch meithrin</li> <li>• Sealand CP School</li> <li>• Ewloe Green CP School</li> <li>• Hawarden area</li> </ul> <p>Further site information is provided in section 1.06.</p>
1.05	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 294</p> <p>Priority 1</p>

Project Name:	Ysgol Terrig/Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn			
Brief Description of Project:	An Early Years childcare setting would be of significant benefit to the area, enhancing the childcare provision for both the English and Welsh childcare providers. Currently the Cylch Meithrin Terrig is based in a classroom in Ysgol Terrig. The childcare and pupil numbers are increasing, and the school needs the space/room for educational purposes. This is also the case for Treuddyn Under 5s, who also operate out of a classroom in Ysgol Parc Y Llan. This project is in accordance with council's WESP.			
Initiatives that the project will cover?	Co-Location	Flying Start/Childcare Offer/Foundation Learning	Welsh Language/Bilingual	Expansion of places/Provision
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Further information on the seven priority sites.

Priority 2	
Project Name:	Ysgol Cae'r Nant
Brief Description of Project:	<p>Flintshire County Council would look to construct a new modular build that will be located on the school grounds of Ysgol Cae'r Nant. This would see the number of available places increase from 19 to 30/40, depending on the available external space.</p> <p>Parents currently must drop their children off at a community centre for childcare and then the setting will operate a walking bus to take children to and from school. This route is along a busy residential area, the footpaths are obstructed by bins, small narrow roads with many junctions and is a mile away from the school which is a long distance for small children to walk.</p>

Initiatives that the project will cover?	Co-Location	Flying Start/Childcare Offer/Foundation Learning	Welsh Language/Bilingual	Expansion of places/Provision
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Priority 3				
Project Name:	Greenfield, Holywell			
Brief Description of Project:	<p>Possible new modular building on the Ysgol Maes Glas site or the renovation of the Greenfield Youth Centre. The options will be discussed and agreed with Flintshire's Education Team.</p> <p>Currently, Greenfield Playgroup is based at the Greenfield Youth Centre and they are providing crucial childcare support to families in local area. Without one of the above options being achieved, the childcare provider will be left without a premises or maybe forced to close their doors.</p> <p>Greenfield has been identified as an area of social deprivation and needs investment to improve the local area for the families that live there.</p>			
Initiatives that the project will cover?	Co-Location	Flying Start/Childcare Offer/Foundation Learning	Welsh Language/Bilingual	Expansion of places/Provision
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Priority 4				
Project Name:	Flint Early Years Centre (early years team and childcare)			
Brief Description of Project:	<p>Current location of the Flintshire Flying Start team and the childcare setting in Flint are at risk of loss of premises due to being on a school site as the school numbers are increasing.</p> <p>Flint has been identified as an area of social deprivation and needs investment to improve the local area for the families that live there, therefore, Flying Start team support is crucial at this location. Flint has a growing population that demands sufficient childcare provision.</p> <p>The site options will be discussed and agreed with Flintshire's Education Team.</p>			
Initiatives that the project will cover?	Co-Location	Flying Start/ Childcare Offer/ Foundation Learning	Welsh Language/ Bilingual	Expansion of places/ Provision
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Priority 5				
Project Name:	Sealand and Garden City Youth Centre, Garden City – renovation			
Brief Description of Project:	<p>Currently, Flintshire inhouse childcare is based at this centre and due to a population growth and Flying Start childcare expansion, it demands the expansion of existing services.</p> <p>Garden City has been identified as an area of social deprivation and needs investment to improve the local area for the families that live there.</p>			

Initiatives that the project will cover?	Co-Location	Flying Start/ Childcare Offer/ Foundation Learning	Welsh Language/ Bilingual	Expansion of places/ Provision
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Priority 6				
Project Name:	Ysgol Bryn Pennant, Mostyn			
Brief Description of Project:	<p>Flintshire County Council would look to construct a new modular structural insulated panels (SIP) building on the site of Ysgol Bryn Pennant as there is currently no childcare facilities available, except for a small number of childminders with limited capacity. The completion of this build would see the number of available places increase to 30/40, depending on available external space. This is a Flying Start expansion area.</p> <p>Mostyn has been identified as an area of social deprivation and needs investment to improve the local area for the families that live there.</p>			
Initiatives that the project will cover?	Co-Location	Flying Start/ Childcare Offer/ Foundation Learning	Welsh Language/ Bilingual	Expansion of places/ Provision
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Priority 7				
Project Name:		Flint – Diocese campus - collaboration with Sustainable Communities for Learning Grant (SCfL)		
Brief Description of Project:		<p>FCC’s Education department are currently in the process of evaluating a potential diocese campus for 3–18-year-olds.</p> <p>If this project is feasible then FCC’s Early Years and Family Support Service Capital Team would look to build a new childcare facility on site as Flint has been identified through the CSA as an area of deprivation with sizeable gaps in the childcare provisions that are available within the local area.</p>		
Initiatives that the project will cover?	Co-Location	Flying Start/ Childcare Offer/ Foundation Learning	Welsh Language/ Bilingual	Expansion of places/ Provision
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Priority 8				
Project Name:		Saltney area primary school - collaboration with Sustainable Communities for Learning Grant (SCfL)		
Brief Description of Project:		<p>FCC’s Education department are currently looking into the feasibility of a new school building within the Saltney area. If this project should proceed ahead then FCC’s Early Years and Family Support Service Capital Team would work in collaboration with Education Team to ensure that a new childcare modular building was built on the site. This area has been identified through our CSA as an area of deprivation and in need of additional childcare provisions.</p>		

