

Public Document Pack

Gareth Owens LL.B Barrister/Bargyfreithiwr
Chief Officer (Governance)
Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu)



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To: All Members of the Council

28 November 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF HYBRID MEETING
FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, 4TH DECEMBER, 2024 at 1.00 PM

Yours faithfully

Steven Goodrum
Democratic Services Manager

Please note: Attendance at this meeting is either in person in The Lord Barry Jones Council Chamber, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire or on a virtual basis.

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

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

A G E N D A

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Purpose: To receive any apologies.

2 **TRIBUTES TO THE FORMER LATE COUNTY COUNCILLOR VERONICA GAY**

Purpose: To enable Members to pay tribute to the former late County Councillor Veronica Gay.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Purpose: To receive any Declarations and advise Members accordingly.

4 **MINUTES** (Pages 5 - 16)

Purpose: To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 24 September and 24 October 2024.

5 **CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Purpose: To receive the communications as circulated.

6 **PETITIONS**

Purpose: This is an opportunity for Members of Council to submit petitions on behalf of people in their ward. Once received, petitions are passed to the appropriate Chief Officer for action and response.

PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS

7 **APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL** (Pages 17 - 20)

Report of Chief Officer (Governance)

Purpose: To clarify the procedure when a Leader resigns.

8 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 – 2027/28** (Pages 21 - 48)

Report of Corporate Finance Manager

Purpose: To present the Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2027/28 for approval.

9 **CAPITAL STRATEGY INCLUDING PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2025/26 – 2027/28** (Pages 49 - 68)

Report of Corporate Finance Manager

Purpose: To present the Capital Strategy 2025/26 – 2027/28 for approval.

10 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24** (Pages 69 - 92)

Report of Corporate Finance Manager

Purpose: To present to Members the draft Annual Treasury Management Report 2023/24

11 **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT (APR)** (Pages 93 - 288)

Report of Chief Executive

Purpose: To approve the Annual Performance Report 2023-24, noting the Council Plan (2023-28) end of year performance for 2023-24.

ORDINARY ITEMS OF BUSINESS

12 **APPOINTMENT OF THE CABINET BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Purpose: To note the appointment of the Cabinet by the Leader of the Council.

13 **REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE** (Pages 289 - 294)

Report of Chief Officer (Governance)

Purpose: Due to a change in group membership we need to review the Political Balance and the allocation of seats on Committees.

14 **SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE** (Pages 295 - 312)

Report of Chief Officer (Governance)

Purpose: To consider and make recommendations to Council on the proposed scrutiny arrangements for the Corporate Joint Committee.

15 **CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE** (Pages 313 - 320)

Report of Chief Officer (Governance)

Purpose: To approve the proposed changes to the Climate Change Committee Terms of Reference.

16 **NOTICE OF MOTION** (Pages 321 - 324)

Purpose: This item is to receive any Notices of Motion. Two have been accepted and attached to the agenda.

FOR INFORMATION

17 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Purpose: This item is to receive any Public Questions.

18 QUESTIONS (Pages 325 - 328)

Purpose: To note the answers to any questions submitted in accordance with County Council Standing Order No. 9.4(A).

Questions deferred from County Council meeting held on 24th October, 2024 (Document 1).

Questions submitted since the County Council meeting held on 24th October, 2024 (Document 2).

19 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS ON COMMITTEE MINUTES

Purpose:

To consider any issues raised by Members arising from the Minutes of the Cabinet, Scrutiny Committees and other Committees, together with any questions raised under Section 4.20 of the Council's Constitution. Copies of the Minutes of the various meetings that have taken place since the last ordinary meeting of the Council which have been approved and published on the Authority's website, can be obtained, if required, via the Committee and Member Services.

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

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
24 SEPTEMBER 2024

Minutes of Flintshire County Council held as a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, 24 September 2024.

PRESENT:
Councillors:

Councillor Mel Buckley (Vice-Chair in the Chair)

Mike Allport, Bernie Attridge, Glyn Banks, Pam Banks, Marion Bateman, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Teresa Carberry, Tina Claydon, David Coggins-Cogan, Geoff Collett, Steve Copple, Bill Crease, Paul Cunningham, Rob Davies, Ron Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke, Chris Dolphin, Rosetta Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, Carol Ellis, David Evans, Chrissy Gee, David Healey, Gladys Healey, Ian Hodge, Andy Hughes, Dave Hughes, Ray Hughes, Alasdair Ibbotson, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones, Richard Jones, Simon Jones, Fran Lister, Richard Lloyd, Dave Mackie, Gina Maddison, Roz Mansell, Allan Marshall, Hilary McGuill, Ryan McKeown, Billy Mullin, Debbie Owen, Ted Palmer, Andrew Parkhurst, Mike Peers, Vicky Perfect, Carolyn Preece, David Richardson, Ian Roberts, Dan Rose, Kevin Rush, Dale Selvester, Jason Shallcross, Sam Swash, Linda Thew, Linda Thomas, Roy Wakelam, Antony Wren and Arnold Woolley

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: Dennis Hutchinson, Michelle Perfect and Ant Turton

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer (Education & Youth), Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy) and Chief Officer (Social Services)

31. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME ([link to recording](#))

The Chair reported that two questions had been received, as shown in the agenda, and invited Amy Chesworth to present her question to Council. Amy Chesworth thanked the Chair and Council for the opportunity to attending the meeting and read out her [question \(agenda item 2\)](#).

Councillor Mared Eastwood provided a [response \(agenda item 2\)](#).

In response to Amy Chesworth's supplementary question, Councillor Eastwood advised that a response would be provided in writing following the meeting.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ([link to recording](#))

As a point of clarification, the Chief Officer (Governance) advised that Members who receive the Winter Fuel Allowance could declare a personal interest offline.

Councillors Preece and Rush declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item number 9.

Councillors Peers and Shallcross declared a personal interest in agenda item number 9.

Councillors Bithell, Lloyd and Maddison declared a personal interest in agenda item number 13 – Notice of Motion (Winter Fuel Allowance).

Councillors Buckley, Coggins-Cogan, Christine Jones, Mansell and Parkhurst declared a personal interest in agenda item number 13 – Notice of Motion (Flintshire Teachers and School Employees to Take Oath to Work with Children).

33. MINUTES ([link to recording](#))

The [minutes \(agenda item 4\)](#) of the meetings held on 16 April and 22 July 2024 were presented for approval.

22 July, 2024

Councillor Shallcross advised that he was present at the meeting. It was agreed that the minutes be amended to reflect this.

Councillor Coggins-Cogan referred to his question on attendance at a meeting by Aura and advised that he had not received additional information following the meeting, as suggested by the former Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the amendment listed above, the minutes of the meetings held on 16 April and 22 July, 2024 be approved as a correct record.

34. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS ([link to recording](#))

The Chair drew attention to the communication which had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting and listed events attended from 23 July to 24 September 2024.

35. PETITIONS ([link to recording](#))

Councillor Paul Cunningham submitted a petition from residents in Flint Mountain who were concerned around the speed of traffic on the A5119 and the danger when crossing the road.

36. ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ([link to recording](#))

A recorded vote was requested on the three nominations, for which the requisite number of Members stood in support.

The following voted for Councillor Dave Hughes:-

Councillors: Bernie Attridge, Mel Buckley, Glyn Banks, Pam Banks, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Helen Brown, Teresa Carberry, Tina Claydon, Geoff Collett, Steve Copple, Bill Crease, Paul Cunningham, Rob Davies, Ron Davies, Chris Dolphin, Rosetta Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, David Evans, David Healey, Gladys Healey, Ian Hodge, Dave Hughes, Ray Hughes, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones, Richard Jones, Simon Jones, Fran Lister, Richard Lloyd, Gina Maddison, Roz Mansell, Allan Marshall, Ryan McKeown, Billy Mullin, Ted Palmer, Mike Peers, Vicky Perfect, Ian Roberts, Kevin Rush, Jason Shallcross, Linda Thomas, Roy Wakelam and Arnold Woolley

The following voted for Councillor Alasdair Ibbotson:-

Councillors: Gillian Brockley, Chrissy Gee, Alasdair Ibbotson, Carolyn Preece, David Richardson, Dan Rose and Sam Swash

The following voted for Councillor Andrew Parkhurst:-

Councillors: David Coggins-Cogan, Andy Hughes, Hilary McGuill, Andrew Parkhurst and Antony Wren

The following Councillors abstained:-

Councillors: Mike Allport, Marion Bateman, Adele Davies-Cooke, Carol Ellis, Dave Mackie, Dale Selvester and Linda Thew

On being put to the vote, Councillor Dave Hughes was appointed Leader of the Council for the remainder of the municipal year 2024/25.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Dave Hughes was appointed Leader of the Council for the remainder of the municipal year 2024/25.

37. APPOINTMENT OF THE CABINET BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ([link to recording](#))

Councillor Dave Hughes proposed that the Cabinet remain unchanged for the time being.

38. COUNCIL TAX PREMIUM SCHEME FOR SECOND HOMES AND LONG-TERM EMPTY PROPERTIES ([link to recording](#))

The Chief Officer (Governance) and Revenues & Procurement Manager introduced a [report \(agenda item 9\)](#) which set out the public feedback following the recent consultation, and the key consideration for setting or varying the premium rates.

Councillor Ibbotson moved a number of proposals which were seconded by Councillor Swash.

Councillor Richard Jones moved an amendment to the proposals put forward by Councillor Ibbotson which was seconded by Councillor Bill Crease. Councillor Ibbotson did not support the amendment to his proposals.

When put to the vote the amendment was carried. This became the substantive motion.

Councillor Thew moved an amendment to the substantive motion. This was seconded by Councillor Ibbotson who challenged the advice provided around which Councillor was asked to accept the proposed amendment to the substantive motion.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Council support an increase to the premium of long term empty properties with an uplift from 75% to 100% to take effect from April 2025 giving 6 months' notice to those directly impacted;
- (b) To introduce an escalator approach as follows: after 3 years a rise of 150% Council Tax premium; 5 years a 200% rise and 10 years a 300% rise; and the historical data of when a property becomes empty to be used to determine the level of premium, to take effect from April 2026 giving 18 months' notice to those directly impacted; and
- (c) That a discretionary exemption be created to avoid the purchase of long term empty properties being disadvantaged though the Council Tax premium charge.

39. REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE ([link to recording](#))

The Chief Officer (Governance) presented a revised [political balance calculation \(agenda item 10\)](#) following the change in the composition of political groups.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That seats on committees be allocated in accordance with political balance as shown in appendix A; and
- (b) That any changes to nominees be notified to the Democratic Services Manager as soon as possible before the next meeting of each committee.

40. RECRUITMENT OF A LAY MEMBER TO THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE ([link to recording](#))

The Chief Officer (Governance) presented a [report \(agenda item 11\)](#) to seek approval for a member panel, consisting of the Chair of Council, Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee, the Cabinet Member for Finance plus two other members of the Governance and Audit Committee to interview candidates and make

a recommendation to Council for an appointment of a lay member, to replace the departing lay member.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That a lay member be recruited to the Governance and Audit Committee to replace the departing lay member;
- (b) That the recruitment panel consisting of the Chair of Council, Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee plus the Cabinet Member for Finance makes a recommendation to Council for appointment; and
- (c) That Council thank Sally Ellis for her 7 year service as a lay member on the Governance & Audit Committee.

41. PETITIONS RECEIVED AT COUNCIL ([link to recording](#))

The Democratic Services Manager presented a [report \(agenda item 12\)](#) which outlined what actions had been taken as a result of petitions submitted at County Council meetings during 2023/24.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

42. NOTICE OF MOTION ([link to recording](#))

The Chief Officer (Governance) advised that the following Notices of Motion had been submitted:

Notice of Motion: Merchant Navy Roll of Honour

Councillor Ibbotson introduced the [Notice of Motion \(agenda item 13\)](#) which was seconded by Councillor Hodge.

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Create a Merchant Navy Roll of Honour, on which merchant mariners born or resident in Flintshire, or with an otherwise strong connection to the county who have perished at sea shall be listed;
2. That "Flintshire" in the section above shall refer to the historic county of Flintshire prior to 1 April 1974, the districts of Delyn and Alyn and Deeside from 1 April 1974 to 1 April 1996, and the modern county of Flintshire from 1 April 1996 onwards;
3. That the role shall be maintained, as far as possible, in chronological order of death, and
4. That the Roll of Honour shall be displayed in a case in a publicly accessible

part of the County Council's headquarters, and available for detailed inspection by the public upon appointment.

Notice of Motion: Flintshire Teachers and School Employees to Take Oath to Work with Children

Councillor Gladys Healey introduced the [Notice of Motion \(agenda item 13\)](#) which was seconded by Councillor Dave Healey.

Councillor Eastwood moved an amendment, which was adopted by Councillors Gladys and Dave Healey. When put to the vote, this amendment was carried.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Council deplores any abuse of our children and young people, including the formation of inappropriate relationships between teaching staff and the pupils and students for whom they are responsible; and
- (b) That Council continues its robust approach to recruitment, to monitor and provide guidance on safeguarding policies, provide safeguarding training and develop a culture within our schools where abuse of any kind is not condoned in any circumstances and all safeguarding concerns are reported immediately for appropriate action.

Notice of Motion: Winter Fuel Payments

Councillor Preece introduced the [Notice of Motion \(agenda item 13\)](#) which was seconded by Councillor Swash.

A recorded vote was requested on the amendment proposed by Councillor Maddison, for which the requisite number of Members stood in support.

For the amendment:-

Councillors: Bernie Attridge, Tina Claydon, Chris Dolphin, David Healey, Richard Lloyd, Gina Maddison, Hilary McGuill and Ryan McKeown

Against the amendment:-

Councillors: Glyn Banks, Pam Banks, Marion Bateman, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Mel Buckley, Teresa Carberry, David Coggins-Cogan, Bill Crease, Paul Cunningham, Rob Davies, Ron Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke, Rosetta Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, Carol Ellis, Gladys Healey, Dave Hughes, Ray Hughes, Alasdair Ibbotson, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones, Richard Jones, Fran Lister, Dave Mackie, Allan Marshall, Billy Mullin, Ted Palmer, Andrew Parkhurst, Mike Peers, Carolyn Preece, Dan Rose, Kevin Rush, Dale Selvester, Jason Shallcross, Sam Swash, Linda Thew, Linda Thomas, Roy Wakelam and Antony Wren

Abstention:-

Councillor Geoff Collett

The amendment by Councillor Maddison was lost.

A recorded vote was requested on the substantive motion, as amended, proposed by Councillor Preece, for which the requisite number of Members stood in support.

For the amendment:-

Councillors: Bernie Attridge, Glyn Banks, Marion Bateman, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Mel Buckley, Teresa Carberry, Tina Claydon, David Coggins-Cogan, Geoff Collett, Bill Crease, Paul Cunningham, Rob Davies, Ron Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke, Chris Dolphin, Rosetta Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, Carol Ellis, David Healey, Gladys Healey, Dave Hughes, Ray Hughes, Alasdair Ibbotson, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones, Richard Jones, Fran Lister, Richard Lloyd, Dave Mackie, Gina Maddison, Allan Marshall, Hilary McGuill, Ryan McKeown, Billy Mullin, Ted Palmer, Andrew Parkhurst, Mike Peers, Carolyn Preece, Dan Rose, Kevin Rush, Dale Selvester, Jason Shallcross, Sam Swash, Linda Thew, Linda Thomas and Roy Wakelam

Against the amendment:-

There were no votes against.

Abstention:-

There were no abstentions.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Council instructs the Leader of Flintshire County Council to write to the Prime Minister, copying in the leaders of all political groups and local Members of Parliament and Members of the Senedd, expressing the council's strong opposition to this policy, including a copy of this motion, and calling on him to abandon this plan; and
- (b) That Council instructs the Leader of Flintshire County Council to write to both Members of Parliament and Members of the Senedd representing communities in Flintshire, copying in the leaders of all political groups expressing the council's strong opposition to this policy, including a copy of this motion, and calling on them to set out their views on this matter in reply.

Notice of Motion: Three-weekly Bin Collections

This Notice of Motion was deferred to the next scheduled meeting of County Council.

43. QUESTIONS

The [Questions \(agenda item 14\)](#) were deferred to the next scheduled meeting of County Council.

44. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were 2 members of the public in attendance.

(The meeting commenced at 1.00 p.m. and ended at 5.00 p.m.)

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Chair

COUNTY COUNCIL
24TH OCTOBER 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Flintshire County Council held as a hybrid meeting on Thursday, 24th October 2024.

PRESENT:

Councillor Dennis Hutchinson (Chair)

Councillors: Mike Allport, Bernie Attridge, Glyn Banks, Pam Banks, Marion Bateman, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Mel Buckley, Teresa Carberry, Tina Claydon, David Coggins Cogan, Bill Crease, Ron Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke, Chris Dolphin, Rosetta Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, Carol Ellis, David Evans, Chrissy Gee, David Healey, Gladys Healey, Ian Hodge, Andy Hughes, Dave Hughes, Ray Hughes, Dennis Hutchinson, Alasdair Ibbotson, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones, Richard Jones, Simon Jones, Fran Lister, Richard Lloyd, Dave Mackie, Gina Maddison, Roz Mansell, Allan Marshall, Hilary McGuill, Ryan McKeown, Billy Mullin, Debbie Owen, Ted Palmer, Andrew Parkhurst, Mike Peers, Michelle Perfect, Vicky Perfect, Carolyn Preece, David Richardson, Ian Roberts, Dan Rose, Kevin Rush, Dale Selvester, Jason Shallcross, Sam Swash, Linda Thew, Linda Thomas, Ant Turton, Roy Wakelam and Arnold Woolley.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: Pam Banks, Geoff Collette, Steve Cople, Paul Cunningham, Rob Davies, Rah Hughes, Ryan McKeown, Ian Roberts and Antony Wren.

CONTRIBUTORS:

Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy), Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Chief Officer (Education and Youth), Corporate Finance Manager, Corporate Manager – People and Organisational Development, Corporate Manager – Capital Programme and Assets, Strategic Executive Officer and Strategic Finance Manager.

Weightmans legal advisors.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Democratic Services Manager, Team Leaders – Democratic Services, Overview and Scrutiny Facilitators and Democratic Services Officers.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 10.06

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

Councillors Coggins Cogan and Parkhurst declared personal interests in agenda item number 3.

A number of Members also declared personal interests in agenda item number 3 due to their family members using the services provided by Aura but were advised by the Chief Officer (Governance) that they were not required to.

As a point of clarification, the Chief Officer (Governance) advised that Members who had been lobbied in relation to Aura were not required to declare an interest.

A short adjournment was required to resolve technical issues.

46. REQUISITION NOTICE AND COUNCIL REPORT AURA OCTOBER 2024
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Swash introduced the [Requisition Notice \(agenda item number 3\)](#) on 'Save Aura's Services', which was seconded by Councillor Preece.

A recorded vote was requested which was supported by the requisite number of Members.

For the Notice of Motion:

Councillors: Attridge, Bateman, Brockley, Coggins Cogan, Ellis, Gee, Andy Hughes, Ibbotson, Mansell, Parkhurst, Preece, Richardson, Rose, Selvester, Swash and Thew.

Against the Notice of Motion:

Allport, Glyn Banks, Bibby, Bithell, Brown, Buckley, Carberry, Claydon, Crease, Ron Davies, Chris Dolphin, Rosetta Dolphin, Eastwood, David Healey, Gladys Healey, Hodge, Dave Hughes, Hutchinson, Johnson, Christine Jones, Richard Jones, Simon Jones, Lister, Lloyd, Maddison, Marshall, McGuill, Mullin, Palmer, Peers, Michelle Perfect, Vicky Perfect, Rush, Shallcross, Thomas, Wakelam and Woolley.

Abstain:

Councillor Debbie Owen.

RESOLVED:

That the Notice of Motion is not supported.

47. NOTICE OF MOTION
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Ibbotson introduced the [Notice of Motion \(agenda item number 4\)](#) on three-weekly bin collections, which was seconded by Councillor Brockley.

A recorded vote was requested which was supported by the requisite number of Members.

For the Notice of Motion:

Councillors: Allport, Attridge, Bateman, Brockley, Coggins Cogan, Ellis, Gee, Hutchinson, Ibbotson, Mansell, Marshall, Owen, Parkhurst, Peers, Preece, Richardson, Rose, Swash, Thew and Wakelam.

Against the Notice of Motion:

Glyn Banks, Bibby, Bithell, Brown, Buckley, Carberry, Claydon, Crease, Ron Davies, Chris Dolphin, Rosetta Dolphin, Eastwood, David Healey, Gladys Healey, Dave Hughes, Johnson, Christine Jones, Richard Jones, Simon Jones, Lister, Lloyd, Maddison, McGuill, Mullin, Palmer, Vicky Perfect, Rush, Shallcross, Thomas and Woolley.

RESOLVED:

That the Notice of Motion is not supported.

48. QUESTIONS
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Seventeen [questions \(agenda item number 5\)](#) were submitted by the deadline and read out by the Members who had submitted them. The Chair gave approval for questions 13, 14 and 16 to be brought forward. Questions 1 to 8, 13, 14 and 16, were asked and answered by the relevant Cabinet Member and subsequent questions to some were asked, to which either a verbal response was given or would be provided by way of a written response. Questions 9, 10, 11, 12, 15 and 17 were deferred to the next scheduled meeting of County Council.

49. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were 67 members of the public and press in attendance.

(The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and ended at 5.00 p.m.)