	Initiatives that the project will cover?	Co-Location	Flying Start/Childcare Offer/Foundation Learning	Welsh Language/Bilingual	Expansion of places/Provision
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.06	Further information on the potential areas that could be considered if any of the eight priority sites become unfeasible.				
	<b>Site</b>	<b>Rational</b>			
	Buckley area – Welsh Medium seadling school/Cylch Meithrin	A further childcare modular building will be considered in line with future developments in the area to accommodate a Cylch Meithrin to provide wraparound Welsh medium childcare.			
	Sealand CP School	<p>A childcare modular building will be considered on the Sealand CP school site. The building will have capacity of up-to 40 children which will increase the available childcare by a further 20 places. If this project is achieved, then the Garden City Childcare will move into the new building.</p> <p>Sealand has also been identified as an area of deprivation in our CSA and is in need of investment to improve the living conditions for the residents there.</p>			
	Ewloe Green CP School	Ewloe Green has been identified as a potential future area of growth within Flintshire due to the area being selected for a large housing development. Following the completion of this housing development, it is predicted there will an increase in demand for childcare provisions and FCC would seek to increase our capacity within that local area.			
	Hawarden area	Hawarden has been identified as a potential future area of growth within Flintshire due to the area being selected for a large housing development. . Following the completion of this housing development, it is predicted there will an increase			



		in demand for childcare provisions and FCC would seek to increase our capacity within that local area.
1.07	<p>Flintshire's priority list could change due to a number of different factors e.g. availability of the WG Childcare and Early Years Capital grant, the success of each Business Justification Cases (BJC), and the early screening work.</p> <p>The early screening work (checking flood risks, land ownerships and other land related issues, increase of traffic, consultations with planning) for these sites is still underway and if any significant risks are identified during this time, then the Early Years and Family Support Service Capital Team will need to respond accordingly, which may mean that a site needs to be removed from consideration.</p>	
1.08	<p>Welsh Government have asked the Council to submit a completed Business Justification Cases in-order to secure funding for the potential projects. Collaboration and consultation with the Education Team and Design and Build Consultancy Team have resulted in a robust project foundation and site intelligence, thus leading to a greater understanding about the viability of the projects, clarity on roles and responsibilities and how the programme will be commissioned, resourced, and managed.</p>	
1.09	<p><b><u>Programme Management</u></b></p> <p>The implementation of these projects will also follow these steps to ensure a smooth process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bid writing and stakeholder meetings – all identified sites will be required to have a Business Justification Case (BJC) to ensure that the completion of the project is both feasible and sustainable. Completed BJCs will be submitted to WG for their bidding process. Meetings will be held with the governing bodies of the sites to establish both what they should expect to receive on the completion of the project and what their responsibilities will be once it has been completed.</li> <li>2. Design process – regular meetings will take place between the Early Years and Family Support Service Capital Team, Design and Building Team, and all other involved parties. These parties will include Streetscene, Valuation and Estates, FCC's Legal Team, FCC's Flood Risk Team, FCC's Education Team, School Governing Body, Contractors and the other identified stakeholders.</li> <li>3. Construction process – once the design process is completed then the project will move into the construction phase. During this period regular meetings and site visits will be carried out with the construction company to ensure that the work packages are completed within the timeline and comply with the required policies and guidance. Any issues and problems identified will be resolved by the Flintshire Early Years Capital Task and Finish Group. Regular meetings with stakeholders will also continue during this period so that all parties are kept up to date on the progress of the project and</li> </ol>	