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Chair

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Wednesday, 4 December 2024
Report Subject	Appointment of the Leader of the Council
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The previous Leader of Council resigned over the summer. Whilst a new Leader was appointed at the next available Full Council meeting, the Constitution did not specifically require that to happen. The drafting could therefore be tightened up to specify what needs to happen in such circumstances.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	<p>That the Constitution is amended in accordance with the report to require a new Leader to be appointed either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) at the next available council meeting whenever the office falls vacant, or 2) immediately after the Leader is removed by a motion on notice.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
1.01	<p>The rules for appointing the Leader of Council are set out in the Constitution under the business to be transacted at the Annual Meeting (paragraph 4.10.1(v)). The duration of the Leader's term of office is provided for in paragraph 5.3 as follows:</p> <p>"5.3 The Leader will hold office until:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) he/she resigns from the office; or

	<p>b) he/she is suspended from being a Councillor under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (although he/she may resume office at the end of the period of suspension); or</p> <p>c) he/she is no longer a Councillor; or</p> <p>d) the next Annual Meeting of the Council save that the Council may remove the Leader from office at an earlier date but only in the event of a change in political control of the Council.”</p>
1.02	<p>There are three points to note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) there is no other provision mentioning the appointment of a new Leader (even in the event of the Leader being removed following a notice of motion). 2) the limitation in paragraph 5.3(d) is inconsistent with the rule on dismissal of the Leader by notice of motion (at paragraph 14.10.11) 3) there is no provision for what happens in the event that the Leader is incapacitated through illness or injury
1.03	<p>It is suggested therefore that paragraph 5.3 should be re-written as follows:</p> <p>“5.3.1 The Leader will hold office until:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) they resigns from the office; or b) they are no longer a Councillor; or c) they are unable to perform the duties and responsibilities of Leader due to incapacitation whether through illness; injury or some other reason for a period of 6 months or more; or d) they are suspended from being a Councillor under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (although they may resume office at the end of the period of suspension); or e) the next Annual Meeting of the Council (unless dismissed following a notice of motion under council procedure rule 14.10.11.6) <p>5.3.2 In the event that the office of Leader falls vacant pursuant to sub paragraphs 5.3.1 a) or c) above, then a new Leader shall be elected at the next following meeting of Full Council (whether that be an ordinary meeting, or a special meeting called specifically for the purpose)</p> <p>5.3.3 In the event that the office of Leader falls vacant pursuant to council procedure rule 11.6 (Motion to Remove the Leader), then a new Leader shall be elected as the next item of business at the same meeting of Full Council.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	This proposal has been considered by the Constitution and Democratic Services Committee which, whilst supporting the proposals before it, requested that provision be made in case the Leader was incapacitated and unable to perform their role. The wording was broadly agreed at the meeting and has been inserted at sub paragraph c

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The risks of making/not making the proposed changes are minimal given that the Council did comply with its duty to appoint a new Leader at the next available Full Council meeting, and would, therefore, presumably do so again in the event that another Leader cease to hold office. However, the proposed changes put the matter beyond doubt.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Contact Officer: Gareth Owens, Chief Officer (Governance) Telephone: 01352 702344 E-mail: gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Annual Meeting – each year the council is required to hold an annual meeting in May to undertake certain items of business specified in legislation and its constitution. Special Meeting – a meeting of the council called to transact specific item(s) of business. The types of business that can be considered at special meetings are limited.

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Wednesday, 4 th December 2024
Report Subject	Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2027/28
Report Author	Chief Executive Corporate Manager – Capital Programme and Assets Corporate Finance Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the proposed Capital Programme for the period 2025/26 – 2027/28 for approval by County Council.

The Council's Capital Programme covers investment in assets for the long term to enable the delivery of high quality and value for money public services. Assets include buildings (such as schools and care homes), infrastructure (such as highways and ICT networks) and assets not owned by the Council (such as works to improve and adapt private sector homes). The proposed capital investments outlined within this report are closely aligned to portfolio service business plans and the Council Plan.

The Council has limited capital resources from Welsh Government to support Council priorities, needs and liabilities. However, it has the powers to fund capital schemes by borrowing - this is temporary and ultimately, the cost and repayment of any borrowing is charged to the Council's revenue budget. Schemes funded by borrowing are carefully considered due to the long-term impacts on the Council's revenue budget.

The report divides the Council Fund Capital Programme into three sections: -

1. Statutory / Regulatory - allocations to cover regulatory and statutory works.
2. Retained Assets - allocations to fund infrastructure works necessary to ensure service and business continuity.
3. Investment - allocations to fund works necessary to remodel services to deliver efficiencies outlined in portfolio business plans and invest in services as outlined in the Council Plan.

Historically, much of the Council's programme has been funded from capital receipts and grants. The Council's ability to generate significant capital receipts is challenging as the assets the Council has available for disposal diminish. Wherever possible every opportunity to identify assets for sale and other sources of funding such as specific grants and revenue contributions will be explored. However, the Council will need to use prudential borrowing to finance more of the programme going forward. In particular, the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme, and other schemes included within the investment programme will need to be funded through prudential borrowing.

The Capital Strategy has been updated and is presented separately on the agenda.

The information in this report refers to the Council Fund (CF) programme only, not the housing programme which is funded from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and which is reported separately.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To approve the allocations and schemes in Table 3 (paragraph 1.09) for the Statutory/Regulatory and Retained Assets sections of the Council Fund Capital Programme 2025/26 - 2027/28.
2	To approve the schemes included in Table 4 (paragraph 1.31) for the Investment section of the Council Fund Capital Programme 2025/26 - 2027/28.
3	To note that the shortfall in funding of schemes in 2027/28 in Table 5 (paragraph 1.35) although there are surplus in years prior.
4	To consider and approve the schemes included in Table 6 (paragraph 1.39) for the specifically funded section of the Council Fund Capital Programme which will be funded in part through borrowing.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 – 2027/28
1.01	<p>The Council’s Capital Programme encompasses investing significant resources in assets for the long term to enable the delivery of high quality, value for money public services. Assets include buildings (such as schools and care homes), infrastructure (such as highways and ICT networks), and assets not owned by the Council (such as works to improve and adapt private sector homes). The proposed capital investments outlined within this report are closely aligned to portfolio service business plans and the Council Plan.</p> <p>The Council has limited capital resources from Welsh Government (WG) to support Council priorities, needs and liabilities; however, it has the powers to fund capital schemes by borrowing, but this is temporary and ultimately the cost and repayment of any borrowing is charged to the Council’s revenue budget. Schemes funded by borrowing are carefully considered due to the long-term impacts on the Council’s revenue budget.</p> <p>The first half of this report covers parts of the Capital Programme where the Council invests in local infrastructure, facilities and assets, which will be funded from general capital resources (General Capital Grant, Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing and Capital Receipts). Regional programmes such as the Growth Deal for North Wales which will draw on national funds, and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme, which is reported separately and includes the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) work programme and Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP), supplement the Council funded Capital Programme.</p> <p>The second half of the report covers parts of the Capital Programme which includes specific grants as far as information is available at the time of writing and borrowing. This includes the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, delivered in partnership between the Council and WG.</p>
1.02	<p>General Capital Programme 2024/25 – 2026/27 Update</p> <p>The Council’s Capital Strategy divides the Capital Programme into three parts as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Statutory / Regulatory section – to cover regulatory and statutory works. Examples include providing support to improve and adapt private sector homes (Disabled Facilities Grants), adaptations to schools for children with disabilities and any works required to keep buildings open by meeting Health and Safety requirements.2. Retained Assets section – to ensure service and business continuity. This includes schemes that enhance and improve retained assets and infrastructure to deliver services and meets significant need identified by service plans or through condition surveys etc.

3. **Investment section** – to fund costs incurred when remodelling and investing in services. This includes new schemes arising from portfolio business plans, the Council Plan, other relevant and emerging plans, and other strategies or emerging Council priorities approved through a selection process based on the provision of a business case.

1.03 Table 1 below summarises the updated Council funded Capital Programme for 2024/25 – 2026/27 as reported at Month 6 2024/25:

Table 1

ESTIMATED FUNDING 2024/25 - 2026/27				
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Funding				
Un-hypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB) ¹	4.017	4.017	4.017	12.051
General Capital Grant (GCG) ¹	4.125	4.125	4.125	12.375
Capital Receipts Available	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071
Surplus B/Fwd from 2023/24	5.445	0.000	0.000	5.445
Total Funding	13.658	8.142	8.142	29.942
Expenditure				
Total Capital Programme 2024/25 - 2026/27	11.343	8.988	7.021	27.352
	11.343	8.988	7.021	27.352
Surplus / (Shortfall)	2.315	(0.846)	1.121	2.590
¹ As per 2024/25 Final Settlement				

1.04 Table 1 shows the current position of the Capital Programme 2024/25 – 2026/27 as reported at Month 6 to Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, an overall surplus in funding of £2.590m, with a surplus in 2024/25 of £2.315m.

When the budget was set in December 2023, there was a shortfall in funding of schemes in 2024/25 and 2025/26 and surplus in 2026/27. At that point in the approval process the position was kept flexible and this was explained in the report to Council at that time. Options included a combination of future capital receipts, alternative grants, prudential borrowing, or scheme phasing over several years which would be considered during 2024/25.

1.05 Given the current position in setting the Capital Programme for the next three years 2025/26 – 2027/28, careful consideration has been given to new schemes proposed for inclusion.

1.06

Projected General Funding Available 2025/26 - 2027/28

Table 2 below shows the general capital funding currently projected to be available to fund the Capital Programme over the next three years (2025/26 - 2027/28).

Table 2

ESTIMATED AVAILABLE FUNDING 2025/26 - 2027/28				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Funding (Excluding Specific Funding)				
Un-hypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB) ¹	4.017	4.017	4.017	12.051
General Capital Grant (GCG) ¹	4.125	4.125	4.125	12.375
Surplus B/Fwd from 2024/25	2.315	0.000	0.000	2.315
Total	10.457	8.142	8.142	26.741

¹ As per 2024/25 Settlement

1.07

Table 2 assumes that the Un-hypothecated Supported Borrowing allocation and the General Capital Grant received from WG in the years 2025/26 to 2027/28 remains at the same level as 2024/25. The 2025/26 Welsh Local Government Provisional Settlement is expected to be announced on the 11th December 2024.

1.08

The figures in Table 2 relate to the Council Fund (CF) only, with the HRA Capital Programme being reported separately.

General Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2027/28

1.09

Statutory / Regulatory and Retained Asset Allocations – 2025/26 – 2027/28

Table 3 shows the proposed allocations for the period 2025/26 - 2027/28 for the Statutory / Regulatory and Retained Asset sections of the Capital Programme

Table 3

PROPOSED ALLOCATIONS 2025/26 - 2027/28				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Statutory / Regulatory Section				
Equalities Act - Individual pupils	0.500	0.500	0.500	1.500
Disabled Facilities Grants	1.500	1.500	1.500	4.500
Private Sector Housing Renewal	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.120
School building works	0.500	0.500	0.500	1.500
Corporate property works	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.900
School safeguarding works	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.300
Target Hardening	0.030	0.030	0.000	0.060
Total Statutory / Regulatory	2.970	2.970	2.940	8.880
Retained Assets Section				
School building works	1.000	1.000	1.000	3.000
Corporate property works	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.900
Highways Asset Management Plan	2.000	1.500	1.500	5.000
Play areas	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.600
ICT - Equipment at Datacentres	0.000	0.079	0.000	0.079
ICT - Server Technology Replacements	0.264	0.176	0.212	0.652
ICT - Laptop / PC Replacements	0.268	0.134	0.158	0.560
ICT - Storage Technology Replacement	0.850	0.031	0.000	0.881
ICT - Cyber Security	0.066	0.133	0.000	0.199
Schools WiFi and Networking Infrastructure	1.020	0.000	1.445	2.465
Base Provision for Leisure and Libraries Estate	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.600
Safety Improvements in Cemeteries	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057
Office Rationalisation Programme - Phase 2	0.795	0.000	0.000	0.795
Terrig House Hutments Demolition	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043
'Headroom'	0.350	0.350	0.350	1.050
Total Retained Assets Section	7.413	4.103	5.365	16.881

1.10 The information in Table 3 in relation to the new and previously approved schemes is explained in more detail in paragraphs 1.11 to 1.30 below.

1.11 Equalities Act – Individual pupils

An annual allocation to adapt and modify schools for children who have disabilities to support and create increasingly inclusive school environments. These works help the Council to meet its obligations under disability legislation, and reduce the potential costs and disruption associated with transporting pupils to alternative sites.

No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2027/28.

1.12	<p><u>Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG)</u></p> <p>An annual allocation to improve and adapt private sector homes comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled Facilities Grants – adaptations enabling residents to continue to live independently in their own homes • Partnership working with Care and Repair to support vulnerable residents <p>No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2027/28.</p>
1.13	<p><u>Private Sector Housing Renewal</u></p> <p>An annual allocation for private sector housing renewal and improvement loan management and administration. This had previously been reported under the DFG section before the services were disaggregated across portfolios.</p> <p>No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2027/28.</p>
1.14	<p><u>School building works</u></p> <p>An annual allocation to fund the most urgent property works required at schools split across the regulatory / statutory and retained assets sections of the Capital Programme.</p> <p>A programme of toilet upgrades in both primary and secondary schools to ensure compliance with Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 and Department for Education and Skills document "Toilets in Schools". There is currently a backlog of such works estimated to be in the region of £1.5m which is often reflected as a Health and Safety issue in Estyn inspections of schools, £0.100m per annum. When building new schools or extending current ones, the Council takes the approach to upgrade to the current standards at that time.</p> <p>Works to upgrade ventilation systems at school kitchens which are failing building regulations and gas safety legislation and are at risk of closure, £0.200m per annum.</p> <p>Fire Inspection Works at schools which are the responsibility of the Local Authority and have been identified during statutory fire risk assessments, £0.200m per annum.</p> <p>A £1m per annum allocation has been included within the retained assets section of the programme to cover all other urgent works required, such as roofing works.</p> <p>No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2027/28.</p>
1.15	<p><u>Corporate property works</u></p> <p>An annual allocation to fund the most urgent property works required at non-school premises split across the regulatory / statutory and retained</p>

	<p>assets sections of the Capital Programme, including managing risks from legionella, fire safety, asbestos, accessibility and health and safety.</p> <p>No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2027/28.</p>
1.16	<p><u>School safeguarding works</u></p> <p>There is a requirement to carry out works/adaptations at schools, to address safeguarding concerns raised about access at main entrances and site. These works are required to ensure both children and adults can attend schools in a safe and secure environment.</p> <p>No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2027/28.</p>
1.17	<p><u>Target Hardening</u></p> <p>The target hardening budget requires replenishment over the next two year period to prevent unauthorised use of land or buildings within the County.</p> <p>No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2026/27.</p>
1.18	<p><u>Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP)</u></p> <p>An annual allocation of £1.5m to fund the HAMP which includes resurfacing of the classified Highway Network, replacement programme for street lighting columns and structural maintenance, with £0.100m to be top sliced for 'streetscape' improvements.</p> <p>Whilst the Council has a statutory duty to maintain the Highways Network in a safe condition for travel, how the Council does this is not defined. WG set targets for road condition indices and invested a significant amount of grant funding in the network, however this funding ceased after the 2021/22 financial year. The condition of the highway network will naturally continue to deteriorate each year and without sufficient annual investment the overall condition of the network will decline.</p> <p>See paragraph 1.51 for more detail in regard to the position on the potential development of the HAMP.</p> <p>One off increase of £0.500m proposed in 2025/26 and no changes for 2026/27 to 2027/28.</p>
1.19	<p><u>Play areas</u></p> <p>An annual allocation of £0.200m to fund the most urgent requirements to replace play equipment that has reached the end of its useful life at play areas, as well as upgrades to play areas.</p> <p>No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2027/28.</p>

1.20	<p><u>ICT - Equipment at Datacentres</u></p> <p>Allocations have previously been approved for the replacement of networking technologies to provide segregation of online systems from internal systems, £0.045m and networking technologies at remote sites replacements, £0.034m. Both allocations have been included in 2026/27.</p>
1.21	<p><u>ICT - Server Technology Replacement</u></p> <p>In 2025/26 and 2026/27 the server infrastructures currently used to deliver business systems through Citrix, will come to the end of their useable life and could lead to a degradation of service if not replaced, at a cost of £0.264m and £0.124m. This has previously been approved in the programme.</p> <p>Further bids have been received for replacement equipment to deliver virtual desktop solutions in 2026/27, £0.052m along with the replacement technologies to ensure there is adequate capacity for the delivery of existing business systems and services used across the whole of the Council in 2027/28, £0.212m.</p>
1.22	<p><u>ICT - Laptop / PC Replacements</u></p> <p>The project will deliver a programme of device replacement based on the “just in time” principle of replacement to ensure the Council maximises the useable life of its laptop assets. It will ensure that the devices used by members of staff are fit for purpose and can deliver the required level of service and can support the latest operating systems and security software.</p> <p>The absence of a replacement budget for replacement devices will result in devices that perform poorly and will not be able to accommodate the operating system and security software require to ensure the required level of performance. The inability to operate up to date security software poses a significant cyber security risk.</p> <p>Capital funding of £0.560m is required over a three year programme.</p>
1.23	<p><u>ICT - Storage Technology Replacement</u></p> <p>The Council uses storage technologies that allow the allocation of storage to systems as and when they need it. It prevents unused storage sitting against systems and is the most efficient and cost-effective way of allocating storage against all systems used by the Council, from business applications to the general file share.</p> <p>Previously approved was the Councils corporate storage technology that requires replacing in 2025/26, £0.850m and the storage system specifically allocated to the Council’s Graphic Designers in 2026/27, £0.031m.</p>
1.24	<p><u>ICT – Cyber Security</u></p> <p>£0.066m has previously been approved in the programme in 2025/26 for the replacement of firewall and email scanning technologies.</p>

	<p>Another scheme previously approved was for £0.133m in 2026/27 relating to the Council's main firewalls which are the main and first line of defence from cyber-attack. This ensures the Council's technology is up to date and current, in order to provide the required level of protection.</p>
1.25	<p><u>Schools WiFi and Networking Infrastructure</u></p> <p>Flintshire, along with all other authorities in Wales were awarded a significant amount of money by WG to replace old and outdated networking infrastructures within all schools. This has provided schools with a sound digital platform to deliver the curriculum for a number of years. The school infrastructures formed part of the Hwb programme (WG programme), and subsequent funding has been directed towards end user devices.</p> <p>A condition of the grant was that Local Authorities put in place sustainability plans to fund replacement infrastructures when they are needed.</p> <p>Funding previously approved was for the wireless equipment which will reach the end of its usable life in 2025/26. £1.445m has been added to the programme for networking equipment replacement in 2027/28.</p> <p>No change is proposed for 2025/26.</p>
1.26	<p><u>Base Provision for Leisure and Libraries Estate</u></p> <p>An annual allocation to fund the most urgent property works required across the Leisure and Libraries estate. The Council recognises its landlord responsibilities for the assets that remain in its ownership, having retained ownership of all buildings.</p> <p>No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2027/28.</p>
1.27	<p><u>Safety Improvements in Cemeteries</u></p> <p>Funding is required to undertake urgent health & safety improvements within Flintshire cemeteries which will also assist with environmental improvements on the sites.</p> <p>This includes a memorial safety programme to address a backlog of unsafe memorials and kerb-sets within cemeteries. This is along with a transition to battery operated small plant to replace outdated equipment, to be more energy efficient as well as the associated health & safety improvements for the operatives.</p> <p>New schemes included in 2025/26.</p>
1.28	<p><u>Office Rationalisation Programme and County Hall Campus</u></p> <p>The ambitions of the Corporate Asset Management Plan, alongside the shift towards more hybrid working arrangements and the unprecedented financial challenge currently facing the Council, have combined to create</p>

	<p>factors that now make it desirable to pursue the next stage of the office rationalisation programme and County Hall Campus redevelopment.</p> <p>Phase one of the project has already commenced with the objective to move as many people as possible out of County Hall by the end of February 2025. To enable this to happen, works are required at both Ty Dewi Sant and Flint offices. These works are essential to be undertaken as soon as possible under phase one of the project as they are necessary to provide alternative office accommodation for employees moving out of County Hall.</p> <p>Phase two of the project will have three key areas of focus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An alternative heating system and utilities supply for the other organisations/assets that remain on the County Hall Campus. (This is currently uncosted). 2. Moving the NEWydd central production kitchen out of County Hall. 3. Complete clear out of County Hall. <p>Phase three of the project will focus on the longer-term redevelopment of the County Hall Campus.</p> <p>New scheme included in 2025/26.</p>
1.29	<p><u>Terrig House Hutments Demolition</u></p> <p>The Terrig House Hutments are currently vacant and in an unlettable condition. The state of repair can only be described as very poor. The walls and windows being constructed of timber and are rotten, exposing the building to the elements and requiring periodical maintenance to remain secure from unauthorised entry. Annual costs each year in business rate and repair and maintenance costs upwards of £0.010m.</p> <p>This proposal would pay back in four years, return a parcel of land and make the site as a whole more attractive for redevelopment.</p> <p>New scheme included in 2025/26.</p>
1.30	<p><u>Funding 'Headroom'</u></p> <p>'Headroom' has been built into the Capital Programme to enable the programme to be more flexible so that funding can be allocated to small schemes as they present in year either as a result of opportunities or unforeseen circumstances (£0.350m per annum). An example would be the need to complete further highways works as a result of an exceptionally severe winter over and above any planned works funded from the annual allocation.</p> <p>No changes are proposed for 2025/26 to 2027/28.</p>
1.31	<p>Investment Section of the Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2027/28</p> <p>Table 4 below shows the proposed schemes for the period 2025/26 - 2027/28 for the Investment section of the Capital Programme. Details are provided in paragraphs 1.32 to 1.34.</p>

Table 4

PROPOSED INVESTMENT SCHEMES 2025/26 - 2027/28				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Investment Section				
<u>Previously Approved</u>				
Joint Archive Facility, FCC and DCC	0.000	1.031	1.606	2.637
Re-Fit Framework	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.500
Development of Children's Residential Care	0.600	0.400	0.000	1.000
	1.100	1.431	1.606	4.137
<u>New Schemes for Approval</u>				
Development of Children's Residential Care	0.400	0.600	0.000	1.000
	0.400	0.600	0.000	1.000
Total Investment Section	1.500	2.031	1.606	5.137

1.32

Joint Archive Facility, Flintshire and Denbighshire Councils

This scheme recognises and responds to the need and demand of the two Councils' archive services. Both services occupy old buildings, unfit for purpose. They lack suitable public spaces and appropriate storage, are too full to accept new collections and are listed buildings lacking scope for adaptation, requiring expensive maintenance. The proposal is to construct a new building adjacent to Theatr Clwyd, Mold, to house both the physical archives and the new service operations.