	<p>so that they also have the opportunity to put forward any solutions that they may have for any issues that could potentially occur.</p> <p>4. Handover process – following the completion of the construction phase the modular buildings will then be handed over to the school governing bodies. During this period the Capital Project Coordinator will remain available to the governing bodies to provide support and guidance.</p>
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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The funding for the Childcare and Early Years Capital Programme 2025-2028 will be awarded and 100% funded by Welsh Government. Regular capital account management meetings will be held with Welsh Government and quarterly progress reports will be sent to WG from Flintshire.
2.02	Maintenance cost of the new modular buildings will be funded through the hiring charges from the childcare settings and the other booked community groups. School Governing Bodies will have a hiring agreement in place for the building users to ensure the health and safety of the building and also that the condition of the building is being maintained. Childcare settings must comply with CIW Standards.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All projects are managed using a risk register. Financial risks are managed through a project contingency, with regular meetings with the Capital Finance Team to ensure compliance with the Welsh Government Grant award and that all costs are allocated to the correct sites.</li> <li>• Any high-level risk which cannot be managed with the projects/programme will be incorporated into the risk register for the Flintshire Early Years Capital Task and Finish Group to consider. This includes regular meetings which will be held by the group to try and mitigate any issues that may occur around the availability of resources. The risks around resource acquirement could stem from several issues, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Brexit causing delays at borders for any materials that may need to be imported.</li> <li>○ Rising inflation rates that could make the cost of building materials too expensive.</li> <li>○ Deficiencies in the supply chain, either locally or globally, that will make the procurement of certain materials a more challenging task.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A feasibility study may incur a financial risk to the Authority should Welsh Government decide to make a reclaim of funding, when a</li> </ul>

	<p>capital scheme cannot proceed. This may need to be covered from the FCC Capital Feasibility Funding. The risk will be mitigated by ensuring early checks/screening are completed prior to any funding request from Welsh Government. This will include liaison with legal, land registry checks, flood risks, and drainage checks etc. And that Partners are on board and made aware of the risk. Stage 0 Partnership Agreement to be considered.</p>												
3.02	<p>Under the five delivery principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act this report will have the following impacts:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ways of Working Principle</th> <th>Impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td>Positive – ensures that high quality and affordable childcare will be available to communities with demand.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> <td>Positive – will improve parents employment opportunities due to available and affordable childcare. It will provide positive transitions for children from childcare to education as the settings will be built on the school’s grounds.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> <td>Positive – the new childcare settings will integrate children from varying social backgrounds and allow them to develop friendship groups in their early years, in-line with the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act (2015).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> <td>Positive – partnership arrangements in-house and with external parties including school governing bodies through Project Plan and Communication Strategy.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> <td>Positive - The proposed projects will help promote greater community integration/use/involvement and many parents have reported improvement in friendships both for themselves and their children.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ways of Working Principle	Impact	Long-term	Positive – ensures that high quality and affordable childcare will be available to communities with demand.	Prevention	Positive – will improve parents employment opportunities due to available and affordable childcare. It will provide positive transitions for children from childcare to education as the settings will be built on the school’s grounds.	Integration	Positive – the new childcare settings will integrate children from varying social backgrounds and allow them to develop friendship groups in their early years, in-line with the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act (2015).	Collaboration	Positive – partnership arrangements in-house and with external parties including school governing bodies through Project Plan and Communication Strategy.	Involvement	Positive - The proposed projects will help promote greater community integration/use/involvement and many parents have reported improvement in friendships both for themselves and their children.
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3.03	<p>Against the seven well-being goals of the Act, the potential impact of the report and its recommendations would be evaluated as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Well-being Principle</th> <th>Impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Prosperous Wales</td> <td>Positive impact - Capital investment directly benefits local supply chain/economy as a percentage of local expenditure is a requirement of the grant funding. The completion of projects will lead to an increase in employment opportunities for those seeking to</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Well-being Principle	Impact	Prosperous Wales	Positive impact - Capital investment directly benefits local supply chain/economy as a percentage of local expenditure is a requirement of the grant funding. The completion of projects will lead to an increase in employment opportunities for those seeking to								
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		enter construction, childcare, cleaning services and maintenance.
	Resilient Wales	Positive impact - Use of sustainable and recycled materials during construction, more energy efficient, potential reduction in carbon emissions.
	Healthier Wales	Positive impact – modular buildings will have both indoor and outdoor play areas for children to play and staff will work with healthy pre-school colleagues in line with governmental schemes to promote and impart wisdom on what a healthy diet consists of. As well as early years advisory teachers/officers to support play and a healthy and thriving childhood.
	More Equal Wales	Positive impact – completion of modular buildings will help to ensure suitable childcare is available across all of Flintshire, including areas of need (as identified through the CSA) that have been given priority due to the lack of childcare provision available in those areas.
	Cohesive Wales	Positive Impact – quality childcare provides further opportunities.
	Vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Positive impact – childcare settings will offer opportunities to promote the Welsh Language and culture through the use of Welsh phrases, songs and storytelling, introducing children early.
	Globally Responsible Wales	Positive - Capital investment, delivers a more sustainable product, local spend and added benefits for apprenticeships and work experience in construction. The settings are encouraged to recycle all waste that occurs from the day to day running of the settings and to engage the children in the importance of recycling waste for a more sustainable future.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	Consultations with Flintshire County Council Design Team have been conducted to ascertain any problems that may occur and confirm arrangements for the procurement stage.
4.02	Consultations with the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Manager, will take place to determine any issues with flood risks or drainage.
4.03	Consultations with school head teachers and governing bodies are being arranged to explain the schemes, rational, benefits, proposal, planning and agreements, roles and responsibilities.
4.04	Consultations with FCC's legal team will take place so that they can begin the necessary work on land ownership, legal boundaries and all other legal issues that may have an impact.
4.05	Consultations and planning with FCC's Education department are being held monthly to ensure that all project information is shared amongst both teams and that both teams have the opportunity to raise any concerns or areas that may be problematic and to drive forward the project plan.
4.06	Consultations are taking place with the Flintshire Streetscene team to ensure that all impacts on traffic in the area of the settings are considered and to ascertain if there is an opportunity to improve traffic flow in the area through specific design aspects of the projects (i.e., increased parking spaces or improved footpaths).

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	N/A.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p><b>Contact Officers:</b></p> <p>Byra Foulkes – Early Years Childcare, Capital and Partnerships Team Manager  Telephone: 01352 703934 / 07795122267  E-mail: <a href="mailto:byra.foulkes@flintshire.gov.uk">byra.foulkes@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Joseph Penlington – Early Years Capital Projects Coordinator  Telephone: 01352 703551 / 07979177681  E-mail: <a href="mailto:joseph.penlington@flintshire.gov.uk">joseph.penlington@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

Gail Bennett – Early Years and Family Service Manager  
Email: [gail.bennett@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:gail.bennett@flintshire.gov.uk)

## 8.00 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

8.01 **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)** – This is a statutory requirement for FCC to assess and provide sufficient quality childcare places within their local authority and to identify any areas for improvement that needs to be made for the childcare provision. The CSA questionnaire was sent out to families and childcare providers in the Flintshire area that enquired about what improvements they would like to see made to the childcare provisions that are offered in Flintshire.

**Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP):** Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. Working together to achieve Cymraeg 2050 objectives of a million Welsh Speakers, implementing the WESP action plan into educational strategic plans.

**Capital Funding** – The funding is provided by the WG Childcare and Early Years Capital Programme. Capital funding is usually linked to acquiring or improving a long-term asset such as equipment or buildings.

**Risk Register** - A logbook that is kept of all the risks that could impact on the completion of a project.

**Management Agreement** - A legal contract that is set-up between FCC and the School Governing Body of the selected school sites that outlines each parties' responsibilities and accountabilities during the life cycle of the project and after the handover of the modular building.

**CWLWM** - brings together the five leading childcare organisations in Wales to deliver a bilingual integrated service that will ensure the best possible outcomes for children and families across Wales. CWLWM supports the Welsh Government to ensure that families across Wales can access affordable, quality childcare providing innovative solutions to create flexible childcare and play opportunities to meet the needs of parents and their families.

**Early Years Capital Task and Finish Group** – This group closely monitors and delivers the Early Years capital projects. The members of this group consist of lead officers from the following teams: Early Years Childcare, Capital and Partnership Team, Education School Modernisation Team, Design and Building Consultancy Team, Finance Capital Team and appointed contractors.



## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>Report Subject</b>	Shared Prosperity Fund
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) programme has been in operation from April 2022 until March 2025 and is currently closing down project activities. UK Government have given approval for a final year of funding for the current programme of SPF to fill the gap until a new programme, to be administered by Welsh Government, begins in 2026-2027.

This creates an urgent pressure on Councils to allocate funding to projects for 2025-2026 to enable project sponsors to retain staff and maintain seamless service delivery.

This report proposes a process of extension to current working arrangements to match the revised timescale of the programme in line with UK government expectations.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the proposed process for allocating funding to projects for 2025-2026 is considered and approved.
2	That delegated authority is given to the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) and the Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate to allocate funding to project activities for 2025-26.
3	That delegated authority is given to the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) and the Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate to operate management processes to enable the

	delivery of the SPF programme in Flintshire for 2025-26 and to reallocate any surplus funding to project activities in a timely manner to enable full utilisation by March 2026.
4	That approval is given to amend and extend the inter-authority agreement with Gwynedd County Council to enable them to continue to act as the regional administrative lead for the programme.