In October 2023, Cabinet approved a joint bid with Denbighshire County Council (DCC) to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, seeking a grant of £7.4m towards the construction of a new archive centre in Mold, to house the joint service and the delivery of an engagement programme. This is along with £0.300m from a WG Culture and Leisure grant.

In March this year, the Council was notified that it had been awarded funding for the development phase of the project, which is Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) 1-3. Both Councils are funding RIBA 4 the technical design phase, to progress the project whilst the delivery phase submission is reviewed by NLHF. If the development phase submission is satisfactory and the project is progressing as planned, the NLHF delivery phase grant funding is offered for RIBA 5-7 which is construction, handover and the defects period.

Direct Costs:

- Estimated funding available for the project is £12.9m, with £7.7m from grant funding, £3.079m from FCC and £2.052m from DCC. £0.442m included in a previous programme, which included core funding of £0.197m.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been assumed that borrowing will be required to fund this project. The estimated revenue costs associated with borrowing £2.882m over 50 years totals £9.654m. In year 1 revenue debt costs are estimated to be £0.170m, rising to £0.225m in year 50, with an average of £0.193m over 50 years. <p>Direct Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable and improved archive service for Denbighshire and Flintshire via the creation of a single shared service. • The construction of a new purpose built environmentally friendly building adjacent to Theatr Clwyd, Mold, to house both the physical archives and the new service operations. Provide a sustainable archive repository for the region for the foreseeable future from the perspective of storage space and building maintenance and management. • The overall revenue impact is an estimated saving of £11,647 per annum once the new building is open, with a potential further revenue saving once the joint service is running. <p>Indirect Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share knowledge and skills between the workforce of both Councils • Sphere of health, education and wellbeing (connectivity, involvement, identity) can be achieved. • The transferrable skills of our volunteers will develop and will contribute to increasing their employability. • Deliver the long-term development of a resilient, relevant service: inspiring communities in North East Wales and enacting the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act; securing historic collections, diversifying audiences, volunteers and depositors. • Cost avoidance of £10,000 per annum additional revenue storage costs, and in excess of £0.718m to address the need for environmental management equipment, compliant storage areas and upgrading public facilities and access.
1.33	<p><u>Re-Fit Framework</u></p> <p>The Re-fit framework is part of Local Partnerships - a joint venture between the Local Government Association, HM Treasury and WG. The partnership works solely for the benefit of the public sector and brings public and private sector experience that provides confidence, capacity, and capability, helping councils achieve and maintain financial resilience.</p> <p>The framework provides a guaranteed 100% of the energy saving or generation (kWh) via a contractual agreement for the payback period of the project. This key feature is helping to remove risk of failure with new developments, plus protecting the client and their investment.</p> <p>Re-fit uses a competitively tendered and OJEU-compliant framework which can be utilised by any public sector organisation in England and Wales and covers the retrofit of buildings and assets to save energy and carbon. This includes a large range of technologies and measures such as: heat networks, lighting, and controls, BMS controls, heat recovery, solar thermal, heat pumps, solar PV, insulation, draught proofing, street</p>

	<p>lighting, etc.</p> <p>Re-fit would also aid in addressing capacity issues, as officers can only procure and implement a given number of projects per year. Through Refit, an energy services company (ESCo) is appointed in order to review the built estate, identify energy and carbon saving opportunities and implement on a wider scale than would likely be possible ‘in-house’</p> <p>Direct Costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital investment required is £1.5m. Based on preliminary data potential savings have been calculated at £0.230m per annum, with an estimated payback period of 7 years. £1m included in the previous programme. <p>Direct Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow the Council to accelerate the push towards achieving NZC by 2030 • Provide external support and expertise, supplementing and expanding the works that the Council are currently undertaking • Achieve potential annual CO2 savings of 892 tonnes • Meeting the priorities and objectives set within the Council Plan under ‘Green Society and Environment’ theme • Contributing towards the achievement of WG targets and obligations under the Climate Change Act, Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and Environment Act • Implementing this project will provide mitigation against future utility price increases
1.34	<p><u>Development of Children’s Residential Care</u></p> <p>There is a need to expand our in-house residential care for children. There is a statutory duty to ensure that we have sufficient registered placements to meet the placement needs of looked after children. Traditionally we have commissioned ‘out of county’ placements for looked after children requiring residential care. However, WG’s strategy to ‘eliminate profit’ from the children’s residential care market is likely to lead to a reduction in placement availability and requires local authorities to proactively expand in-house provision at pace to avoid us having to set up services that operate without registration and risk prosecution against the local authority.</p> <p>WG’s strategy is to rebalance the market so that the duties on local authorities in relation to looked after children are not contracted out to for-profit companies and remain with public sector or not-for-profit providers. Under the strategy new legislation will require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • independent providers to demonstrate a not-for-profit status, based on a new pre-defined definition of non-profit, by 1 April 2026 • any current “for profit” providers will need to transition to, and register with Care Inspectorate Wales, as not-for-profit by 1 April 2027

If we do not have sufficient placements, we will breach our duty to secure sufficient accommodation for looked after children (Section 75) and increase the risk of needing to set up bespoke unregistered services to support looked after children.

The out of county placement revenue budgets continue to have significant pressures, with ongoing high demand for placements where children and young people cannot be supported within in-house provision. Market supply limitation factors and inflationary pressures are leading to higher costs, with current in year projected overspends of £1.418m. Services continue to do everything to manage these risks, with this development of in-house provision helping to mitigate against these pressures.

Direct Costs:

- Capital funding required is £2m, split over two financial years. It has been assumed that borrowing will be required to fund this project. The estimated revenue costs associated with borrowing £2m over 50 years totals £4.7m. In year 1 revenue debt costs are estimated to be £0.118m, rising to £0.156m in year 50, with an average of £0.134m over 50 years.
- A £1m was approved in the previous capital programme, however an additional £1m is required to continue to develop an expansion model. The service is developing a WG bid for revenue and capital funding to reduce the requirement where possible.
- WG have allocated £0.561m in year to support their strategic intent. This money can contribute to the initial phase in the design, consultancy, and support of developments in the financial year.
- Pressures of £0.450m and £0.250m for the associated revenue costs for service provision have been included within the 2025/26 and 2026/27 MTFS position.

Direct Benefits:

- Opportunity for children to maintain local links with appropriate friends, family and support networks
- Opportunity to maintain local education provision and be able to access local partnership support services
- Reunification and step-down plans for children can be managed more effectively
- Significant reduction in out-of-county placement costs, which is a huge pressure on the revenue budget.
- Improved efficiency and control over the quality and availability of care placements
- Local Job Creation: New residential homes will create local employment opportunities
- Aligns to WG's not for profit agenda
- Demonstrate that we have met our duty to ensure market sufficiency enable us to meet the current placement needs of our looked after children

Indirect Benefits:

- Improved Outcomes for Children: Children will benefit from stable, locally-based placements that support their education, health, and social development

- Enhanced community integration for children, maintaining connections with local support networks, schools, and family
- Community Integration: Children in care will remain connected to their communities, fostering better long-term outcomes
- Strategic Flexibility: Enhanced capacity to meet future demand for residential placements, reducing the risk of being unable to fulfil statutory duties

1.35 **Summary (Generally funded) Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2027/28**

Table 5 below summarises the generally funded Capital Programme and available funding.

Table 5

SUMMARY (GENERALLY FUNDED) CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 - 2027/28				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Statutory / Regulatory Section	2.970	2.970	2.940	8.880
Retained Assets Section	7.413	4.103	5.365	16.881
Investment Section	1.500	2.031	1.606	5.137
Total (All Sections)	11.883	9.104	9.911	30.898
Estimated available general funding ¹	10.457	8.142	8.142	26.741
Total	10.457	8.142	8.142	26.741
Surplus / (Shortfall) - no borrowing	(1.426)	(0.962)	(1.769)	(4.157)
Schemes requiring funding by borrowing:				
Joint Archive Facility, FCC and DCC	0.000	1.031	1.606	2.637
Re-Fit Framework	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.500
Development of Children's Residential Care	1.000	1.000	0.000	2.000
Total	1.500	2.031	1.606	5.137
Surplus / (Shortfall) - with borrowing	0.074	1.069	(0.163)	0.980
¹ As per 2024/25 Settlement				

1.36 Table 5 shows that before any prudential borrowing is considered there is an overall shortfall in projected funding of £4.157m over the three year period, with an estimated shortfall of £1.426m in 2025/26.

It has previously been approved that the schemes for the Joint Archive Facility, Re-Fit Framework and £1m of the development of Childrens Residential Care be funded from borrowing with the associated costs of borrowing included as revenue pressures within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

1.37	<p>Table 5 shows that after prudential borrowing is considered, there is an overall surplus in projected funding of £0.980m over the three year period, with an estimated surplus of £0.074m in 2025/26.</p> <p>The Council has developed a prudent policy of allocating its own capital receipts to fund capital projects only when receipts are actually received rather than when it is anticipated the receipt will be received, and this position continues to be the case.</p> <p>In recent years, much of the Council's programme has been funded from capital receipts. However, the Council's ability to generate significant capital receipts is getting harder and is almost exhausted. Although the Council will, wherever possible, seek to identify assets for sale (as appropriate) to fund the Capital Programme.</p> <p>Options to fund shortfalls include a combination of future capital receipts, alternative grants, and scheme phasing as the expenditure profile of large complex projects such as those included in the investment section of the programme could change. Every effort will be made to ensure that other sources of funding are utilised to fund the programme.</p> <p>Ultimately, should other sources of funding not materialise the Council will need to use prudential borrowing to finance any shortfalls.</p>
1.38	<p>Specific Grants and Borrowing</p> <p>Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Programme</p> <p>WG has approved the Council's in principle submission for Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B, with a funding envelope of £85.4m. The programme is to be funded from specific grant from WG at an agreed intervention rate, with the Council's contribution to be funded by prudential borrowing. The WG intervention rate for funding the Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B programme has increased from 50% to 65% for schools, 75% for Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision, and 81% for Mutual Investment Models (MIM).</p> <p>Each of the schemes are subject to individual approval to ensure that each meets the Council's continuing priorities and is affordable in the context of the Council's MTFS.</p> <p>Schemes currently in progress are Ysgol Croes Atti, Flint and Drury Primary School. The next scheme for consideration is the Saltney/Broughton area review.</p> <p>For the primary sector, it is recommended to amalgamate Saltney Ferry CP and Saltney Wood Memorial CP to create a new 3-11 primary school for the area.</p> <p>In relation to the secondary sector, there is a significant risk that the Council will not be successful through the business case process to secure the funding from WG to build a new 11-16 secondary school. To maintain a secondary school in the area, it is therefore proposed to seek a local</p>

capital solution for St David's High School to reduce its current capacity by remodelling and refurbishing the existing accommodation.

There is also a growing pressure on the ALN section relating to increased capacity across the special school's network which will need to be monitored and considered within the programme moving forward.

The estimated costs of these schemes are outlined in the table below:

Saltney & Broughton Area	Total Cost	WG funded	Council funded
	£m	£m	£m
Primary Sector	12.00	7.800	4.200
Secondary Sector	7.000	0.000	7.000
Total	19.000	7.800	11.200

The benefits and costs of the school improvement programme scheme are:

Direct Benefits:

- Enabling 65%-81% external investment in schools
- Continuing to raise educational standards
- Reduction in backlog maintenance costs
- Reduction in fixed costs associated with buildings and leadership focuses investment on learners
- Removal of mobile classrooms and increase in permanent capacity to meet local demand
- New build Welsh Medium primary school strategically linked to the Council's Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)
- Energy efficiency improvements

Direct Costs:

- Part of bigger development programme in Band B, £85.4m.
- Estimated revenue borrowing costs associated with each scheme (interest and minimum revenue provision) are as follows and are built into the current MTFS:

Saltney & Broughton Area	Year 1	Year 50	Average over 50 years
	£m	£m	£m
Primary Sector	0.243	0.324	0.277
Secondary Sector	0.405	0.540	0.462
Total	0.648	0.864	0.739

Indirect Benefits:

- Improving learner outcomes by ensuring that school buildings are effective in creating the conditions for learners to succeed
- Alignment with the Council's School Modernisation Strategy to ensure schools are fit for purpose
- A more secure school estate
- A school estate with reduced vandalism
- Upgrading ICT provision and enabling new methods of curriculum delivery

- Provision of appropriate capacity of school network
- Economic benefits of local contractor and sub-contractor spend
- Supports with the Councils net zero carbon aims

1.39 Details of schemes funded by specific grant and borrowing is shown in Table 6 below:

Table 6

SPECIFICALLY FUNDED SCHEMES 2025/26 - 2027/28				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Specifically Funded Schemes				
Sustainable Communities for Learning	6.952	9.014	5.514	21.480
Total Schemes	6.952	9.014	5.514	21.480
Funding				
Specific Capital Grants	2.243	3.585	3.585	9.413
Unsupported (Prudential) Borrowing	4.709	5.429	1.929	12.067
Total Schemes	6.952	9.014	5.514	21.480

1.40 At the time of setting the budget, the details of many capital grants have not been released by WG, and so are not included in Table 6 above. As details become available they will be reported to Members via the quarterly 2025/26 Capital Programme monitoring reports.

1.41 All schemes proposed for inclusion within the Capital Programme invest in assets and / or reconfigure models of service provision. They are pivotal to support the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities outlined in portfolio business plans and the Council Plan.

1.42 **Summary Total Council Fund Capital Programme 2025/26 - 2027/28**
Table 7 summarises the total proposals for the 2025/26 - 2027/28 Capital Programme.

Table 7

SUMMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 - 2027/28				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Expenditure				
Statutory / Regulatory Section	2.970	2.970	2.940	8.880
Retained Assets Section	7.413	4.103	5.365	16.881
Investment Section	1.500	2.031	1.606	5.137
Specific Section	6.952	9.014	5.514	21.480
Total Programme (All Sections)	18.835	18.118	15.425	52.378
Funding				
General Funding ¹	10.457	8.142	8.142	26.741
Grant Funding	2.243	3.585	3.585	9.413
Unsupported (Prudential) Borrowing	6.209	7.460	3.535	17.204
Total Projected Funding	18.909	19.187	15.262	53.358
Surplus / (Shortfall)	0.074	1.069	(0.163)	0.980
¹ As per 2024/25 Provisional Settlement				

Potential future schemes

1.43 All capital schemes need to be considered in the context of the position of the Council's MTFS. All schemes which require prudential borrowing to fund them add revenue pressures in the form of interest charges and charges to the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP).

1.44 Sustainable Communities for Learning

The WG schools investment programme is expected to continue into a more fluid rolling 'Band C' programme over a longer period up to ten years with the indications from WG officials that intervention rates will remain at the current rates.

The Council's Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) was submitted to WG at the end of March 2024 for consideration in accordance with their timetable. This is essentially the Council's 'statement of intent' for the Band C investment programme. Schemes will be subject to individual approval to ensure that each meets the Council's continuing priorities and is affordable in the context of the Council's MTFS.

WG have introduced additional criteria for Net Zero Carbon (NZC) requirements for schools. Buildings will be required to be NZC in operation, which means producing zero or negative carbon emissions as part of their operational energy. The first generation of schools and colleges under the new rules will also be required to demonstrate a 20% reduction on the amount of embodied carbon, which is the carbon emitted through construction materials and the construction process, with further

	<p>reductions required in future, in line with the WG's broader NZC plans. Industry indications have confirmed this will increase construction costs by up to 20%.</p>
1.45	<p>Llys Gwenffrwd, Holywell – Residential Care Home Review</p> <p>Llys Gwenffrwd is a 31 bed, three storey care home built in the 1970s which was refurbished in early 2000. There are challenges associated with the current building as it is built on a sloping site, as a result there are a number of levels requiring the need for ramps to access many areas both inside and outside. It includes the provision of a single undersized lift to reach the three stories which does not meet DDA requirements and there are a number of living and day spaces which are some distance from the bedroom areas. Outside space is difficult to access because of the site levels and parking can be difficult. The Holywell locality has the fewest number of care home placements available and would benefit from a new build facility on a different more accessible site which requires further consideration. A relocated new build meets the needs of an ageing population in alignment with the strategic service priorities. High level feasibility work has been undertaken to review potential options to develop a business case for the project.</p>
1.46	<p>Residential Care Home Provision – North East Flintshire</p> <p>Consideration has been made as to whether the Council can introduce in-house residential care to the North East region of Flintshire, to support with capacity and future proofing the care market in the area. Currently, a site mapping exercise is being undertaken to understand if there is a site with sufficient space to house a sufficiently sized facility.</p>
1.47	<p>Additional Learning Needs Reform</p> <p>In previous Cabinet reports, the need for specialist Autism and Moderate Learning Difficulties facilities had been highlight as short/medium term ambition. In reviewing the impact of Additional Learning Needs (ALN) transformation, extending existing ALN provision would also be a requirement along with consideration for a Secondary Phase Behaviour, Emotional & Social Difficulties (BESD) Resourced Unit, the County only has primary provision currently. A technical feasibility is currently being undertaken to provide a range of options with high level cost estimates around effective building solutions. For larger value cost options it would be prudent to consider the next phase of the WG Sustainable Communities for Learning Band rolling investment programme, given that the current intervention rate in this programme for ALN provision is 75% WG funded, with the Councils contribution being 25%.</p>
1.48	<p>County Hall Campus</p> <p>The requirement to take forward the redevelopment of the site so to address the future needs of the Council and other public sector partners; to provide a range of options and an integrated approach around the Courts, Theatr Clwyd and joint Archive service together with a wider site development. The first phase of relocating staff to Ty Dewi Sant from County Hall is underway and is required by the end of February 2025.</p>

1.49	<p>Register Office, Llwynegrin Hall</p> <p>The long-term proposal is to develop Llwynegrin Hall as a venue for civil marriages/partnerships in Flintshire to include the ceremony and celebrations thereafter. The internal accommodation at Llwynegrin Hall would require an upgrade, to include catering facilities and areas to celebrate. The building has potential to be available as a complete wedding venue package, like that of approved premises e.g. hotels, and has the potential to generate new income. This proposal requires a feasibility study in the first instance.</p>
1.50	<p>Review of Industrial Estates</p> <p>The Council's industrial estates are widely dispersed throughout the County and provide much needed commercial accommodation to many local businesses, preventing them from leaving the County and maintaining local sources of employment. They also bring into the Council significant revenue through rental income but are of an age where they are now likely to require investment.</p> <p>The legislation which was due to increase the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards has not been enacted. It is not known when or if this will be introduced or whether it will be modified. Until this is confirmed we cannot assess any investment that may be required.</p> <p>Work is being undertaken to build on the initial reviews that took place on two of our estates as part of the Levelling Up bid. This work will assess our estates against criteria including regeneration, employment opportunities, sustainability and economic viability, alternative use and land values. Some of this work may determine that existing vacant buildings are demolished which will require funding.</p>
1.51	<p>Highways Asset Management Plan</p> <p>The core Capital Programme includes £1.5m per annum for the HAMP. It has been estimated that the investment required to maintain current network performance is £3.9m per annum, an increase of £2.4m per annum.</p>
1.52	<p>Digital Strategy</p> <p>A planned programme of projects required to increase the number and range of services available digitally are under consideration. The projects have an impact across a range of services, rather than in a single specific service e.g., web payment portal that will be used for all payments to the Council. These will be used to enhance the ability of customers to interact with the Council on line.</p> <p>The capital costs of purchasing new software will be calculated on a project by project basis at the time each project is ready to proceed in order to accurately capture not only the technical requirements for the software but also the costs prevailing at the time.</p> <p>The range of cross cutting projects under consideration include:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A generic web booking system to allow customers to make appointments for services online • Integration of webchat and email into the Customer Relationship Manager application • A generic facility for customers to upload and store commonly needed documents e.g., proof of entitlement to benefits • Software to link information held in separate databases so that we can update them all at once in a single contact with the customer
1.53	<p>Deeside Leisure Centre</p> <p>Deeside Leisure Centre (DLC) is 50+ years old and reaching the end of its economic useful life. It is the largest sports facility in the County at 15,000m2 and is of strategic importance in terms of sports participation and health and wellbeing. It is an ageing building occupying too large a footprint with inefficient energy systems. The building is not sustainable beyond the medium term.</p> <p>The Council has undertaken a feasibility study and business case of options for the leisure centre going forward and will review the impact this may have on the Capital Programme and any future potential revenue savings.</p>
1.54	<p>Homelessness – Young Persons Hub</p> <p>Responding to the needs of young people and particularly those who may be at a risk of homelessness is a key focus for the Council. Consideration needs to be given to not only accommodation needs but also support to assist young people with the key life skills needed to live independently and reduce risks of homelessness. When looking at best practice in this area of work, there are a number of examples of positive practice which seek to not only provide accommodation, but also co-ordinate support and service delivery.</p> <p>The Housing & Communities Portfolio is considering opportunities for the development of a Young Persons Hub which will seek to provide a number of units of self-contained accommodation with support onsite. This could potentially extend to provision of housing and homelessness advice and support and facilities for co-location of young person focussed services within a “housing hub”. A feasibility study will be considered to inform this approach once a site is identified, which may consider the provision of office and community space to ensure a joined-up approach within a multi-disciplinary team model.</p> <p>Subject to the outcome of feasibility works, capital funding may be required to deliver on this agenda. External funding streams will also be considered in order to maximise opportunities to develop the Young Persons Hub. This activity is referenced within the Councils Housing Prospectus.</p> <p>The service is currently revisiting and refining the details of the brief and developing a revised specification with youth justice, homelessness, youth services and social services colleague for a “Hub” and arranging visits to existing hubs in other authorities to understand the best designs and service configurations.</p>

1.55	<p>Homelessness – Emergency Bed Provision</p> <p>In late 2019, the Council undertook work to develop an Emergency Bed provision for people who are homeless and may otherwise face the prospect of sleeping rough. Significant works were completed within the Glanrafon Resource Centre in Queensferry to transform the building into a Night Shelter offering up to 12 Emergency Beds. The Council, as the owner of the building, completed refurbishment works and then partnered with The Wallich, to deliver the support required to safely operate the Night Shelter.</p> <p>At present there are 23 individual accommodation units on site offering self-contained accommodation but this is not of a standard we wish to sustain and need to develop a purpose built provision offering high quality self-contained accommodation. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, further guidance has been issued by WG regarding the future direction of homelessness service. In the guidance there is a clear steer towards offering high quality self-contained accommodation for people experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>The Glanrafon Homeless Hub was always considered a short to medium term solution for rough sleeping in Flintshire but the pandemic prolonged the need for the provision and the model has developed significantly since then. The next iteration of the Homeless Hub is identified as a priority activity within the Councils Housing Prospectus and Social Housing Grant can be prioritised in order to deliver on this activity. Sites are presently being considered and feasibility work for supported homeless provision underway. We are currently in discission with the WG technical and social housing grant teams over a potential provision of homeless supported provision for between 10-14 unit scheme.</p>
1.56	<p>Greenfield Business Park</p> <p>Most of the remaining units in the Council ownership at Greenfield Business Park are at the end of their serviceable life and can't, in most cases, be upgraded further. Their size and condition would make them very unlikely to be lettable in the future as they no longer meet modern business needs. There will be a need to consider the future of the site with options including a) demolition with no further units being constructed, b) demolition for future Council development or private sale, c) wholesale redevelopment and construction of new business units. Capital funds may be required to cover some of these costs including acting as match funding should external capital funding become available.</p>
1.57	<p>Connah's Quay Docks</p> <p>There is an externally funded programme of improvement underway to the security and appearance at Connah's Quay Docks to help address anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping and crime in this locality. This programme does not extend to major capital investment however. The two Council-owned docks in Connah's Quay are expected to require significant investment in the medium-term to prevent further deterioration in their</p>

	condition and risks thereby arising to the public, businesses, wildlife, and heritage assets.
1.58	<p>Town Centre Regeneration</p> <p>The strategic approach to town centre regeneration approved by Cabinet includes the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify potential future development sites and develop options for their future assembly and redevelopment; • diversify land uses to maintain the vitality and viability of town centres including the acquisition of properties; • develop potential projects for future capital funding opportunities; • start, subject to the availability of capital resources and detailed investigation into commercial viability, to acquire key sites for redevelopment; <p>Limited capital funds are available from WG to support these priorities but they require either repayment loans or a minimum of 30% match funding to be available from grants. Both would represent a future call on the capital programme if projects are to be proposed to WG for funding.</p> <p>The Council is developing Place Plans to steer investment in each town and capital projects are expected to arise from this process.</p>
1.59	<p>Net Zero Carbon Aims</p> <p>WG has set out its legal commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and work towards a net zero public sector in Wales by 2030. One of the Council's key priorities within the Council Plan is to become a NZC Council by 2030 and to support wider decarbonisation actions across the County. The capital works programme plays a vital role in accelerating the shift towards achieving the NZC target. The Council has been investing in low carbon and renewable energy systems and energy efficiency for over 10 years which has led to a 51% reduction in scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions against a 2007/08 baseline year.</p> <p>Inclusion of this priority within the programme reinforces our commitment to tackling climate change and acknowledges that we have a significant role to play in further reducing our own greenhouse gas emissions. This commitment values energy efficiency, low carbon and smart technologies as a fundamental requirement of reaching net zero for across a multitude of Council services, acting as an important contributing factor towards decarbonisation.</p> <p>In most cases carbon action is integrated within specific projects – for example, school modernisation programme designed and built to NZCio. These projects are not explicitly labelled 'Carbon' or 'Climate Change' but are part of the Council wide programme to decarbonise its assets and services.</p> <p>Work continues to further understand the cost implications of carbon action for inclusion in the MTFs, in line with the Council's Net Zero Carbon by 2030 goal.</p>

1.60	<p>Investment Zone</p> <p>Following the announcement by UK Government of a potential Investment Zone for Flintshire and Wrexham in 2023 the Council, Wrexham County Borough Council, the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and a wide range of stakeholders are developing proposals to grow the advanced manufacturing sector. Flintshire and Wrexham are home to a nationally important cluster of businesses in the sector, employing an estimated 31,000 people, and the Investment Zone would increase the scale of this sector, support the transition to advanced digital technologies and low carbon and improve skill levels and wages. On top of the £160m of investment from UK and Welsh Governments, the Investment Zone could also secure up to £1bn in private sector investment and create 5-6,000 new jobs.</p> <p>The Investment Zone funding also provides an opportunity for the Council to invest in projects that support the advanced manufacturing sector and improve the Council's commercial estate and infrastructure. It is too early in the Investment Zone development process to quantify this. The Investment Zone is expected to operate from 2025 until 2035 and is therefore highlighted in the Capital Programme as future Council projects may need to demonstrate the availability of capital match funding.</p>
1.61	<p>Re-Fit 2</p> <p>Following the completion for the first phase of the Re-Fit programme, there could be further opportunity to invest in a second phase of energy efficiency and renewable schemes on more of the Councils building including public buildings, schools and visitor centres.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS																		
2.01	Financial consequences for capital resources are as set out within the report.																		
2.02	<p>As previously stated, there are revenue consequences of borrowing in interest costs and revenue provision for debt repayment which will bear on the MTFS as pressures. The borrowing costs of previously approved schemes are reflected in the MTFS</p> <p>An additional £1m for development of children's residential care has been included in this programme, the costs of which are broken down as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Pressure in Year 1</th> <th>Pressure in Year 50</th> <th>Average Annual Pressure</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Development of Children's Residential Care</td> <td>0.059</td> <td>0.078</td> <td>0.067</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>0.059</td> <td>0.078</td> <td>0.067</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Pressure in Year 1	Pressure in Year 50	Average Annual Pressure		£m	£m	£m	Development of Children's Residential Care	0.059	0.078	0.067	Total	0.059	0.078	0.067
	Pressure in Year 1	Pressure in Year 50	Average Annual Pressure																
	£m	£m	£m																
Development of Children's Residential Care	0.059	0.078	0.067																
Total	0.059	0.078	0.067																

	These costs are reflected in the current MTFS forecast.
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3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	The proposed Capital Programme was reviewed by Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee for comment at its meeting on 14 th November 2024, with their comments being fed back to Cabinet at its meeting on 19 th November 2024.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Any decisions made which involve the Council's assets and its Capital Programme often have very large and long-term financial implications. As it seeks approval for its Capital Programme, the Council is required to produce indicators assessing the affordability, prudence, and sustainability of the capital plans. These are called the Prudential Indicators and are included in the Capital Strategy report also included on this agenda.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Business Case forms completed by Portfolios. Contact Officer: Chris Taylor, Strategic Finance Manager Telephone: 01352 703309 E-mail: christopher.taylor@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Asset Management Plan - A plan maintained by an authority of the condition and suitability of its assets, updated regularly and utilised to assess future capital needs Capital Expenditure - Expenditure on the acquisition of Non-current Assets or expenditure that extends the life or value of an existing asset Capital Programme - 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

Capital Receipt - Receipts (in excess of £10,000) from the disposal of an asset

Capital Scheme - An individual capital project which is monitored and managed in isolation. The aggregate of all schemes comprises the **Capital Programme**

Capital Strategy - A corporate document providing clear strategic guidance about an authority's objectives, priorities and spending plans, demonstrating the link to key corporate and service objectives. May be combined with the **Asset Management Plan (AMP)** to form a single document

Council Fund - The fund to which all the Council's revenue and capital expenditure is charged

Disposal - The decommissioning or transfer of an asset to another party

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.

Prudential Code - The Code of Practice drawn up by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to underpin the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003 in respect of an authority's duty to determine the affordability, prudence and sustainability of its capital investment needs

Prudential Indicators - Required by the **Prudential Code**, these take the form of limits, estimates or actual figures used to support the local decision making process for capital investment

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.



FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Wednesday, 4 th December 2024
Report Subject	Capital Strategy Including Prudential Indicators 2025/26 to 2027/28
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report updates the Council's Capital Strategy and seeks County Council's approval.

The report explains the need for the Strategy, its key aims, and the content of each of its sections.

Under the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code), authorities are required to set a range of Prudential Indicators (PI's). The Capital Strategy includes details of the Council's Prudential Indicators for 2025/26 – 2027/28.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Council approves the Capital Strategy.
2	<p>Council approves: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Prudential Indicators for 2025/26 - 2027/28 as detailed within Tables 1, and 4 – 8 of the Capital Strategy. Delegated authority for the Corporate Finance Manager to effect movements between the separately agreed limits within the authorised limit for external debt and the operational boundary for external debt (Table 6 of the Capital Strategy).

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	CAPITAL STRATEGY 2025 – 2028
1.01	The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 Edition (the Code), requires that the Council has in place a Capital Strategy (the Strategy). The guidance to the Code defines the specific requirements of the Strategy. This report updates the Strategy for Council's consideration.
1.02	The key aims of the Strategy are to explain the ways in which the capital programme is developed and funded, the potential impact it has on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and the way in which it relates to the Council's Treasury Management Strategy. The Strategy is an overarching document and refers to other documents such as the Capital Programme, the Treasury Management Strategy, and the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy. The Strategy is split into a number of sections as described below. The Strategy is enclosed as Appendix 1.
1.03	Capital Expenditure This section defines capital expenditure. There is some limited local discretion in the definition as reflected in the Council's accounting policies.
1.04	Resources This section explains the way in which the Capital Programme is funded. The Council has a number of funding sources, but these sources are limited and in some cases, particularly capital receipts, diminishing. Some of those sources, particularly prudential borrowing, add pressure to the Council's MTFS.
1.05	Prioritisation of Capital Expenditure This section explains the way in which the Capital Programme is divided into three sections and how decisions are made as to which schemes to include in each section in each year.
1.06	Governance This section explains the governance arrangements in place in the development and monitoring of the capital programme.
1.07	Capital Expenditure Plans This section refers to the Council's capital expenditure plans as agreed in its Capital Programme. It covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capital expenditure plans• The way in which those plans are expected to be financed• Minimum Revenue Provision• Estimates of the Capital Financing Requirement, a measure of unfinanced expenditure

1.08	<p>Treasury Management</p> <p>This section covers the way in which the Strategy relates to the Council's treasury management activity. It covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's Borrowing Strategy • The relationship between the Council's debt portfolio and its Capital Financing Requirement • The Authorised Limit and Operational Debt Limits for borrowing, ensuring the limits on the Council's exposure to debt are set • The Council's Investment Strategy • Treasury management governance
1.09	<p>Commercial activities</p> <p>This section reports that the Council has limited commercial activity, having a limited portfolio of investment properties (agricultural properties and industrial units). The Council does not borrow to invest for the primary purpose of financial return.</p>
1.10	<p>Liabilities</p> <p>This section explains the liabilities which the Council has, in particular the deficit on its pension fund, and links with the Council's Statement of Accounts.</p>
1.11	<p>Revenue budget implications</p> <p>This section shows the impact of the capital financing costs on the revenue stream of the Council's budget.</p>
1.12	<p>Knowledge and skills</p> <p>This section details the skills of officers involved in developing and managing the capital programme and treasury management activity, and explains that the Council makes use of external advisers to assist with this activity.</p>
1.13	<p>Prudential Indicators</p> <p>The Council is required by the Code to develop and monitor Prudential Indicators. These are contained within the various sections of the Strategy, and are indicated as such.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Financial consequences for capital resources are as set out within the report and in Appendix 1.
2.02	Financial consequences for revenue resources are as set out within the report and in Appendix 1.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	The Capital Strategy and the proposed Capital Programme was considered by the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 14 th November 2024 with their comments being fed back to the Cabinet at its meeting on 19 th November 2024.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Decisions made which involve the Council's assets and its Capital Programme often have very large and long-term financial implications. The purpose of the Capital Strategy includes setting a clear framework within which such decisions can be made mitigating the risks involved.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Capital Strategy 2025/26 – 2027/28

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None. Contact Officer: Chris Taylor, Strategic Finance Manager Telephone: 01352 703309 E-mail: christopher.taylor@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Capital Expenditure - Expenditure on the acquisition of Non-current Assets or expenditure that extends the life or value of an existing asset</p> <p>Capital Programme - 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>Capital Receipt - Receipts (in excess of £10,000) from the disposal of an asset</p> <p>Capital Scheme - An individual capital project which is monitored and managed in isolation. The aggregate of all schemes comprises the Capital Programme</p> <p>Capital Strategy - A corporate document providing clear strategic guidance about an authority's objectives, priorities and spending plans, demonstrating the link to key corporate and service objectives.</p>

<p>Council Fund - The fund to which all the Council's revenue and capital expenditure is charged</p> <p>Disposal - The decommissioning or transfer of an asset to another party</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Prudential Code - The Code of Practice drawn up by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to underpin the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003 in respect of an authority's duty to determine the affordability, prudence and sustainability of its capital investment needs</p> <p>Prudential Indicators - Required by the Prudential Code, these take the form of limits, estimates or actual figures used to support the local decision making process for capital investment</p> <p>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.</p>
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CAPITAL STRATEGY
2025/26 TO 2027/28

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CAPITAL STRATEGY REPORT 2025/26

1. INTRODUCTION

The creation and approval of a capital strategy is now a requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 Edition (the CIPFA Code).

The Code requires the Council to set Prudential Indicators in relation to its Capital Programme. This document includes those Prudential Indicators in tables 1 and, 4 - 8.

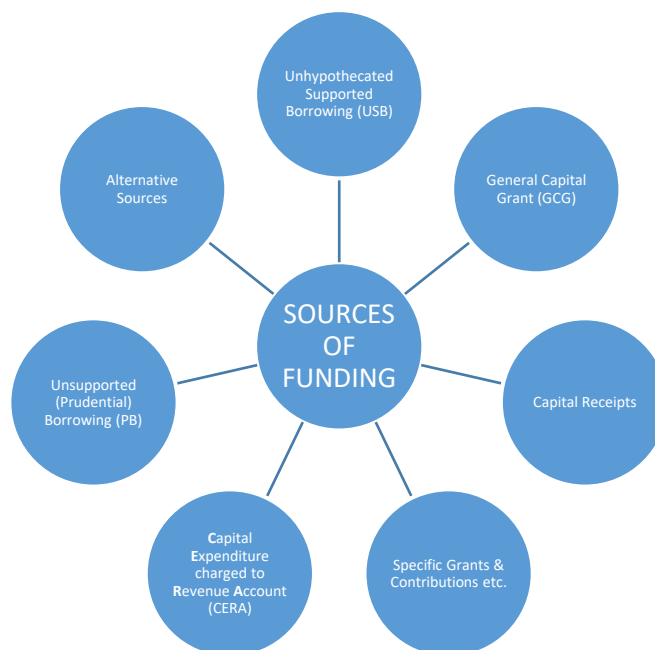
This document updates the capital strategy approved by Council in December 2023. It gives a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of local public services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability.

2. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Capital expenditure occurs when the Council spends money on assets, such as property or vehicles, which will be used for more than one year. In local government this includes spending on assets owned by other bodies, and loans and grants to other bodies enabling them to buy assets.

3. RESOURCES

The sources of funding available to the Council are described below:



Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB), commonly referred to as Supported Borrowing

Each year Welsh Government provides councils with a Supported Borrowing capital allocation. Councils can then borrow to fund capital expenditure up to that annual allocation, and Welsh Government will include funding to cover the revenue costs associated with that level of borrowing in future years within the Revenue Support Grant. The Council decides how this funding is spent.

General Capital Grant (GCG)

This is the annual capital grant from Welsh Government. The Council decides how this funding is spent.

Supported borrowing and general capital grant will be used to fund capital schemes which:

- invest in, or maintain the life of, existing assets which will be retained for future service delivery
- are statutory / regulatory in nature

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) equivalent is known as the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA).

Capital Receipts

These are funds raised from the sale of council assets, usually, but not restricted to, land and buildings. Other examples include repayments of loans for capital purposes and release of restrictive covenants.

Capital finance regulations dictate that capital receipts can only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt. In the past, regulations required a proportion of all receipts be set aside to repay debt, but this requirement was removed some time ago for the Council Fund and was removed for the HRA with the introduction of self-financing. The Council's policy is to use capital receipts to fund capital expenditure rather than voluntarily set aside to repay debt. The Council sets a Minimum Revenue Provision policy each year which sets out our prudent methods for repayment of debt.

The current policy of pooling all capital receipts to allocate to capital schemes in accordance with the Council's strategic aims and priorities will continue. Capital receipts will not be 'ring-fenced' to fund schemes in the same service or geographical areas (with the exception of the HRA). Capital receipts represent a finite funding source based on a planned approach to asset disposals in support of the Council's priorities. They will be used to fund new capital investment schemes.

Generation of capital receipts depends on our ability to identify assets that are surplus to requirements, and to sell them at an appropriate time which will be subject to local economic factors. In recent years this has been challenging, and will continue to be so. Careful and prudent planning around the timing of capital receipts is needed to ensure schemes funded by capital receipts don't begin until we have received the receipt.

Capital receipts will be generated by continuing with our agricultural disposal policy, our policy to reduce the number of assets that we have and the review of the commercial estate.

Our assets are also supporting the Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP) in innovative ways. We have identified surplus Council owned sites which will be used to develop new housing. This input will need to continue throughout the life of the programme. The impact of this on the generation of capital receipts will need to be carefully mapped and reflected within the wider Capital Programme.

Specific Grants and Contributions etc.

Specific Grants

These are grant allocations received from a range of sponsoring bodies including Welsh Government, Lottery, etc. for associated specific programmes and projects, with limited local discretion on how the funding is spent. Often the terms and conditions of such funding will require unused funding to be returned, and can require the Council to match fund. In times where capital resources are declining the Council will seek to maximise such funding streams, subject to the initiative/scheme reflecting both the third party's agenda and the Council's priorities.

Specific Contributions

These are contributions from developers towards the provision of public assets or facilities. Sometimes these are to mitigate the impact of their development on communities and are often referred to as Section 106 contributions. Contributions are earmarked for specific purposes in planning agreements and often relate to infrastructure projects including play areas, open spaces, and schools, but also including affordable housing. Developers also contribute to highways infrastructure developments through Section 38 and 278 agreements.

Specific Capital Loans

Increasingly, as Welsh Government's funding comes under pressure, capital funding that was previously issued as a specific capital grant is converted into a repayable loan, examples include the Home Improvement Loans fund, and Town Centre Loans funding. Grant funding will always be preferable to loan funding as it does not require repayment, however, loan funding does have benefits. Its use to date has been to provide recyclable loan funding for regeneration purposes. The benefit is that rather than being used to fund a single project, the funding can be recycled and used to fund a number of projects over the term of the loan.

Capital Loans are also available, and have been used, from other sources such as Salix in relation to energy saving projects.

As with grants, the Council will seek to maximise such developments that are in line with its priorities, whilst carefully considering the additional administrative burden in issuing and collecting loans, and the risk it carries from loan defaults.

Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI)

In recent years, as Welsh Government funding has been under pressure, schemes that would have been funded by capital grant have been funded by LGBI. Welsh Government provides the revenue support for borrowing costs incurred by the Council in borrowing to fund capital schemes (the difference with supported borrowing being that it's for a specific purpose aligned to Welsh Government priorities). LGBI has been used for highways maintenance and used to part fund the Welsh Government element of the Sustainable Communities for Learning – 'Band A'.

Capital Expenditure charged to Revenue Account (CERA)

Capital expenditure can be funded via a direct contribution from revenue funding (note: capital financing regulations mean it is not possible to use capital funding to fund revenue expenditure). This method of funding is extensively used by the HRA and will continue to be in the future. Its use for Council Fund activity is generally quite limited as this would add pressure to the revenue budget as forecast in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

Unsupported Prudential Borrowing (commonly referred to as Prudential Borrowing)

The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities supports local authorities in determining their programmes for capital investment in assets (we are required by regulation to follow its requirements). The Prudential Code gives councils discretion to undertake borrowing to fund capital projects with the full cost of borrowing funded from future council revenue resources subject to the Council demonstrating, within a clear framework, that the capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable. A range of prudential indicators must be produced and approved demonstrating the impact of the programme. This option for funding additional capital developments is one which is funded from within existing revenue budgets or from generating additional and ongoing income streams, there is no support from any external funding which is a major constraint on its use as any scheme funded by prudential borrowing will add to the forecast budget deficit in the MTFS.

To date, limited use has been made of the option following cautious and prudent consideration of long-term impacts. This approach will continue to be used with schemes that have a clear financial benefit such as 'invest to save', 'spend to earn', and those that generate returns over and above the costs of debt. The focus will be to fund schemes that are the Council's priorities, attract third party funding and generate revenue benefits in future financial years in the form of revenue savings, income generation or increasing Council Tax yield. In addition, prudential borrowing will be used to fund the Council element of Sustainable Communities for Learning programme and the HRA SHARP schemes.

Alternative Sources

There are a number of other alternative sources of capital funding which the Council could make use of, depending on circumstances and cost:-

- Finance Leases - Leases that transfers (to the lessee) substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset, even though ownership may not be transferred. This method was used for the equipment at Deeside Leisure Centre and the Jade Jones Pavilion, Flint.
- Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) - This is a broad term for various arrangements in which the Council has a longer and more intensive relationship with a private sector supplier than it does under a traditional contract. It includes:-
 - PFI contracts;
 - Local Asset Backed Vehicles (LABVs);
 - Strategic partnering;
 - Sale and Lease back;
 - Joint Ventures;
 - Deferred Purchase, and
 - Mutual Investment Model (MIM)

To date, the Council has made very limited use of alternative funding options listed above. In future all options, along with any new initiatives, will be explored and used carefully. Capital schemes funded from alternative sources are likely to increase the Council's debt liability, therefore use will be restricted and considered in the same way as prudential borrowing.