## **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE SHARED PROSPERITY FUND</b>
	<u>Background</u>
1.01	<p>The guidance for the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) programme was released on 13 April 2022. The aim of the programme is “to build pride in place and increase life chances”. The investment priorities set by UK Government were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Community and Place - Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging. To build resilient and safe neighbourhoods.</li> <li>2) Supporting Local Business - Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion by supporting local businesses. Promoting networking and collaboration and stimulating innovation and growth. Targeted support to help businesses grow - e.g. innovation, productivity, energy efficiency, low carbon and exporting.</li> <li>3) People and Skills - Boosting core skills and support adults to progress in work. Supporting disadvantaged people to access the skills they need. Funding local skills needs and supplementing local adult skills provision. Reducing levels of economic inactivity and supporting those furthest from the labour market.</li> </ol>
1.02	The programme was due to run from April 2022 until March 2025. Flintshire was allocated £12,669,326 by UK Government. Funding was confirmed by UK Government in October 2022.
1.03	Following Cabinet approval in November 2022, the Council took part in a regionally-led competitive selection process for projects. This concluded in September 2023 with the Council agreeing to support 23 projects, 14 to be delivered just within Flintshire and nine to cover multiple counties. Cabinet gave delegated authority to the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) and the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy to establish the structures and processes to deliver the programme and to allocate funding to projects.
1.04	A regional administrative body was established on behalf of the six North Wales local authorities and is managed by Gwynedd County Council. The day to day financial management of the programme is undertaken by this body including the issuing of funding agreements to projects. Flintshire County Council provides close support to project sponsors, contributes to



	the monitoring of the programme and retains the final decisions on the allocation of funding to projects.
1.05	The programme is still under delivery although the majority of projects are in their final closing stages. It is expected that, with the exception of the ring-fenced Multiply adult numeracy activity which was under-allocated due to lack of demand, the overwhelming majority of the funding for 2022-2025 will be spent. Project evaluation is underway currently so that a full picture of the achievements of the 2022-2025 programme will be available later this year.
1.06	Delivery of the programme throughout has been constrained by the very short timeframe for the programme set by UK Government. Projects had, in effect, only a maximum of 18 months for delivery including both initial mobilisation and final close down.
	<u>2025=2026 transition funding</u>
1.07	UK Government have given approval for a final year of funding for the current programme of SPF to fill the gap until a new programme, to be administered by Welsh Government, begins in 2026-2027.
1.08	UK Government has allocated £4,394,902 to Flintshire for 2025-2026 comprising £3,176,593 revenue and £1,218,309 capital. The Multiply element of the SPF programme is no longer included for 2025-2026 but adult numeracy activities can still be supported.
1.09	Currently, officer time at both the regional administrative level and locally is wholly committed to the task of closing projects and to verifying and paying final claims. Capacity to set up the arrangements for 2025-2026 is therefore very limited.
1.10	UK Government has indicated that it is content, given the timescale, for existing activities to be continued and doesn't expect an open call for new projects. An open call was undertaken for the 2022-25 programme and required considerable officer resource to deliver over a period of nine months. If new projects are sought for 2025-2026 then this would necessitate an open call for proposals to ensure a fair and transparent process. It is therefore proposed that existing project sponsors are urgently approached and asked for activity proposals for 2025-2026.
1.11	With considerably less resource available than the 2022-2025 programme and even less time for delivery it is therefore also proposed that we: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) only invite some of the current project sponsors to submit proposals for 2025-2026 with the initial selection based on the criteria set out below;</li> <li>2) provide the remaining project sponsors with an indicative allocation of revenue based on a proportion their 2024-2025 allocation (about 40%) and inviting them to base their proposal on this; and</li> <li>3) invite proposals to use the capital allocation as this is far harder to deliver in the tight timescale for the transition programme.</li> </ol>
1.12	It is proposed that projects will only be considered for the 2025-2026 funding if they meet the criteria below.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The project made best use of available resources by utilising all of its original funding allocation and perhaps requesting additional money to deliver additional benefits.</li> <li>2) The project achieved all or most of its original targets.</li> <li>3) The project demonstrated a positive impact in the county.</li> <li>4) The project was well-managed and submitted timely and accurate documentation and responded swiftly and appropriately to queries and requests for information.</li> <li>5) The project demonstrated an ability to respond to challenges and promptly suggest alternative approaches.</li> <li>6) The project fully engaged with the Flintshire and regional SPF teams.</li> <li>7) There are no significant risks and concerns about the project continuing for a further period.</li> </ol>
1.13	On the completion of this process, targeted to complete in early March 2025, project sponsors will receive an “in-principle” agreement that the Council intends to allocate SPF funding for 2025-2026 to them. This may enable some sponsors to work “at risk” and avoid delays to project delivery. They would still be required to submit further information to the regional administrative body for review and to await a formal Grant Funding Agreement.
1.14	The Economic Collaboration Group, a multi-agency advisory group established by the Council, was given the role of overseeing the process for allocating funding for the 2022-2025 programme. It is anticipated that this role will continue for the 2025-2026 funding although the final decision on allocations will remain with the Council.
1.15	Once in operation, the short timescale for the 2025-2026 programme will necessitate the Council managing the allocation of funding in an agile way to ensure that surplus funds are quickly identified and reallocated to other approved projects.
1.16	Four percent of the value of the programme is allocated for programme administration, For the 2022-2025 programme, approximately half of this budget was allocated to Gwynedd County Council to act as administrative lead for the region and the remainder was used to support local staffing costs. It is proposed that the regional administration by Gwynedd County Council is continued into 2025-2026 as it has been very successful to date and is the most cost-effective way of delivering this especially given the constrained timescale for the programme. An inter-authority agreement governs this relationship and this will need to be amended and extended.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	Four percent of the value of the programme can be drawn down by the regional lead body for programme governance, administration and monitoring and evaluation. Funds can be allocated from this sum to each local authority to cover programme management costs so the programme will not present an additional burden to Council finances.