4. PRIORITISATION OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The purpose of the Capital Programme is to optimise the Council’s use of capital resources by allocation to those areas identified as representing the strategic priorities of the Council. The Programme is split into 3 sections;

- Statutory / Regulatory Programme consisting of an annual allocation to fund schemes of a statutory / regulatory nature. Examples include providing financial support to repair, improve and adapt private sector homes, and adapting schools for disabled children. Service areas will be required to submit plans for approval before the start of each financial year.
- Retained Asset Programme consisting of an annual allocation to fund schemes that maintain, improve or lengthen the economic life of the assets that we retain to use in delivering services where there is already a significant amount of capital work needed, identified by service plans / condition surveys etc. Service areas identified are: schools, highways, and corporate office accommodation. Service areas are required to submit plans for approval before the start of each financial year.
- Investment Programme consisting of allocations to fund new schemes arising from Portfolio Business Plans. Such schemes will be necessary to achieve revenue efficiencies included within Portfolio Business Plans, the MTFS and our strategic priorities as included in the Council Plan. Approval of such schemes will be through the submission of a full business case identifying the source of capital funding and the asset’s lifetime costs going forward.

Funding of schemes will be allocated as shown below:

Statutory / Regulatory Programme	Retained Asset Programme	Investment Programme	
General Capital Grant	Supported Borrowing	Capital Receipts	Debt and Alternative Sources of Funding

Capital Programmes will be set every year covering a timeframe of the next 3 financial years on a rolling basis, reflecting that capital schemes don’t match financial years and span more than 1 financial year. Schemes starting in that first financial year will be approved along with any costs and funding required in the subsequent 2 financial years. Schemes starting later than the first financial year will be given indicative support to enable services to plan, but will ultimately require formal approval through the process of approving the subsequent years’ Capital Programme.

Sufficient ‘headroom’ will be built into the Capital Programme to facilitate more flexibility, thus allowing smaller schemes to be presented, considered and approved by Cabinet in year. Such schemes arise in year due to, for example, grants that require an element of match funding or unforeseen events such as regulatory works etc.

The development of the Capital Programme will be considered in the context of its impact on the Council’s MTFS and in particular the added pressure the Capital Programme may bring to the revenue budget.

5. GOVERNANCE

Planning for the Capital Programme is determined in parallel with service and revenue budget planning process within the framework of the MTFS.

New investment capital schemes will be rigorously appraised through submission of full business cases which will include schemes funded by grants or contributions from 3rd parties. Large schemes which are programmes in their own right will be subject to gateway reviews at stages during the programme, for example Sustainable Communities for Learning and SHARP. This ensures that the evidence and the case for change when the scheme was initially approved is still valid, and that lessons learned from early stages can be applied to future stages.

Those portfolios with core allocations will submit annual plans for assessment and challenge by the Capital and Assets Programme Board to ensure compliance with the Capital Strategy and the Asset Management Plan.

The Capital Programme, where possible, will be set for each coming financial year before the annual budget, and will include indicative figures spanning the same time frame as the MTFS.

Monitoring of the annual Capital Programme will be undertaken at a Portfolio level by the Capital and Technical Accounting Team, with progress updates given to the Capital and Assets Programme Board. Reporting to Members will take place quarterly to Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee including:

- New schemes or additions to existing schemes
- Removal of or reductions to schemes
- Slippage on schemes, and impact on future years capital programme
- Funding virements between schemes
- Other necessary revisions to the scheme

The Capital and Assets Programme Board will develop processes for monitoring the outcomes of capital schemes and measures to monitor the performance of assets.

Capital expenditure plans

The Council's planned capital expenditure for the period 2025/26 to 2027/28 is summarised below:

Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure in £ millions

	2025/26 Estimate *	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate
Council Fund	26.435	25.418	22.625
Housing Revenue Account	28.683	23.987	24.058
Total	55.118	49.405	46.683

*£7.6m of capital expenditure in 2025/26 arises from a change in the accounting for leases and does not represent cash expenditure.

The Council's Capital Programme is due to be approved by Council in December 2024, and details can be found on the Council's website.

The Council is planning a number of significant investments during the period of this strategy. In particular, it is investing substantially in its schools in conjunction with Welsh Government through the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme; development of children’s residential care to expand our in-house provision; has plans, and in conjunction with its partners, to create a new archive building to deliver a single archive service for North East Wales. More detail is available in the Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2027/28 report.

The HRA is a ‘ring-fenced’ account which ensures that council housing does not subsidise, or is itself subsidised by, other local services. HRA capital expenditure is therefore recorded separately. The Council has plans to invest significantly in housing assets over the period of the strategy, including the building of new homes as part of the SHARP, as well as maintaining its stock in line with the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS).

In addition, part of SHARP is to build new homes for rent at intermediate rent levels (between social housing rents and market rents). This is achieved by making capital loans to the Council’s wholly owned subsidiary, North East Wales Homes Ltd (NEW Homes) to build affordable homes.

All capital expenditure must be financed, either from external sources (government grants and other contributions), the Council’s own resources (revenue, reserves and capital receipts) or debt (borrowing, leasing etc.). The planned financing of the above expenditure is as follows, broken down into the sources detailed above:

Table 2: Capital Financing in £ millions

	2025/26 Estimate *	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate
Council Fund			
<u>External Sources</u>			
USB	4.017	4.017	4.017
GCG	4.125	4.125	4.125
Specific Grants/Contrib's/Loans	9.843	10.885	10.785
<u>Own Resources</u>			
Capital Receipts	2.315	0.000	0.000
<u>Debt</u>			
Prudential Borrowing	6.135	6.391	3.698
Sub Total - Council Fund	26.435	25.418	22.625

Housing Revenue Account			
<u>External Sources</u>			
MRA	4.978	4.978	4.978
Specific Grants/Contrib's/Loans	0.300	0.300	0.300
<u>Own Resources</u>			
CERA	14.811	14.115	14.186
<u>Debt</u>			
Prudential Borrowing	8.594	4.594	4.594
Sub Total - HRA	28.683	23.987	24.058
TOTAL	55.118	49.405	46.683

*£7.6m of capital expenditure in 2025/26 arises from a change in the accounting for leases and does not represent cash expenditure.

Debt is only a temporary source of finance, as any loans or leases must be repaid. Local authorities are required each year under regulations, to set aside some of their revenue resources as provision for the repayment of debt. The annual charge to the revenue account for repaying debt is known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). Planned MRP is as follows:

Table 3: Replacement of prior years' debt finance in £ millions

	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate
Council Fund	3.892	4.204	4.568
Housing Revenue Account	1.781	1.918	2.011

Local authorities are required to set a policy for MRP each financial year. The Council sets its annual MRP policy in February each year and this is available on its website.

Alternatively, capital receipts may be used to repay debt by applying capital receipts to the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR).

The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of capital expenditure financed by debt is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces with MRP and any capital receipts used to repay debt. Based on the above figures for expenditure and financing, the Council's estimated CFR is as follows:

Table 4: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement in £ millions

	2025/26 Estimate *	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate
Council Fund	323.482	337.463	349.285
Housing Revenue Account	139.734	142.410	144.993
Total	463.216	479.873	494.278

*£75m of the CFR increase in 2025/26 arises from a change in the accounting for leases.

6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT

Treasury Management is concerned with keeping sufficient but not excessive cash available to meet the Council's spending needs as they fall due, while managing the risks involved. Surplus cash is invested until required, while a shortage of cash will be met by borrowing, to avoid excessive credit balances or overdrafts in the bank current account. The Council is typically cash rich in the short-term as revenue income is received before it is spent, but cash poor in the long-term as capital expenditure is incurred before being financed. The revenue cash surpluses are offset against capital cash shortfalls to reduce overall borrowing.

Due mainly to decisions taken in the past, the Council currently (30th September 2024) has £316m long-term borrowing at an average interest rate of 4.49%, and short-term borrowing of £10m at an average interest rate of 4.63%. It also has £24.9m treasury investments at an average interest rate of 5.03%.

Borrowing strategy: The Council's chief objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which the funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans, should the Council's long-term plans change, is a secondary objective. Short-term loans are currently available at around 5% and long-term fixed rate loans where the future cost is known but higher are currently 5.11% to 5.52%.

The Council does not borrow to invest for the primary purpose of financial return and therefore retains full access to the Public Works Loans Board.

Projected levels of the Council's total outstanding debt (which comprises borrowing and leases) are shown below, compared with the capital financing requirement (see above).

Table 5: Prudential Indicator: Gross Debt & the Capital Financing Requirement in £ millions

	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate
Debt (Incl Leases)	432.854	451.870	461.594
Capital Financing Requirement	463.216	479.873	494.278

Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the Capital Financing Requirement, except in the short-term. As can be seen from Table 5, the Council expects to comply with this in the medium term.

Affordable borrowing limit: The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year and to keep it under review. In line with statutory guidance, a lower “operational boundary” is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

Table 6: Prudential Indicators: Authorised Limit & Operational Boundary for external debt in £m

	2025/26 Limit	2026/27 Limit	2027/28 Limit
Authorised Limit - Borrowing	483	500	514
Authorised Limit - Other long term liabilities	35	35	35
Authorised Limit - Total External Debt	518	535	549
Operational Boundary - Borrowing	408	427	443
Operational Boundary - Other long term liabilities	75	73	71
Operational Boundary - Total External Debt	483	500	514

Treasury Investment strategy: Treasury investments arise from receiving cash before it is paid out again. Investments made for service reasons or for pure financial gain are not generally considered to be part of treasury management.

The Council’s policy on treasury investments is to prioritise security and liquidity over yield that is to focus on minimising risk rather than maximising returns. Cash that is likely to be spent in the near term is invested securely, for example with the government, other local authorities or selected high-quality banks, to minimise the risk of loss. Money that will be held for longer terms is invested more widely, including in bonds, shares and property, to balance the risk of loss against the risk of receiving returns below inflation. Both near-term and longer-term investments may be held in pooled funds, where an external fund manager makes decisions on which particular investments to buy and the Council may request its money back at short notice.

Governance: Decisions on treasury management investment and borrowing are made daily and are therefore delegated to the Corporate Finance Manager and the Treasury Management team, who must act in line with the Treasury Management Strategy approved annually by the Council in February. Quarterly reports on treasury management activity are presented to the Governance and Audit Committee. The Governance and Audit Committee is responsible for scrutinising treasury management decisions.

The Council sets a Treasury Management Policy Statement, an annual Treasury Management Strategy and Treasury Management Schedules and Practices which contain further details on the Council’s borrowing strategy, investment strategy and treasury management governance which are available on its website.

7. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Council has a portfolio of investment properties, in the form of agricultural property and industrial units. Although these are classified as investment properties, they are legacy assets and the Council is managing down its agricultural portfolio and is reviewing its position in regard to industrial units. The Council does not borrow to invest for the primary purpose of financial return.

Table 7: Prudential Indicator: Net Income from Commercial and Service Investments to Net Revenue Stream

	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate
Total net income from service and commercial investment	1.673	1.673	1.673
Proportion of net revenue stream	0.45%	0.45%	0.45%

8. LIABILITIES

In addition to debt of £316m detailed above, the Council is committed to making future payments to cover any required pension fund deficit (valued at £18m, March 2024). It has also set aside £1.1m to cover the risks associated with the aftercare of former landfill sites, and £3.5m as a provision against bad debts.

The Council is also at risk of having to pay for any additional works necessary at landfill sites, payments in respect of historic insurance, abuse and housing disrepair claims, costs involved in some employment tribunal cases, and has given pension guarantees on behalf of various alternative service delivery models. The Council has not set aside any funds because of a lack of certainty in estimating the size and timing of these liabilities.

Governance: Decisions on incurring new discretionary liabilities are taken by Chief Officers in consultation with the Corporate Finance Manager. The risk of liabilities crystallising and requiring payment is monitored by corporate finance and reported as required to Cabinet.

Further details on liabilities and guarantees are in the contingent liability section in Note 34 of the Council's 2023/24 Statement of Accounts available on its website.

9. REVENUE BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

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 Revenue Support Grant, Council Tax and business rates (NNDR) for the Council Fund, and the HRA equivalent is the amount to be met from Welsh Government grants and rent payers.

Table 8: Prudential Indicator: Proportion of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate
Council Fund	4.24%	4.47%	4.60%
HRA	18.25%	18.60%	18.58%

Sustainability: Due to the very long-term nature of capital expenditure and financing, the revenue budget implications of expenditure incurred in the next few years will extend for up to 50 years into the future. The Corporate Finance Manager is satisfied that the proposed Capital Programme is prudent, affordable and sustainable because the impact of the existing Capital Programme on the MTFS has been considered, and the revenue implications of future capital schemes are included when considering the approval of the capital budget.

Other revenue implications of capital expenditure are included in business cases and are factored into the MTFS.

10. KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

The Council employs professionally qualified and experienced staff in senior positions with responsibility for making capital expenditure, borrowing and investment decisions. For example, the Corporate Finance Manager is a qualified accountant with significant experience. The Council pays for junior staff to study towards relevant professional qualifications, including CIPFA and AAT.

Where Council staff do not have the knowledge and skills required, use is made of external advisers and consultants that are specialists in their field. The Council currently employs Arlingclose Limited as treasury management advisors. This approach is more cost effective than employing such staff directly and ensures that the Council has access to knowledge and skills commensurate with its risk appetite.



FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Wednesday, 4 th December 2024
Report Subject	Treasury Management Annual Report 2023/24
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report presents the Treasury Management Annual Report 2023/24 for Member approval.

The Treasury Management Annual Report 2023/24 is attached as Appendix 1. As required by the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, this Annual Report was reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee on 24th July and Cabinet on 25th September 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Council approves the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2023/24.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE ANNUAL REPORT
1.01	On 23 rd February 2023, following the recommendation of the Cabinet and consideration by the Governance and Audit Committee, the Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24.
1.02	The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to Cabinet, and for execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Corporate Finance Manager, who acts in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement, Strategy and Practices.
1.03	The Council has nominated the Governance and Audit Committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of Treasury Management Strategy and Policies.
	<u>CONSIDERATIONS</u>
1.04	The Treasury Management Annual Report 2023/24 is attached as Appendix 1. As required by the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, this Annual Report was reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee on 24 th July 2024 and Cabinet on 25 th September 2024, where no significant issues were raised.
	<u>Summary of Key Points</u>
1.05	<p>UK inflation continued to decline throughout the year with headline consumer price inflation (CPI) falling to 3.4% in February from the 8.7% seen at the start of the year, although this was still above the Bank of England's 2% target.</p> <p>Having begun the financial year at 4.25%, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) increased the Bank Rate to 5.25% in August 2023 with a 3-way split in the Committee's voting as the UK economy appeared resilient in the face of the dual headwinds of higher inflation and interest rates. The Bank Rate was maintained at 5.25% through the remainder of the financial year.</p> <p>Section 2 of the report provides a full economic and interest rate review for 2023/24.</p>
1.06	<p>Due to increases in the UK Bank Rate, the short-term money market rates have been higher than expected. The average interest rate on the income earned during the year was 4.87%.</p> <p>Section 4 provides further details of the Council's investment activity during the year.</p>
1.07	During the year a total of £12m Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loans were taken out to support the strategy of fixing a portion of the long-term borrowing requirement. Section 3 provides more information on borrowing and debt management during the year.

1.08	Options for debt rescheduling were explored in conjunction with our treasury management advisors. The premium charged for early repayment of PWLB debt remained relatively expensive for the loans in the Council's portfolio and therefore unattractive for debt rescheduling activity. Therefore, no rescheduling activity was undertaken.
1.09	The treasury function operated within the limits detailed in the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Financial implications are addressed in the report; no other resource implications directly as a result of this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED AND UNDERTAKEN
3.01	Arlingclose Ltd, being the Council's treasury management advisors.

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

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Treasury Management Annual Report 2023/24

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None Contact Officer: Chris Taylor – Strategic Finance Manager Telephone: 01352 703309 E-mail: christopher.taylor@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Authorised Limit: A statutory limit that sets the maximum level of external debt for the Council.

Balances and Reserves: Accumulated sums that are held, either for specific future costs or commitments (known as earmarked) or generally held to meet unforeseen or emergency expenditure.

Bank Rate: The official interest rate set by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee and what is generally termed at the "base rate".

Basis Point: A unit of measure used in finance to describe the percentage change in the value or rate of a financial instrument. One basis point is equivalent to 0.01% (1/100th of a percent). In most cases, it refers to changes in interest rates and bond yields. For example, if interest rates rise by 25 basis points, it means that rates have risen by 0.25% percentage points.

Bond: A certificate of debt issued by a company, government, or other institution. The bond holder receives interest at a rate stated at the time of issue of the bond. The price of a bond may vary during its life.

Capital Expenditure: Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of capital assets.

Capital Financing Requirement (CFR): The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes representing the cumulative capital expenditure of the local authority that has not been financed.

Certificates of Deposits (CD's): A savings certificate entitling the bearer to receive interest. A CD bears a maturity date, a specified fixed interest rate and can be issued in any denomination. CDs are generally issued by commercial banks. The term of a CD generally ranges from one month to five years.

Cost of Carry: The "cost of carry" is the difference between what is paid to borrow compared to the interest which could be earned. For example, if one takes out borrowing at 5% and invests the money at 1.5%, there is a cost of carry of 3.5%.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): The UK's main measure of inflation (along with Retail Price Index or 'RPI') The Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England set the Bank Rate in order to try and keep CPI at or close to the target set by the Government. The calculation of CPI includes many items of normal household expenditure but excludes some items such as mortgage interest payments and Council Tax.

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

Corporate Bonds: Corporate bonds are bonds issued by companies. The term is often used to cover all bonds other than those issued by governments in their own currencies and includes issues by companies, supranational organisations and government agencies.

Counterparty List: List of approved financial institutions with which the Council can place investments.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IFRS: International Financial Reporting Standards.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

TREASURY MANAGEMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

1.00 INTRODUCTION

The Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 (the Strategy) including key indicators, limits and an annual investment strategy on 23rd February 2023.

The Strategy was produced based on the 2021 edition of the *CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice*.

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

The purpose of this report is to review the outcomes from 2023/24 treasury management operations and compare these with the Strategy.

Treasury management comprises the management of the local authority's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.

2.00 ECONOMIC & INTEREST RATE REVIEW 2023/24

This is provided by Arlingclose Ltd, the Council's treasury management advisors.

2.01 Economic background

UK inflation continued to decline from the 8.7% rate seen at the start of 2023/24. By the last quarter of the financial year headline consumer price inflation (CPI) had fallen to 3.4% in February but was still above the Bank of England's 2% target at the end of the period. The core measure of CPI, i.e., excluding food and energy, also slowed in February to 4.5% from 5.1% in January, a rate that had stubbornly persisted for three consecutive months.

The UK economy entered a technical recession in the second half of 2023, as growth rates of -0.1% and -0.3% respectively were recorded for Q3 and Q4. Over the 2023 calendar year GDP growth only expanded by 0.1% compared to 2022. Of the recent monthly data, the Office for National Statistics reported a rebound in activity with economy expanding 0.2% in January 2024. While the economy may somewhat recover in Q1 2024, the data suggests that prior increases in interest rates and higher price levels are depressing growth, which will continue to bear down on inflation throughout 2024.

Labour market data provided a mixed message for policymakers. Employment and vacancies declined, and unemployment rose to 4.3% (3mth/year) in July

2023. The same month saw the highest annual growth rate of 8.5% for total pay (i.e., including bonuses) and 7.8% for regular pay growth (i.e., excluding bonuses). Thereafter, unemployment began to decline, falling to 3.9% (3mth/year) in January and pay growth also edged lower to 5.6% for total pay and 6.1% for regular pay, but remained above the Bank of England's forecast.

Having begun the financial year at 4.25%, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) increased Bank Rate to 5.25% in August 2023 with a 3-way split in the Committee's voting as the UK economy appeared resilient in the face of the dual headwinds of higher inflation and interest rates. Bank Rate was maintained at 5.25% through to March 2024. The vote at the March was 8-1 in favour of maintaining rates at this level, with the single dissenter preferring to cut rates immediately by 0.25%. Although financial markets shifted their interest rate expectations downwards with expectations of a cut in June, the MPC's focus remained on assessing how long interest rates would need to be restrictive in order to control inflation over the medium term.

In the Bank's quarterly Monetary Policy Report (MPR) released in August 2023 the near-term projection for services price inflation was revised upwards, goods price inflation widespread across products, indicating stronger domestic inflationary pressure with second-round effects in domestic prices and wages likely taking longer to unwind than they did to emerge. In the February 2024 MPR the Bank's expectations for the UK economy were positive for the first half of 2024, with a recovery from the mild recession in calendar H2 2023 being gradual. Headline CPI was forecast to dip below the 2% target quicker than previously thought due to declining energy prices, these effects would hold inflation slightly above target for much of the forecast horizon.

Following this MPC meeting, Arlingclose, the Council's treasury adviser, maintained its central view that 5.25% remains the peak in Bank Rate and that interest rates will most likely start to be cut later in H2 2024. The risks in the short-term are deemed to be to the downside as a rate cut may come sooner than expected, but then more broadly balanced over the medium term.

The US Federal Reserve also pushed up rates over the period, reaching a peak range of between 5.25-5.50% in August 2023, where it has stayed since. US policymakers have maintained the relatively dovish stance from the December FOMC meeting and at the meeting in March, economic projections pointed to interest rates being cut by a total of 0.75% in 2024.

Following a similarly sharp upward trajectory, the European Central Bank hiked rates to historically high levels over period, pushing its main refinancing rate to 4.5% in September 2023, where it has remained. Economic growth in the region remains weak, with a potential recession on the cards, but inflation remains sticky and above the ECB's target, putting pressure on policymakers on how to balance

these factors.

2.02 Financial markets

Sentiment in financial markets remained uncertain and bond yields continued to be volatile over the year. During the first half of the year, yields rose as interest rates continued to be pushed up in response to rising inflation. From October they started declining again before falling sharply in December as falling inflation and dovish central bank attitudes caused financial markets to expect cuts in interest rates in 2024. When it emerged in January that inflation was stickier than expected and the BoE and the Federal Reserve were data dependent and not inclined to cut rates soon, yields rose once again, ending the period some 50+ bps higher than when it started.

Over the financial year, the 10-year UK benchmark gilt yield rose from 3.44% to peak at 4.75% in August, before then dropping to 3.44% in late December 2023 and rising again to 3.92% (28th March 2024). The Sterling Overnight Rate (SONIA) averaged 4.96% over the period to 31st March.

3.00 BORROWING REQUIREMENTS AND DEBT MANAGEMENT

3.01 CIPFA's 2021 Prudential Code is clear that local authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return and that it is not prudent for local authorities to make any investment or spending decision that will increase the capital financing requirement and so may lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the Council. PWLB loans are no longer available to local authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield unless these loans are for refinancing purposes.

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

3.02 PWLB (Public Works Loans Board) Certainty Rate

The Council qualified for the PWLB Certainty Rate, allowing the Council to borrow at a reduction of 20 basis points on the Standard Rate for a further 12 months from April 2023.

3.03 Borrowing Activity in 2023/24.

The total long-term borrowing outstanding, brought forward into 2023/24 was £295.2 million.

	Balance 01/04/2023 £m	Debt Maturing £m	New Debt £m	Balance 31/03/2024 £m
Capital Financing Requirement	355.3	(6.6)	6.2	354.9
Short Term Borrowing	12.0	(12.0)	30.0	30.0
Long Term Borrowing	295.2	(5)	12.1	302.3
TOTAL BORROWING	307.2	(17)	42.1	332.3
Other Long-Term Liabilities	2.7	(0.3)	0.00	2.4
TOTAL EXTERNAL DEBT	309.9	(17.3)	42.1	334.7
Increase/(Decrease) in Borrowing (£m)	-	-	25.1	

The Council's Capital Programme is financed by a combination of capital receipts and grants, capital expenditure charged to the revenue account (CERA) and borrowing. The borrowing strategy in recent years, in accordance with advice received from the Council's treasury management advisors, Arlingclose, has been to use existing cash balances and short-term borrowing to confirm the long-term borrowing requirement. This is to ensure that the Council does not commit to long-term borrowing too early and borrow unnecessarily, which will be costly. This is balanced against securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which the funds are required so as not to compromise the long-term stability of the portfolio.

Short term borrowing continued to be available throughout the year and was utilised as far as possible without exposing the Council to excessive refinancing risk. The total short term (temporary) borrowing as at 31st March 2024 was £30m with an average rate of 6.08%.

The relative costs and benefits of internal / short-term borrowing and long-term borrowing were monitored closely, in conjunction with Arlingclose, throughout the year. Although Arlingclose's advice was to keep borrowing short, the Council continued to have a long-term borrowing requirement. In December, short to medium term loans were taken to support its strategy of fixing a portion of its long-term borrowing requirement. After discussing with Arlingclose, the following loans were taken out:

Start Date	Maturity Date	Amount	Rate	Loan Type
12 Dec 2023	12 Dec 2035	£5.0m	4.41%	EIP
28 Dec 2023	28 Dec 2036	£7.0m	3.98%	EIP

On 31st March 2024, £279.0m of the Council's loans were in the form of fixed rate with the PWLB, £18.95m were variable rate in the form of LOBOs (Lender Option Borrower Option) and £4.3m were interest free loans from the Government, available for specific schemes. The Council's average rate for long term borrowing was 4.49%.

The Council's underlying need to borrow as measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as at 31st March 2024 was £354.9m. The Council's total external debt was £334.7m.

3.04 Lender Option Borrower Option loans (LOBOs)

The Council holds £18.95m of LOBOs, loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost.

As market interest rates rose, there was increased probability of call options on the LOBOs being exercised by lenders. These LOBO loans had semi-annual call option dates during the year to 31st March 2024, however, none of them were called.

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

3.05 Debt Rescheduling

Options for debt rescheduling were explored in conjunction with the Council's treasury management advisors. The premium charged for early repayment of PWLB debt remained relatively expensive for the loans in the Council's portfolio and therefore unattractive for debt rescheduling activity. As a consequence, no rescheduling activity was undertaken.

The Corporate Finance Manager, in conjunction with the Council's treasury management advisors, will continue to review any potential opportunities for restructuring the Council's debt in order to take advantage of potential savings as

interest rates change and to enhance the balance of the long-term portfolio (amend the maturity profile and/or the balance of volatility).

4.00 **INVESTMENT ACTIVITY**

4.01 **Guidance**

The Welsh Government's Investment Guidance gives priority to security and liquidity and the Council's aim is to achieve a yield commensurate with these principles.

4.02 **Investment Activity in 2023/24**

Summary of investments as at 31st March 2024.

Country	Total	<1 month	1 –12 months	>12 months
	£m	£m	£m	£m
UK BANKS	3.0	3.0		
UK BUILDING SOCIETIES				
OVERSEAS				
MMF's	30.4	30.4		
LOCAL AUTHORITIES				
DMO	5.0		5.0	
<u>TOTAL</u>	38.4	33.4	5.0	

The investment for £5m was classified as a short-term investment in the Council's Balance Sheet. The remainder of the investments had maturities of less than 3 months, so were classified as cash.

Security of capital remained the Council's main investment objective. This was maintained by following the Council's counterparty policy as set out in its Strategy for 2023/24. Investments during the year included:

- Deposits with the Debt Management Office
- Deposits with other local authorities
- Investments in AAA-rated Low Volatility Net Asset Value (LVNAV) money market funds
- Call accounts and deposits with banks and building societies

4.03 **Credit Risk**

The Council assessed and monitored counterparty credit quality with reference to

credit ratings, credit default swaps, GDP of the country in which the institution operate, the country's net debt as a percentage of GDP, and share price. The minimum long-term counterparty credit rating determined by the Council for the 2023/24 treasury strategy was A-/A-/A3 across rating agencies Fitch, S&P and Moody's.

4.04 Counterparty Update

In response to an improving outlook for credit markets, in January 2024 Arlingclose moved away from its previous temporary stance of a 35-day maximum duration and increased its advised recommended maximum unsecured duration limit on all banks on its counterparty list to 100 days.

Earlier in the period, S&P revised the UK sovereign outlook to stable and upgraded Barclays Bank to A+. Moody's also revised the UK outlook to stable, Handelsbanken's outlook to negative, downgraded five local authorities, and affirmed HSBC's outlook at stable while upgrading its Baseline Credit Assessment. Fitch revised UOB's and BMO's outlooks to stable.

In the final quarter of the financial year, Fitch revised the outlook on the UK sovereign rating to stable from negative based on their assessment that the risks to the UK's public finances had decreased since its previous review in October 2022, the time of the mini- budget.

Moody's, meanwhile, upgraded the long-term ratings of German lenders Helaba, Bayern LB and LBBW on better solvency and capital positions, despite challenges from a slowing German economy and exposure to the commercial real estate sector. Moody's also upgraded or placed on review for an upgrade, Australian banks including ANZ, CBA NAB and Westpac on the back of the introduction of a new bank resolution regime.

Credit default swap prices began the financial year at elevated levels following the fallout from Silicon Valley Bank and collapse/takeover of other lenders. From then the general trend was one of falling prices and UK lenders' CDS ended the period at similar levels to those seen in early 2023. Earlier in the year some Canadian lenders saw their CDS prices rise due to concerns over a slowing domestic economy and housing market, while some German lenders were impacted by similar economic concerns and exposure to commercial real estate towards the end of the period, with LBBW remaining the most elevated.

Heightened market volatility is expected to remain a feature, at least in the near term and, credit default swap levels will be monitored for signs of ongoing credit

stress. As ever, the institutions and durations on the Council's counterparty list recommended by Arlingclose remain under constant review.

4.05 Liquidity

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

4.06 Yield

Due to the increases in the UK bank rate, the short-term money market rates have been higher than expected. The Council's budgeted investment income for the year had been prudently estimated at £1.2m, based on an average rate of 3.9%. The average investment balance was £44.3m during the period and interest earned was £2.177m, at an average interest rate of 4.87%.

4.07 Loans to NEW Homes

The loans to NEW Homes do not meet the definition of an investment and are not therefore included in the Council's investment figures. They are classed as capital expenditure.

4.08 ESG Policy

When investing in banks and funds, the Council prioritised banks and other institutions that are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Banking and funds operated by managers that are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment, the Net Zero Asset Managers Alliance and/or the UK Stewardship Code.

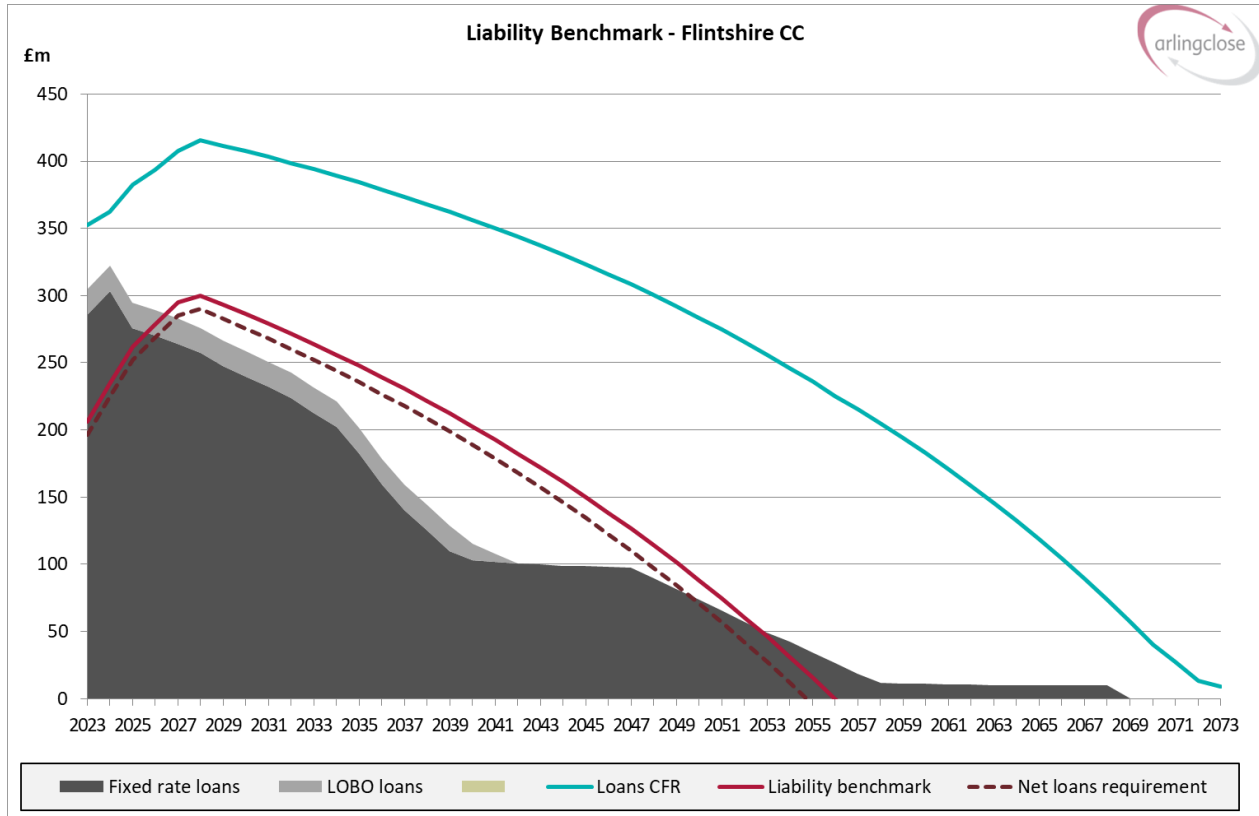
5.00 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

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

5.01 Liability Benchmark

This new indicator compares the Council's actual existing borrowing against a liability benchmark that has been calculated to show the lowest risk level of borrowing. The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future, and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. It represents an estimate of

the cumulative amount of external borrowing the Council must hold to fund its current capital and revenue plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level required to manage day-to-day cash flow.



5.02 Interest Rate Exposures

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

Interest rate risk indicator	31.12.23 £'000	31.03.24 £'000
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>rise</u> in interest rates	(274)	(198)
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>fall</u> in interest rates	421	344

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

Fixed rate investments and borrowings are those where the rate of interest is fixed for at least 12 months, measured from the start of the financial year or the

transaction date if later. All other instruments are classed as variable rate.

5.03 Maturity structure of borrowing

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

	Lower	Upper	Actual as at 31.03.24
Under 12 months	0%	20%	2.63%
12 months and within 24 months	0%	20%	2.13%
24 months and within five years	0%	30%	7.29%
Five years and within 10 years	0%	50%	14.80%
10 years and above	0%	100%	73.15%

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

5.04 Long-term treasury management investments:

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

Price risk indicator	2023/24 Limit	31.03.24 Actual
Limit on total principal invested beyond year end	£5m	£0m

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

5.05 Borrowing Limits

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

	2023/24 Limit	31.03.24 Actual
Operational Boundary	£403m	£334.7m
Authorised Limit	£438m	£334.7m

6.00 COMPLIANCE

The Council can confirm that it has complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2023/24. These were approved by Council as part of the Treasury Management Strategy on 23rd February 2023.

In compliance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice this report provides members with a summary report of the treasury management activity during 2023/24. None of the Prudential Indicators have been breached and a prudent approach has been taken in relation to investment activity with priority being given to security and liquidity over yield.

The treasury function operated within the limits detailed in the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement 2023/24.

7.00 OTHER ITEMS

The following were the main treasury activities during 2023/24:

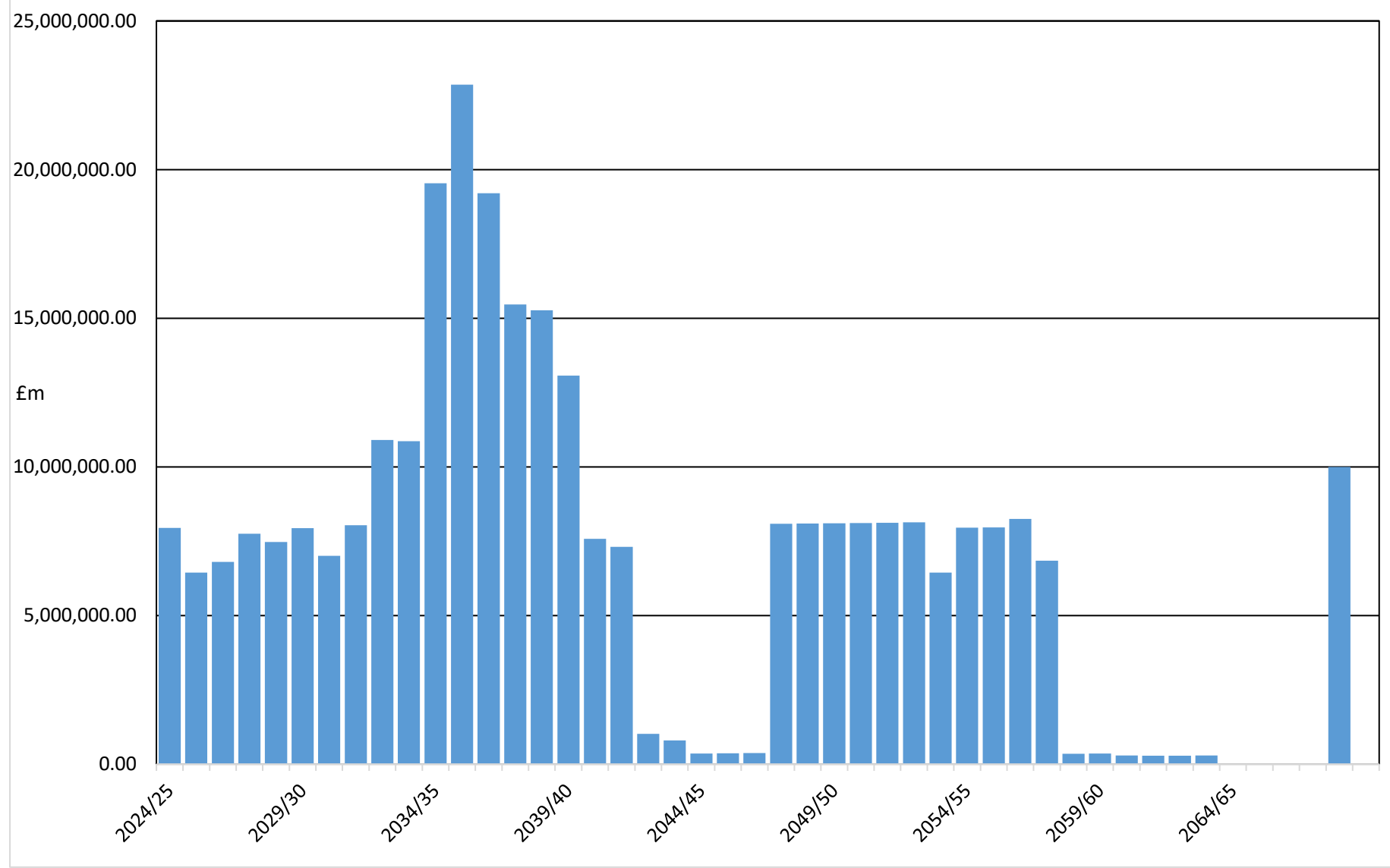
- The Council's Governance and Audit Committee received a Mid-Year Report on 22nd November 2023.
- Quarterly update reports were presented to the Governance and Audit Committee.
- The 2024/25 Investment Strategy Statement was approved by Council on 20th February 2024.
- The Council's cash flow was managed on a daily basis. During the year the Council acted both as a borrower and as a lender and was a net borrower over the year in question. The maximum investments the Council had on deposit at any one time were £62.0m and the maximum long-term borrowing at any one time was £302.5m.

8.00 CONCLUSION

The treasury management function has operated within the statutory and local limits detailed in the 2023/24 Treasury Management Strategy.

The Treasury Management Policy was implemented in a pro-active manner with security and liquidity as the primary focus.

Debt Maturity Profile - March 2024



APPENDIX A NON-TREASURY INVESTMENTS

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

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

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

1.02 Wholly Owned Companies

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

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

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

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

Yield (net profit)

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

1.03 Investment Properties

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

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

Fair Value of Investment Properties

	31.03.2024 £m	31.03.2023 £m	31.3.2022 £m	31.3.2021 £m	31.3.2020 £m
Fair Value Inv. Properties	29.3	29.0	27.6	25.2	25.0

Yield (net profit)

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

Proportionality of Investment Properties

	2023/24 Actual £m	2024/25 Budget £m	2025/26 Budget £m
Net Revenue Budget	352.121	368.106	368.106
Net Investment income	1.71	1.67	1.67
Proportion	0.48%	0.45%	0.45%



County Council

Date of Meeting	Wednesday, 4 th December 2024
Report Subject	Annual Performance Report 2023/24 (combined with the Council Plan End of Year Performance Report 2023/4)
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Annual Performance Report sets out an analysis and summary of how well the Council has performed against our Well-being Objectives, Priorities and Sub-priorities at the end of the financial year 2023/24 of our Council Plan (2023-28). The Annual Performance Report also provides a summary of performance regarding other key areas of focus within the Council, i.e., Partnership and Collaboration Activity, Strategic Equality Plan.

The Council Plan (2023-28) sets out our deliverable organisational priorities and outcomes to align with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, seven well-being goals and five ways of working to create a sustainable Wales.

Performance against the Council Plan (2023-28) Well-being Objectives and Priorities was positive overall for 2023/24 with 74% of the actions and 64% of the performance measures meeting or exceeding target for the year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	County Council to approve the 2023/24 Annual Performance Report, combined with the Council Plan End of Year 2023/24 Performance Report, noting the performance achieved.
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REPORT DETAILS

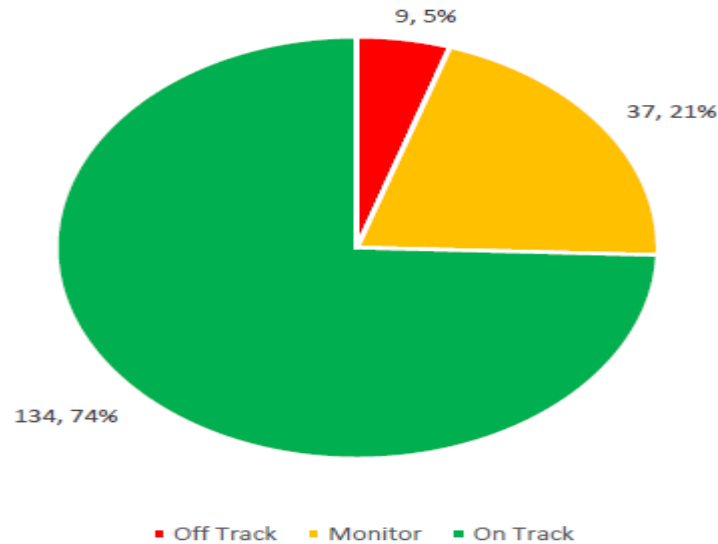
1.00	ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2023/24
1.01	<p>The Annual Performance Report (the Report) is produced in accordance with two key legislations;</p> <p><u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</u></p> <p>The performance and governance provisions in the Act are framed within the context of the well-being duty in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 which sets out a legally binding common purpose for the public bodies subject to that Act to improve the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. It sets out seven well-being goals which these public bodies must work towards and five ways of working to guide how public bodies should deliver.</p> <p><u>Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021</u></p> <p>Councils are democratically accountable for the performance of their services, including their governance arrangements. They are supported through external audit, inspection and regulatory bodies who have a key role in assuring the quality of our public services in Wales</p>
1.02	<p>The Annual Performance Report must be approved by the full Council prior to publication.</p>
1.03	<p>Last year, feedback was received from Members that the Annual Performance Report 2022/23 and the Council Plan 2022/23, End of Year Performance Report provided similar information and therefore, would it be possible to merge the two reports to reduce duplication and provide more consistency. Based on feedback received the Annual Performance Report 2023/24 now provides a high level summary of the Council Plan (2023-28) end of year performance, with the full analysis available as an appendix on progress against our Well-being Objectives and Priorities (Appendix B).</p> <p>Where it refers to a Council Plan (2023-28) objective in Section 4.2 of the Annual Performance Report, this is referenced by a code at the end of the sentence, which can be referred to within Appendix B.</p> <p>The Annual Performance 2023/24 also takes into consideration assessment of our performance regarding a number of key areas of performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulatory, audit and inspection activity• Annual Governance Statement• Corporate Self-assessment• Welsh Language• Budget Monitoring• Risk Management• Climate Change

1.04

Council Plan 2023/24 Performance

Performance for 2023/24 against our Council Plan (2023-28) Actions is summarised in the chart below.