2.02	Match funding is not required by UK Government for the SPF programme. The Council therefore does not face any additional financial pressures from the delivery of the programme.
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<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
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3.01	<p><b>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td>The Council has prioritised projects that can demonstrate an impact beyond the duration of the programme.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> <td>The Council has prioritised projects that can demonstrate that they address underlying issues rather than merely tackling their symptoms.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> <td rowspan="3">None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Well-being Goals Impact</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Prosperous Wales</td> <td rowspan="7">The Council asked projects to set out how they could contribute towards the Well-being Goals.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Resilient Wales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Healthier Wales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More equal Wales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cohesive Wales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vibrant Wales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Globally responsible Wales</td> </tr> </table> <p>Risk management</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Risk</th> <th>Mitigation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Short timescale for delivery leading to money not being spent</td> <td>The report sets out how the Council will proactively manage the funding to ensure that underspends are minimised as far as practicable.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Long-term	The Council has prioritised projects that can demonstrate an impact beyond the duration of the programme.	Prevention	The Council has prioritised projects that can demonstrate that they address underlying issues rather than merely tackling their symptoms.	Integration	None	Collaboration	Involvement	Prosperous Wales	The Council asked projects to set out how they could contribute towards the Well-being Goals.	Resilient Wales	Healthier Wales	More equal Wales	Cohesive Wales	Vibrant Wales	Globally responsible Wales	Risk	Mitigation	Short timescale for delivery leading to money not being spent	The report sets out how the Council will proactively manage the funding to ensure that underspends are minimised as far as practicable.
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<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
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4.01	None.
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<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
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5.01	None.
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<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	None.

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Niall Waller Enterprise and Regeneration Manager  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702137  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:niall.waller@flintshire.gov.uk">niall.waller@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
	<p><b>Match funding</b> – money provided by a project applicant towards the costs of delivering their project.</p> <p><b>Multiply</b> – a mandatory element of the Shared Prosperity Fund programme to tackle adult numeracy.</p> <p><b>Regional administrative body</b> – the lead local authority for North Wales (Gwynedd County Council) who will administer the programme on behalf of the region under a formal agreement between the six authorities.</p> <p><b>Shared Prosperity Fund</b> – a funding programme from UK Government operating over the 2022-2025 financial years “to build pride in place and increase life chances”.</p>



## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>Report Subject</b>	Community Asset Transfers
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Transformation & Assets
<b>Report Author</b>	Corporate Manager - Capital Programme and Assets
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report provides background to the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) process.

It gives an insight to the operational phases of the CAT process, the resource challenges of continued management in its current form and the success and failure rate and the unintended consequences of CAT.

The report recommends a review which would streamline the CAT process, enabling officers to continue to support local and Council needs by reviewing and align it to the resources available.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