Council Plan - Action RAG Status



In summary:

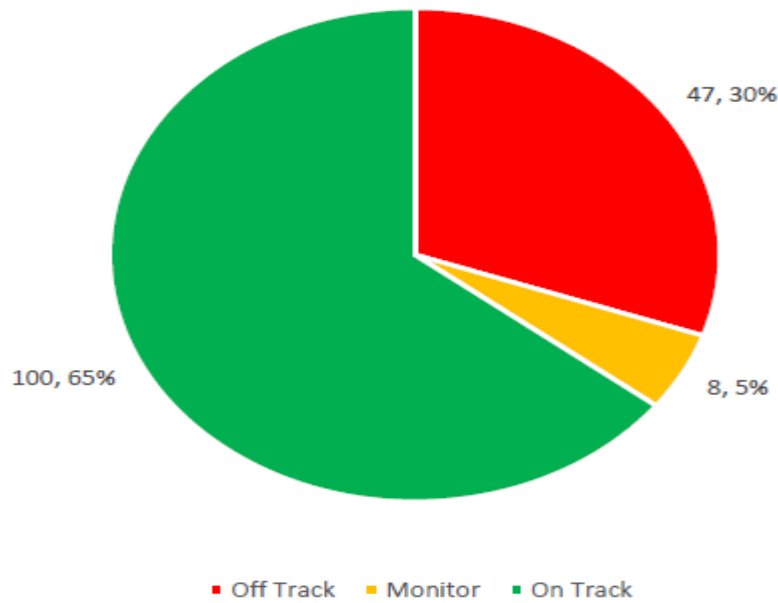
- 134 (74%) actions achieved the target (Green RAG Status - on track)
- 37 (21%) actions are being monitored (Amber RAG status - monitor)
- 9 (5%) actions missed target (Red RAG status - off track)

Actions Off Track				
Priority	Sub-priority	Code	Action	RAG
Affordable and Accessible Housing	Social Housing	CHC019T	Increase the Council's housing portfolio by building social housing properties and affordable properties for North East Wales (NEW) Homes	▲
		CHC024T	Support our tenants to access technology and create sustainable digital communities	▲
Green Society and Environment	Active and Sustainable Travel Options	CST018T	Declassification of hazardous routes across the county where appropriate through the implementation of engineering initiatives	▲
	Circular Economy	CST006T	Achieve Welsh Government recycling targets	▲
		CST008T	Promote the option to reuse and repair unwanted items at Household Recycling Centres by partnering with local Charities or social enterprises	▲
Economy	Rural Regeneration	CPE052T	Recruit a Digital Connectivity Officer to support rural communities to access better quality connectivity options	▲

	Reducing Worklessness	CPE043T	Deliver mentoring and wider support programmes to assist disadvantaged people to re-engage with the labour market	▲
A Well Managed Council	People	CHR006T	Reduce the use of agency workers	▲
	Flintshire Assets	CPA009T	Review of Industrial Estate Strategy (Area by Area)	▲

Performance for 2023/24 against our Council Plan Measures is summarised in the chart below.

Council Plan - Measure RAG Status



In summary:

- 100 (65%) measure achieved the target (Green RAG Status - on track)
- 8 (5%) measures are being monitored (Amber RAG status - monitor)
- 47 (30%) measures missed target (Red RAG status - off track)

Measures Off Track				
Priority	Sub-priority	Code	Measure	RAG
Poverty	Food Poverty	CHC006M	Number of residents supported by the "Hospital to Home" meals service	▲
Affordable and Accessible Housing	Housing Support and Homeless Prevention	CHC007M	Number of presentations to the homeless service	▲
		CHC008M	Percentage of successful prevention outcomes for homelessness under Housing (Wales) Act 2014	▲
		CHC09M	Percentage of successful relief outcomes for homelessness under Housing (Wales) Act 2014	▲
		CHC010M	Number of households accommodated by the Council under Housing (Wales) Act 2014 homeless duties	▲

			CHC011M	Average length of stay (days) for those households in interim homeless accommodation under Housing (Wales) Act 2014	▲	
	Housing Needs and Housing Options		CHC015M	Number of applicants rehoused via SARTH by All Housing Partners	▲	
			CHC017M	Number of households rehoused with significant adaptations requirements	▲	
	Social Housing		CHC018M	Number of Council Homes under construction	▲	
			CHC021M	Number of Affordable Homes completed via NEW Homes	▲	
			CHC037M	Increase in stock capacity correlates with demand profile	▲	
			CHC039M	Total number of Medium Disabled Adaptations completed	▲	
			CHC042M	Average number of days to complete a Medium Disabled adaptation	▲	
			CHC044M	Average number of days to complete a Large Disabled adaptation	▲	
	Private Rented Sector		CHC040M	Landlords engaged through Flintshire Landlord Forum	▲	
	Green Society and Environment	Net Zero Carbon Council	CPE018M	Percentage of Councillors received carbon related training	▲	
			CPE019M	Percentage of employees received carbon related training	▲	
			CPE020M	Number of contracts with carbon impact assessed	▲	
		Climate Change and Adaptation	CPE024M	Increase in carbon sequestered (Kg/tCO ₂ e)	▲	
		Flood Risk Management Strategy	CPE025M	Completion of the Flood Risk Management Strategy by the revised Welsh Government due date	▲	
		Fleet Strategy	CST013M	Number of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles on Fleet	▲	
		Active and Sustainable Travel Options	CST016M	Number of hazardous routes declassified through the Implementation of Active Travel infrastructure to provide safe routes to schools	▲	
		Circular Economy		CST004M	Percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted	▲
				CST017M	Reduce the tonnage of residual waste collected from residential properties	▲
				CST018M	Increase the tonnage of food waste collected from residential properties	▲
				CST019M	Obtain Welsh Government funding to implement a reuse initiative at the household recycling centres	▲
				CST020M	Implement a trial for the delivery of local benefits/local recycling targets initiative	▲

	Economy	Rural Regeneration	CPE035M	Digital Connectivity Officer appointed - June 2023	▲
			CPE036M	Rural needs report completed by March 2024	▲
		Town Centre Regeneration	CPE038M	Completion of initial 3 (of 7) Place Making Plans in partnership with a range of stakeholders	▲
		Local Development Plan (LDP) Targets	CPE039M	Completion of first LDP Annual Monitoring Report and submission to Welsh Government (January 2024)	▲
			CPE040M	Completion of annual review of LDP housing trajectory	▲
			CPE042M	Contribution to the scoping of the form and content of the North Wales Strategic Development Plan	▲
		Reducing Worklessness	CPE013M	Number of individuals receiving support	▲
	Personal and Community Well-being	Safeguarding	CSS011M	Percentage of Pre-birth assessments completed within timescales	▲
		A Well Connected, Safe and Clean Local Environment	CST011M	Number of targeted environmental educational campaigns undertaken to promote improved Local Environmental Quality	▲
	Education and Skills	Educational Engagement and Achievement	CEY004M	Reduction in the number of permanent exclusions	▲
			CEY005M	Reduction in the number of fixed term exclusions	▲
		Digital Learning Opportunities	CEY017M	Number of Youth Work Sessions Delivered - Digital	▲
		Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)	CEY011M	Number of Year 11 pupils studying Welsh	▲
	A Well Managed Council	People	CHR001M	The number of working days lost per full time equivalent (FTE) local authority employees lost due to sickness absence	▲
			CHR003M	Percentage of permanent employees who leave within first year of employment	▲
			CHR004M	Percentage of employees who have completed all of mandatory modules	▲
		Flintshire Assets	CPA006M	Commercial rent review completed: To increase rental income in line with prevailing market rents to make sure that rental income is optimised. To ensure rental consistency within estates	▲
			CPA007M	County Hall Master Plan options appraisal/strategy: To develop a plan which will provide the blueprint for the redevelopment of County Hall site.	▲

	Digital	CGV008M	80% of telephone calls to the corporate Contact Centre answered	▲
	Partnerships	CPA009M	Number of organisations who sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant	▲
For a full detailed analysis of the Council Plan (2023-28) end of year performance report please refer to Appendix B.				
1.05	The Annual Performance Report 2023/24 will be made available via the Council's website once published.			
1.06	As part of performance monitoring both Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee have considered performance areas which under-perform (downward trend and/or low quartile benchmark position) throughout 2023/24 (and will continue to do so in the next financial year) in regard to the Council Plan (2023-28) but also other key areas of performance i.e., Corporate Self-assessment.			

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no specific resource implications as part of this report.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	<p>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles</p> <p>In regard to the impact on the Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles, the Council Plan (2023-28) continues to be aligned to these Principles;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement <p>By completing a high-level IIA for the Council Plan (2023-28), it enabled the Council to have an overview of the various additional IIA's that will be carried out to support the Council Plan (2023-28) priorities.</p> <p>Well-being Goals Impact</p> <p>The Council Plan (2023-28) continues to provide evidence of alignment with the seven Well-being Goals (part of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and Five Ways of Working (Sustainable Development Principle). To do this effectively the Council ensures that specific strategic and policy reports include impact and risk assessments and considers the Well-being Goals.</p>

	<p>The Well-being Goals are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperous Wales • Resilient Wales • Healthier Wales • More Equal Wales • Cohesive Wales • Vibrant Wales • Globally Responsible Wales <p>Council's Well-being Objectives The information detailed within the Annual Performance Report 2023/24 and Council Plan End of Year Performance Report 2023/24 demonstrates the progress made against the Well-being Objectives.</p> <p>Risks are identified as part of the annual review of the Council Plan (2023-28) and are detailed within Council Plan (Part 2 Document). In accordance with the Risk Management Framework, risks are reviewed monthly and reported upon.</p>
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4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	<p>Consultation with Senior Managers and Chief Officers was undertaken on setting the actions and measures to support performance for 2023/24 of the Council Plan (2023-28).</p> <p>Consultation is undertaken throughout the year by Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees to review the Council Plan (2023-28) performance reports.</p>

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	<p>Appendix A - Draft Annual Performance Report 2023/24 Appendix B - Council Plan (2023-28) End of Year Performance Report for 2023/24</p>

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Previous Annual Performance Reports Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 Annual Audit Wales Summary 2023 Council Plan (2023-28) Corporate Self-assessment Climate Change Public Services Board Risk Management Framework Strategic Equality Plan Statement of Accounts Welsh Language</p>

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Emma Heath, Strategic Performance Advisor Telephone: 01352 702744 E-mail: emma.heath@flintshire.gov.uk</p>
8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Council Plan (2023-28): the document which sets out the priorities for Flintshire County Council and the big things that the Council aims to achieve over the duration of the Plan.</p>

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Annual Performance Report 2023/24

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Welcome to Flintshire’s Annual Performance Report (APR). This document gives an overview of the performance of the Council during 2023/24 against the priorities set within our Council Plan (2023-28) and progress against our Well-being Objectives;

- Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs
- Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities
- Limiting the impact of the Council’s services on the natural environment and supporting the wider communities of Flintshire to reduce their own carbon footprint
- Enabling a sustainable economic recovery and growth
- Supporting people in need to live as well as they can
- Enabling and Supporting Learning Communities

The Annual Performance Report also provides an overview of performance of the Council in relation to other key areas, including climate change and monitoring budget.

Flintshire County Council continues to pride itself on being a Council which performs highly for its local communities and one which is guided and motivated by a set of strong social values.

The past year has been another challenging year for many, especially in light of the current economic situation and the continued cost of living pressures. However, as a Council we have continued to deliver good quality services; development of sustainable housing, supporting residents of Flintshire, delivering high quality education and learning opportunities, and a continued commitment to being a green Council.

Next year we will be mid-way through of five-year Council Plan and as a Council this provides us with the perfect opportunity to review progress achieved so far against our existing priorities and Well-being Objectives and also inform planning for the Council’s future direction to support with making a positive and lasting difference.



**Neal
Cockerton**
Chief Executive



Ian Roberts
Leader of
the Council

2

Priority Setting

The report has amended slightly from last year’s Annual Performance Report and now includes analysis of our end of year performance in relation to the Council Plan (2023-28), whereas previously this report used to focus on performance within each Portfolio.

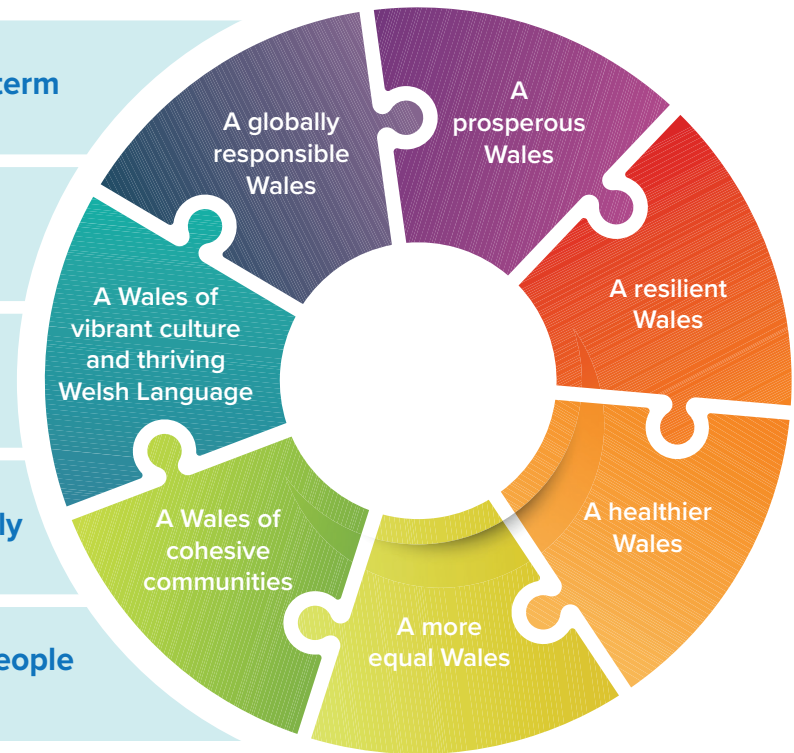
The Council Plan (2023-28) sets out the Council’s seven priorities and Well-being Objectives and what we aim to achieve. These priorities and Well-being Objectives have been chosen as the areas where the Council can add the most value and also help us to identify how we are working towards the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

Designated public bodies are required to work individually and collectively to improve well-being in Wales. The seven well-being goals and the five ways of working (Sustainable Development Principle) set a general purpose for public bodies.

Sustainable Development (Five Ways of Working)



Seven Well-being Goals





Section 5 of the report will provide a high level overview of our performance against the Council Plan (2023-28) under the following headings.

- Priority
- Key Achievements and More
- What We Said We Will Do
- Future Improvements

Full details of the Council Plan (2023-28) End of Year Performance for 2023-24 can be found [here](#)

Alignment of Council Plan 2023-28 Priorities and Well-Being Objectives

The Annual Performance Report as advised in Section 2, aligns closely with the Council Plan (2023-28) priorities and the Well-being Objectives, as detailed below:

PRIORITY	WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES
 POVERTY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs and be resilient.
 AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities.
 GREEN SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limiting the impact of the Council’s services on the natural environment and supporting the wider communities of Flintshire to reduce their own carbon footprint.
 ECONOMY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting communities and enabling sustainable economic recovery and growth.
 PERSONAL & COMMUNITY WELL-BEING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting people in need to live as well as they can.
 EDUCATION AND SKILLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling and Supporting Learning Communities.
 A WELL-MANAGED COUNCIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A responsible, resourceful and trusted Council operating as efficiently as possible.

Council Plan (2023-28) Summary of Performance

Overall, 2023/24 performance has been a positive start to the Council Plan (2023-28) with 74% of actions that have either met or exceeded their targets for the year, achieving a green RAG (Red, Amber, Green) status and 65% of measures also have either met or exceeded their targets, achieving green RAG status.





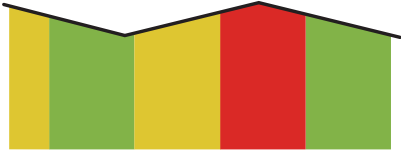
The Council recognises that not all outcomes (actions and measures) have been achieved, but there is a need to be mindful of the number of competing priorities as a Council we have responsibility for, and the

increased economic and financial constraints; however, performance and improvement remain a high priority for the Council with many positive outcomes achieved this financial year.

With the Council Plan being a five-year plan and the aim of thinking longer term (Sustainable Development Principle) there are outcomes which are continuing next year and others that will continue through the duration of the Plan. Thus, allowing performance to be analysed over a period of time.

4.1 Assessment of Our Performance

The table below provides an overview of how progress against the Council Plan (2023-28) is measured. Section 4.2 provides a high-level summary of our Portfolios and Council Plan (2023-28) performance. Please see attached Appendix 1 for a full analysis of the Council Plan (2023-28) End of Year 2023/24 Performance Report. Where it refers to a Council Plan (2023-28) objective in Section 4.2, this is referenced by a code at the end of the sentence and can be referred to within Appendix 1.

Performance Indicators for Actions			Performance Indicators for Measures	
				
Limited Progress - delay in scheduled activity; not on track.	Satisfactory Progress - some delay in scheduled activity, but broadly on track.	Good Progress - activities completed on schedule, on track.	Speed dial will provide an analysis of how a measures has performed in that year, using a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) status to highlight the achievement.	Will provide further analysis of the trend of a measure and how it has performed over a period of time.

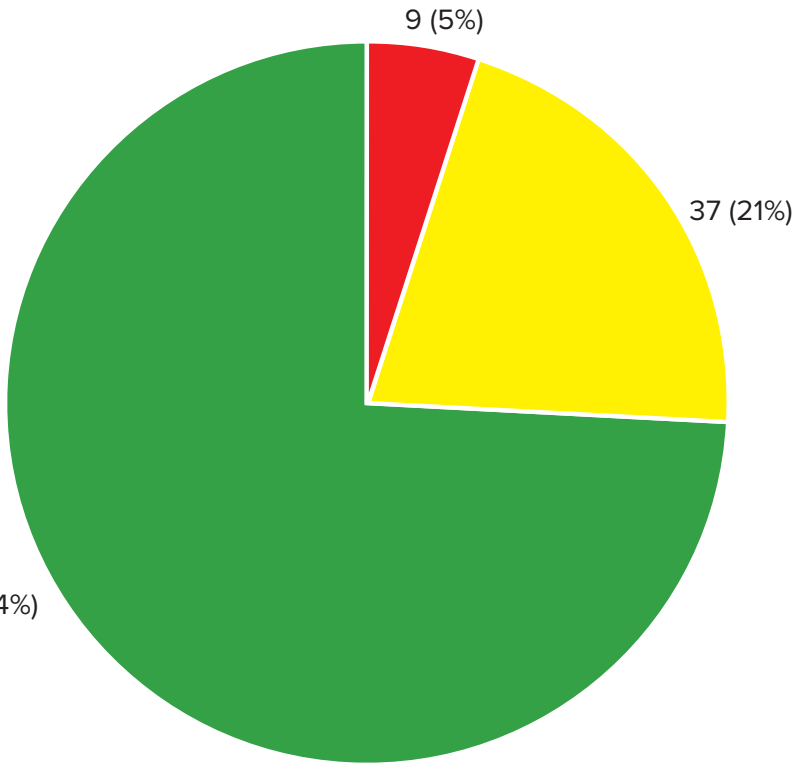
Council Plan (2023-28) Summary of Performance

4.2 Summary of Performance for Actions

Performance for 2023/24 against our Council Plan (2023-28) actions is summarised in the chart below.