	That Cabinet supports a review and streamlining of the current CAT process.
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## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>BACKGROUND</b>
1.01	In 2011, the UK Government passed the Localism Act which provided Local Authorities power to transfer community assets to local organisations and charities on a long leasehold basis.
1.02	In bringing forward the Act, Welsh Government recognised the importance of community assets and had a specific commitment to work with communities to help maintain local facilities that bring people together. However, WG also stated that Public Authorities in Wales are not obliged to undertake Community Asset Transfers and Local Authorities must initiate the process themselves. As such it is encouraged rather than being an obligation.
1.03	In determining whether a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) is viable, the Council must balance the requirement to dispose of surplus or underutilised assets to provide funding for its' capital programme with the need to stimulate and regenerate local communities and encourage social enterprise through the alternative use of its buildings and land assets.
1.04	In November 2014, through the Organisational Change workstream programme, the Council re-launched its approach to the delivery of Community Asset Transfers (CATs)
1.05	An update report was presented to Cabinet, 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2015 on the development and implementation of the Council's approach to CATs.
1.06	In re-launching its CAT strategy, the Council sought to simplify its approach and methodology into three basic stages: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage 1 – Expression of Interest: This can be made by an individual or community group.</li> <li>• Stage 2 – Business Model Application: This can only be made by a community group and is the formal application stage of this process.</li> <li>• Stage 3 – Completion and Transfer of Asset: The final stage in the process which will be between the Council and an appropriate organisation.</li> </ul>
1.07	In supporting the delivery of CAT's, the Council engaged Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC) to support and lead aspects of this process. They are providing a package of flexible, tailored support delivered by FLVC staff with experience of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Development</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Third Sector Funding &amp; Finance</li> <li>• Governance</li> <li>• Administration</li> <li>• Charity Management</li> </ul> <p>This arrangement is still in place.</p>
1.08	<p>FLVC are heavily involved in the CAT process and ensure that Community groups have the necessary structure, business case, signposting of external grants and other matters which would provide a stable foundation to position the groups in order that they have the best chance of success, they do this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing bespoke support to community groups in the development of potential Community Asset Transfers</li> <li>• Participation and support for a multi-disciplinary Panel to filter Expressions of Interest (EOI's) and assess business plans for due diligence by the Council.</li> <li>• Bespoke training and support for those groups/organisations who's EOIs have sufficient merit to progress towards a detailed business plan submission.</li> <li>• Partnerships with existing and potential partner organisations within the sector to provide direct and in-kind support to empower the transferee.</li> <li>• Monitoring of Expressions of Interest and support for a smooth and efficient transfer process.</li> <li>• Liaison with the Council to identify potential assets, issues, and beneficiary groups.</li> </ul>
1.09	<p><b><u>Stage 1 - Expression of Interest</u></b></p> <p>This can be made by an individual or community group. These are reviewed by a CAT panel, which includes representation from the Council and Flintshire Local Voluntary Council. Consideration at this stage includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential Community Benefit.</li> <li>• Capacity relating to sustainability of the project, i.e. How will the project be funded initially and over future years?</li> <li>• The outgoings / management costs of the property /asset?</li> <li>• Use of the asset - How will the asset be used?</li> <li>• What Engagement with the local community, i.e., who have you spoken to the proposal about i.e. local councillor; other community groups, current users of the asset, etc.</li> </ul> <p>Where appropriate, organisations or individuals will then be invited to progress to stage two.</p>
1.10	<p><b><u>Stage 2 – Business Modelling</u></b></p>

	<p>Assuming applicants successfully navigate stage 1 applicants will then be asked to provide a business model and supporting documents. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of a proven local need for the asset.</li> <li>• Details of planned outcomes and benefits anticipated because of the asset transfer.</li> <li>• A plan for how much space is required and its potential usage.</li> <li>• 5-year plans for revenue and capital funding, plus cost projections for managing and operating the asset.</li> <li>• Any financial resources that the asset transfer will release or attract.</li> <li>• Financial sustainability and forward planning.</li> <li>• How the CAT applicant will invest in and maintain the property asset, including a specific plan for meeting Health and Safety obligations and energy efficiency responsibilities.</li> <li>• Evidence of a community governance / management structure with the capability to sustain the property asset.</li> <li>• Evidence of a track record for delivering services and / or managing property.</li> <li>• Evidence of relevant competencies for the effective management of Health and Safety, including for the safe and compliant delivery of the range of services anticipated (e.g. appropriate qualifications, skills, membership of professional bodies etc).</li> </ul> <p>The stage 2 decision will be a formal decision that commits the Council to an Asset Transfer subject to final completion of legal agreements.</p>
1.11	<p><b><u>Stage 3 - Completion and Transfer of Asset</u></b></p> <p>On receipt of delegated approval, Legal officers will be instructed to prepare the transfer documentation, subject to any specific terms as may be agreed.</p> <p>Any agreement, if it is considered appropriate, will include a provision for the return of the land or building should a venture be unsuccessful and cease. In accepting a return, however, the Council will not normally assume any responsibilities or liabilities of the community-based group including financial commitments and responsibility for any repair. previously identified in the schedule of condition which will be attached to the lease agreement at the commencement of the lease.</p> <p>At this stage the CAT applicant can still default on the lease by a non-signature/non-return.</p>
1.12	<p>The process whilst simplified in 2014 is extremely labour intensive and their extensive support is provided given to organisations by both Valuation and Estates officers and FLVC. This includes site meetings, advice regarding running costs, capital allocations etc. The culmination at</p>



	stage 3 is the Council's Legal team (or external Legal commission) preparing and completing the lease documentation (and associated abortive costs if unsuccessful).
1.13	Since its inception, there has been a total of 292 CAT applications of which 21 have completed, with notable success stories such as Cambrian Aquatics and Holywell Leisure centre trustees, who have operated successfully for several years, albeit with continued but significantly reduced level of Council financial support. However, conversely 211 CAT applications have not completed.
1.14	Currently, there are CAT applications at the following stages: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage 1 - 0</li> <li>• Stage 2 – 45</li> <li>• Stage 3 – 13</li> </ul>
1.15	In some cases, organisations have received a capital allocation from the Council, these are noted in the Capital programme. This funding is used to pump prime the organisation/enterprise, particularly in cases where there are either significant building condition issues or a viable project ambition within their business case.
1.16	Given the Council's budgetary situation the continuation of CATs in their current form as a non-core activity can present, in most cases, a greater resource challenge than the benefits derived.
1.17	The formation of the Council's CAT webpage appears to have created an unintended consequence and has led to an environment whereby communities and groups have felt compelled to follow the CAT process to secure the asset in their communities rather than to react to the local demand/need. This is causing significant resource issues for the small team which administer the CAT process alongside the abortive costs to the Council. (as noted in para 2.01)
1.18	The valuation and estates team are extremely lean, as such demand outstrips resource. The teams' priorities should be focussed on core activities, such as Asset Valuation's, which is a statutory function linked to the Council's end of year accounts; securing/ increasing rental revenue income through the Councils non-operational estate, securing income through the generation of capital receipts, and progressing other corporate asset related projects that drive economic benefit for the Council/County.
1.19	It is the view of officers involved that the CAT process should be reviewed and streamlined accordingly.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
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2.01	There are time and monetary implications at each stage. A high-level study has been undertaken, and more than £400k of officer resource has been incurred supporting CAT applications, this excludes legal costs (which have been rising through external commission), capital allocations, (through the Community Benefit Agreement), FLVC time and any continuation of agreed subsidy. (in a small number of cases).
2.02	Flintshire Local Authority Council (FLVC) have a Strategic Funding agreement with the Council. As part of this arrangement, they have provided support with the CAT process. The recommendation in the report does not negatively impact on this agreement.
2.03	The grant funding agreement with FLVC supports, in summary: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and support volunteering recruitment, support, and training within Social Services and the social care sector to support the well-being of Flintshire residents.</li> <li>• To support the Council to meet its Well-being objectives and Welsh language Promotion strategy through developing the voluntary sector within Flintshire.</li> <li>• Grant and funding advice to voluntary sector organisations</li> <li>• Volunteer Centre Development and Volunteering in social care.</li> </ul>
2.04	Reviewing/streamlining the CAT's process, if agreed, would be designed to reduce abortive work for both the Council and FLVC

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	No Impact Assessment has been undertaken. Any risks identified (for which there are currently none identified) will be managed through the Portfolios risk management process.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	Discussions have taken place with FLVC who are supportive of this approach.
4.02	This report will be presented to CROSC 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2025.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	N/A

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	N/A

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Damian Hughes, Corporate Manager, Capital Programme and Assets <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704135 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk">damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	None.

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## EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS - DECISIONS TAKEN REPORTED TO CABINET – 18.02.25

### Governance

- **Council Tax – Section 13(a) Discretionary Discount Awards**

Section 13(a) 1c of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, provides scope for the Council to use discretionary powers to reduce liability for Council Tax for individual cases or class(es) of properties that it may determine and where national discounts and exemptions cannot be applied or may have expired. The current policy of the Council is to award S13(a) when all other Council Tax exemptions, reductions and discounts have been explored and exhausted in cases where residents have been affected by natural disaster or civil emergency. An application for Section 13(a) Discretionary Relief has been awarded to taxpayers who had to leave their homes due to Storm Babet, and time limited council tax exemptions have expired. The application equates to a total award of £1,272.69 and providing a discretionary council tax discount is appropriate in line with the policy criteria.

### Streetscene and Transportation

- **Proposal to Construct a Puffin Pedestrian Crossing on the A549 Mold Road in Buckley**

To note that a formal objection has been received as part of the statutory consultation procedure, which has been reviewed and considered impartially. This delegated report confirms the progress of the proposal to construct a puffin crossing facility on the A549 Mold Road, Buckley.

- **Street Works Fees and Charges for 2025/26**

The fees and charges levied for various licenses and applications issued within Street Works have been reviewed and the proposed charges for 2025/26 are set out in the table in the report. The CIH 12 month rolling rate as of October 2024 was 3.8%. This has been used as the normative inflation index amount and applied to all applicable fees and charges to generate the 2025 fees and charges amount payable. In order to allow applicants to set budgets for the forthcoming financial year, Street Works charges will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

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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