Chart 1a: Council Plan Performance - Actions 2023/24

In summary our overall progress against the actions are;



In summary our overall progress against the actions are;

- 134 (74%) actions met or exceeded the target (green RAG)

- 37 (21%) actions are being monitored (amber RAG)

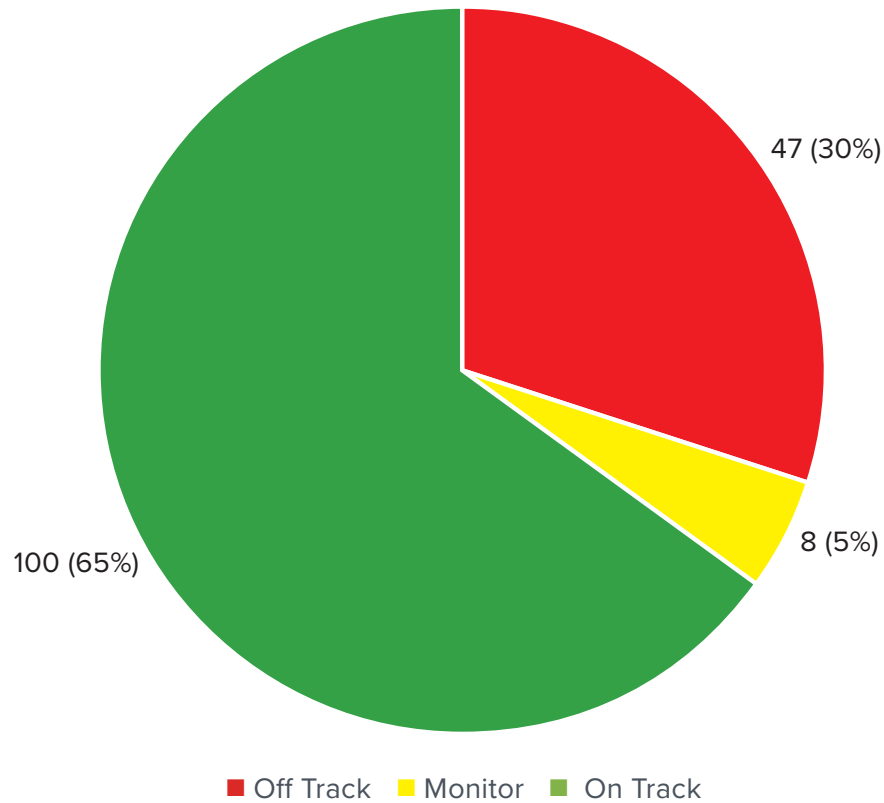
- 9 (5%) actions missed target (red RAG)

■ Off Track ■ Monitor ■ On Track

4.2 Summary of Performance for Measures

Performance for 2023/24 against our Council Plan (2023-28) measures is summarised in the chart below.

Chart 2a: Council Plan Performance - Measures 2023/24



Analysis of the end of year performance against the targets set for 2023-24 shows:

- 100 (65%) measures have a green RAG status
- 8 (5%) measures have an amber RAG status
- 47 (30%) measures have a red RAG status

Assessment of our Seven Priorities and Well-being Objectives

5



Priority:

Well-being Objective:
Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs and be resilient.



Poverty

What We Said We Will Do:

- Deliver Welsh Government support schemes linked to the cost-of-living crisis.
- Maximise the number of people signposted for support to facilitate longer term change.
- Explore development of support schemes to mitigate in work poverty.
- Ensure children and young people have access to transitional play/youth activity to support succession from play opportunities into youth clubs to further support young people's development.
- Provide free physical activity and well-being sessions within the summer School Holiday Enrichment Programme.
- Provide free access to Fit, Fed and Read sessions during summer holidays providing activities, sport, reading, crafts and meals.



- Introduce and develop a "Well Fed at Home Service".
- Engage, support and refer vulnerable households to reduce fuel poverty and improve health and Well-being.
- Continue to provide free of charge public access to the internet at Flintshire Connects Centres.
- Support people to use digital technology through Digital Workforce Volunteers.

Assessment of our Seven Priorities and Well-being Objectives

Key Achievements and More for 2023/24

- A hardship scheme has been implemented to support Local Authority households to mitigate effects of in-work poverty by promoting Discretionary Housing Payments and budgeting advice. (CHC003T)
- The cost-of-living crisis continues to increase, impacting residents, and referrals to the Council continue to be received. Ongoing advice and support still form part of the Discretionary Housing Payments application process and advice is also provided around options for support, even if an application is unsuccessful. (CHC001T)
- Automatic payments for School Essential Grants resulted in 3085 children receiving payments, reducing the pressure on families and allowing them to order and purchase school uniforms. Automatic payments also enabled the team to prioritise new applications.
- The 2023 Fit, Fed and Read community programme took place across the county during a five-week period in July and August 2023, with a wide range of public sector partners tackling issues such as health inequalities, food poverty, literacy levels, and physical and mental well-being. 5,040 families and young people attended the 39 sessions. The scheme made a significant contribution in supporting 3,000 children to sign up to the annual Summer Reading Challenge. 110 volunteering hours were recorded by our young ambassadors. (CAU13T)
- The Youth Service continues to deliver a range of open access and targeted provision in a range of settings, including open access youth clubs, schools, forest school, community centres and street-based work. Flintshire Youth Service delivered 1928 sessions between April 23 - March 24 with 14,743 registered attendees.
- 150 Christmas dinner boxes were provided to vulnerable residents.
- The 'Well Fed at Home' service launched in April 2023 and the service is proving popular. In Quarter Four, Well Fed had over 200 customers ordering meals from the Well Fed food hubs within the community led hubs and mobile shop. Well Fed mobile shop visits 45 locations across Flintshire including schools, churches, community groups and sheltered accommodation schemes with residents purchasing 16,533 subsidised meals (CHC005T)
- 508 households were supported against a target of 200 to help reduce the risk of fuel poverty. Measure consists of work carried out on post installation work as well as energy advice, help and guidance for the general public to assist with fuel poverty and the current energy crisis in general. (CPE002T)



Assessment of our Seven Priorities and Well-being Objectives

- 1,203 measures delivered against a target of 1,200 to increase the energy efficiency of homes. This is made up of various component parts delivered by the Domestic Energy Efficiency Project team. Included within the statistic are works carried out on private and public housing stock for renewable heating, gas central heating, loft and cavity insulation and solar photo voltaic installations (CPE001T)
- Supported by workforce volunteers, Digital Surgeries launched in March 2024. A schedule of surgeries are planned throughout 2024 in different towns across the county. (CGV007T)

Council Plan (2023-28) Objectives Off Track

- **Sub-priority - Food Poverty**
CHC006M Number of residents supported by the “Hospital to Home” meals service.



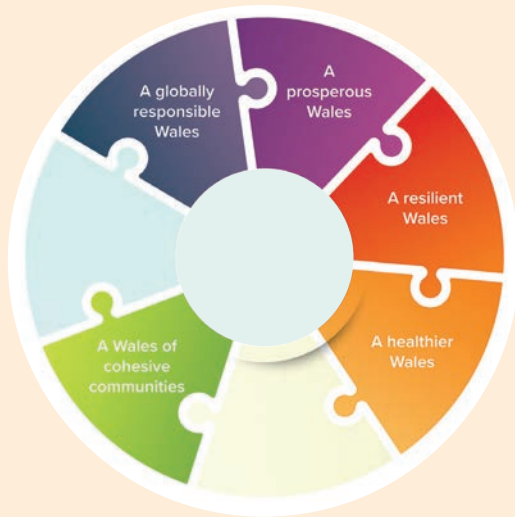
Future Improvements

- Increase campaigns to raise awareness and take-up of Free School Meals, School Essential Grants, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction.
- Support community led hubs to open their own food pantries, reducing food waste from local supermarkets and increasing access to seasonal food. This will include to hold a ‘Good Food Flintshire’ event in Autumn, working corroboratively with other key agencies.
- Low subscribers to My Account by Contract Holders (tenants). Promotion will help increase awareness and Housing Officers should aim to offer digital by default whenever a new contract is issued.



Priority:

Well-being Objective:
Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities.



Affordable and Accessible Housing

What We Said We Will Do:

- Commission a wide range of housing related support that meets the needs of the people of Flintshire.
- Ensure a multi-agency partnership approach to homeless prevention and develop a culture where homelessness is “everyone’s business”.
- Develop self-service approaches that enable people to identify their own housing options through on line support.
- Create a Single Point of Access service for housing help and advice.
- Work with housing association partners to build new social housing properties and additional affordable properties.
- Ensure the Council’s housing stock maintains the current Welsh Housing Quality Standards.
- Support our tenants to access technology and create sustainable digital communities.
- Finalise the plan for the decarbonisation of Council homes in line with Welsh Government guidance to ensure their thermal efficiency is optimised and the cost of heating homes are minimised.
- Ensure increase in stock capacity meets the identified needs and demands.
- Implement the initial recommendations of the sheltered housing review to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of current and prospective tenants.
- Work with residents to ensure our communities are well managed, safe, and sustainable places to live.
- Engage with private sector tenants, giving them a voice, and responding to their needs.
- Work in partnership with landlords and private sector agents to better understand their needs.

Assessment of our Seven Priorities and Well-being Objectives



Key Achievements and More for 2023/24

- Work continues to promote Housing Support and Homelessness services through the development of website content and active engagement with residents electronically, which for many is a preferred method of sourcing information. Additionally, officers regularly attend local activities to promote services and support offers through groups such as local Community Hubs, Children’s Services Forum and Citizen Advice Bureau frontline worker events and the Flintshire Support Network (FSN). (CHC008T)
- Community Based Accommodation Support Services Team (CBASS) received over 500 out of hours calls with 156 residents requiring attendance. The CBASS teams support residents who have a range of needs including substance misuse and mental health problems. The team work closely with Social Services and other services to support residents to stay safe and well and maintain their tenancy.
- Housing Supply Map and availability data has been included as part of the Housing Hub webpages on the Council’s website. This allows residents to be better informed about local social housing supply.
- There has been an increase in homeless households rehoused by the Council and Housing Partners through the 50% homeless nominations process.
- The Council continues to target properties that do not meet the

Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) 65 rating through various improvement works. This includes, installation of efficient central heating systems, renewable technology (Solar Panels and Air Source Heating) and extensive external refurbishment contracts comprising of new windows, doors, loft insulation and roof coverings, the energy performance and thermal efficiency of our properties is addressed and improved. Our current average SAP rating for our entire stock is 73.5%. The Council are currently moving towards incorporating our decarbonisation measures into our investment programmes of refurbishment works to our tenanted homes. (CHC012T)

- Staff service improvement groups are working through priorities as identified through the last Survey of Tenants and Residents (STAR) to see where improvements can be made. (CHC023T)
- Work continues with regards to housing support and advice for landlords when they have issues with residents. This is positive prevention activity to avoid housing problems and risk of homelessness. Where landlords are selling properties, we now have a purchase offer and an established process in partnership with Housing Strategy and Empty Homes Teams. This is in direct response to landlords telling us they are selling up and leaving the market. (CHC029T)
- Utilised 96% of the allocated £13.3m Social Housing Grant (SHG) in 2023/24. Schemes have been prioritised for inclusion within the main Programme Development Plan. (CHC014T)

Council Plan (2023-28) Objectives Off Track

• Sub-priority - Housing Support and Homeless Prevention

CHC007M Number of presentations to the homeless service.

CHC008M Percentage of successful prevention outcomes for homelessness under Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

CHC009M Percentage of successful relief outcomes for homelessness under Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

CHC010M Number of households accommodated by the Council under Housing (Wales) Act 2014 homeless duties.

CHC011M Average length of stay (days) for those households in interim homeless accommodation under Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

• Sub-priority - Housing Needs and Housing Options

CHC015M Number of applicants rehoused via SARTH by All Housing Partners.

CHC017M Number of households rehoused with significant adaptations requirements.

• Sub-priority - Social Housing

CHC018M Number of Council Homes under construction.

CHC021M Number of Affordable Homes completed via NEW Homes.

CHC019T Increase the Council's housing portfolio by building social housing properties and affordable properties for North East Wales (NEW) Homes.

CHC024T Support our tenants to access technology and create sustainable digital communities.



Future Improvements

- Scope the potential merger of the Telecare (Social Services) and Carelink teams to create a more efficient service for both the Council and the customer.
- Undertake the STAR survey again in 2024/25 and assess response to areas identified previously for improvement, including tenants views and these are taken into account to inform service provision and delivering of services.
- Ensure the sheltered housing review continues to assess and identifies the needs of current and prospective tenants and the council implements solutions to achieve them.
- Deliver the agreed restructure of the Housing and Prevention Service increasing resources to engage with Private Sector Landlords.

Assessment of our Seven Priorities and Well-being Objectives



Priority:

Well-being Objective:
Limiting and enhancing the impact of the Council's services on the natural environment and supporting the wider communities of Flintshire to reduce their own carbon footprint.



Green Society and Environment

What We Said We Will Do:

- Produce guidance on viable and deliverable options to mitigate the impact of phosphates from new development on Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) protected rivers.
- Work with Flintshire's leisure and culture trust partners to reduce carbon emissions.
- Develop plans towards net zero carbon for our assets in line with Welsh Government guidance.
- Review the procurement policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from suppliers.
- Ensure climate change and biodiversity are considered a priority in key decision making across all Council services.
- Assess the feasibility of schemes within land assets for resisting flood and drought while enhancing biodiversity and increasing carbon storage.
- Identify projects to further support climate adaptation ambitions following Welsh Government guidance.
- Reduce the environmental impact of our fleet by transitioning to ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV).
- Deliver an increase in canopy cover as part of the Urban Tree and Woodland Plan.
- Enhance the natural environment through the delivery of the Section 6 Environment (Wales) Act 2016 biodiversity duty.
- Explore opportunities to develop the Flintshire Coast Park through the production of a scoping study.
- Support the development of public electric vehicle charging network.
- Promote active travel and further develop the County's walking and cycleway network.
- Implement formalised crossing facilities at existing school crossing patrol sites.
- Work in partnership, actively support and engage with community led groups by developing recycling initiatives.

Key Achievements and More

- The adoption of the Local Development Plan (LDP) was premised on the basis of certain allocated housing sites having to demonstrate nutrient neutrality in terms of not harming the Bala Lake and River Dee (Special Area of Conservation) through the release of phosphates from waste water treatment works into the River Alyn. Work commenced on the feasibility of developing wetlands alongside the waste water treatment works at Mold, Buckley and Hope, which would have required developer financial contributions as part of a process to have been set out in Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). However, the release of updated and unchanged permits for the three waste water treatment works by Natural Resources Wales and the availability of 'headroom' (difference between the level of phosphate permitted by the permit and the actual level of phosphate being released by the treatment works) evidenced by Dwr Cymru/ Welsh Water has provided a window within which to deliver LDP allocations. **(CPE044T)**
- The revised Procurement Strategy for 2024/2027, has a key theme centred around 'Climate Emergency' - ensuring procurement exercises have a reduced impact on CO2 emissions, and that our suppliers embrace our Net Zero Carbon ambitions too. **(CPE009T)**
- The Council's investment in the Fit Framework for 2024/25 and 2025/26 will see energy efficiency and renewable energy works worth £1.5 million invested in our building assets. The framework has been awarded and project work will commence post-April 2024. **(CPE010T)**
- The following strategies and plans have been reviewed and now incorporate the Council's Net Zero Carbon ambitions: Asset Management Plan, Procurement Strategy, Biodiversity Plan, Waste Strategy, and Housing Strategy and action plan.
- Over 100 standard trees planted, and over 4000 whips planted, with carbon sequestration potential of 2,972kgCO₂e.
- A working draft of the Flood Risk Management Strategy has been drafted with consultants and the next stage is to complete the draft action plan in order to carry out stakeholder consultation with Members and key stakeholders. This will then lead to a public consultation exercise on the strategy before review of comments made, sign off by the Council, and submission to Welsh Government. **(CPE012T)**
- Bee friendly status: Bee friendly status obtained in recognition of our work for pollinators, we are the fourth Local Authority in Wales to receive the status.
- Small Grants for Nature: The Council have delivered our first small community nature grant which allocated over £13,000 to small community groups and schools to support local features for nature.
- Ponds for Schools project successfully obtained funding from the Airbus Community Impact Fund to restore ponds in two schools, the projects included preparatory educational visits, pond works, and volunteering sessions with Airbus corporate staff.

Assessment of our Seven Priorities and Well-being Objectives

Key Achievements and More

- Significant natural environment enhancement through changes in estate management, tree planting and green infrastructure projects. (CPE016T)
- Assessment of over 180 Flintshire owned sites for suitability for tree planting is to become part of the Flintshire Forest.
- Successful Countryside and Greenfield Valley events programme with 7537 event participants.
- Shared Prosperity Funding secured to further progress establishing the Flintshire Coast Park. (CPE019T)
- Social media promotional and awareness content reached 54,000, which is a 10% increase of social followers.
- Active Travel schemes including; Holywell Urban Area and Flint Six Schools have been delivered as part of Safer Routes in Communities initiatives enabling pupils to walk and cycle to school safely, as well as benefitting the wider local communities.
- All civil engineering works associated with the formalised crossing facilities has been completed and will be operational in May 2024. (CST017T)
- Electric Vehicle (EV) charging feasibility study and associated Delivery Plan completed in February 2024. The aim of the study is to identify the next phase of EV charge-points within public car parks in Flintshire. (CST004T)
- The Waste Strategy Team have been actively engaging with communities in Flintshire to promote our recycling and reuse services. This has taken place with housing associations, at community group meetings and on the doorstep. A six week consultation took place with Flintshire residents and stakeholders to gain their input into developing a future Resource and Waste Strategy. Five engagement events took place in January 2024, where team members met and discussed recycling with Flintshire residents. Work has begun with Repair Café Wales to introduce more repair centres. (CST009T)
- A new Resource and Waste Strategy was adopted in March 2024 which identifies measures to maximise the amount of waste reused, recycled and composted. (CST019T)
- Service Delivery waste and recycling crews continue to visit approximately 11,624 per day and this year have maintained a successful collection rate of 99.72%.



Council Plan (2023-28) Objectives Off Track

- **Sub-priority - Net Zero Carbon Council**
 - CPE018M** Percentage of Councillors received carbon related training.
 - CPE019M** Percentage of employees received carbon related training.
 - CPE020M** Number of contracts with carbon impact assessed.
- **Sub-priority - Climate Change and Adaptation**
 - CPE024M** Increase in carbon sequestered (Kg/tCO₂e).
- **Sub-priority - Flood Risk Management Strategy**
 - CPE205M** Completion of the Flood Risk Management Strategy by the revised Welsh Government due date.
- **Sub-priority - Fleet Strategy**
 - CST013M** Number of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles on Fleet.
- **Sub-priority - Active and Sustainable Travel Options**
 - CST018T** Declassification of hazardous routes across the county where appropriate through the implementation of engineering initiatives.
 - CST016M** Number of hazardous routes declassified through the Implementation of Active Travel infrastructure to provide safe routes to schools.
- **Sub-priority - Circular Economy**
 - CST006T** Achieve Welsh Government recycling targets.
 - CST008T** Promote the option to reuse and repair unwanted items at Household Recycling Centres by partnering with local Charities or social enterprises.



Future Improvements

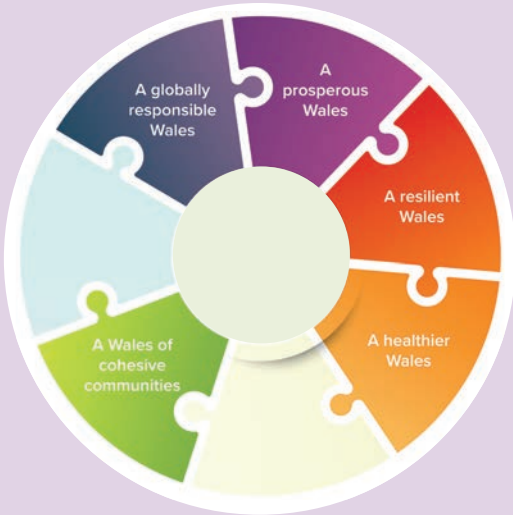
- The roll out of the Climate Essentials e-learn to the wider workforce was delayed to coincide with the roll out of the new Learning portal. Once this module is available it will vastly increase the number of employees and Members receiving carbon related training.
- To improve on recycling targets. In 2023/24 the Council missed the statutory recycling target for the fourth year in succession, resulting in potential infraction charges.
- Work has been underway this year to identify Flintshire Council land assets with the potential for planting schemes in order to provide natural flood mitigation, and improved biodiversity and carbon sequestration of our land. This work is nearing completion and will help to inform sites that can be considered for planting in the coming years.

Assessment of our Seven Priorities and Well-being Objectives



Priority:

Well-being Objective:
Connecting communities and enabling a sustainable economic recovery and growth.



Economy

What We Said We Will Do:

- Ensure that Economy interventions consider and meet the needs of rural businesses and individuals.
- Commission a data review for rural Flintshire and hold community consultation to better understand rural community needs.
- Monitor the health and vitality of town centres to support effective management and business investment decisions.
- Encourage and supporting investment in town centre properties specially to facilitate more sustainable uses and including improvements to the environment.
- Understand the needs of and supporting community enterprises in town centre locations.
- Libraries and leisure centres are community well-being hubs with social objectives underpinning their operation.
- Engage town centre small businesses and promote support packages available to them.
- Support small and/or local businesses to engage with public sector procurement opportunities.
- Support recovery of the County’s Street and indoor markets.
- Support growth of the local and regional food and drink business sector through marketing and collaborative projects.
- Support recovery of the tourism and hospitality sectors and rebuild confidence in the industry.
- Increase the scale and impact of the social business sector.
- Support local businesses in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient.
- Improve digital connectivity across the County for businesses and residents.
- Make decisions at Planning Committee in line with the adopted Local Development Plan.
- Co-ordinate a multi-agency approach to support businesses to recruit people from disadvantaged groups.
- Deliver mentoring and wider support programmes to assist disadvantaged people to re-engage with the labour market.

Key Achievements and More

- All current interventions (outside of specific town centre projects) supporting individuals and businesses are targeting all of the County. **(CPE051T)**
- Discussions are underway with Wrexham University about how the needs of rural Flintshire residents can be most effectively assessed and supported. **(CPE053T)**
- The Council processed over £30m of Shared Prosperity Fund project proposals in conjunction with similar processes across the other North Wales Councils. £11m of funding was awarded to projects in Flintshire supporting businesses, supporting places and communities and improving skills and employability. The majority of projects cover all of the County including rural areas, especially those focused on the visitor economy, which will bring a disproportionate benefit to rural businesses.
- Work has continued during Quarter 4 (January - March 2024) to monitor and respond to the health, vibrancy and needs of town centres across Flintshire. This has included planning and delivering an online consultation for four towns across Flintshire, which 3,356 local people responded to, and also reviewing data related to the town centres to develop up-to-date profiles of the current strengths and focus for future improvement/ investment. The focus of the past three months has been on initiating work in four of the seven towns (Connah's Quay, Flint, Mold and Queensferry). The place making plan for Shotton has been developed and identifies 10 key themes and priorities responding to local needs. The place making plans for both Holywell and Buckley have also been commissioned and work has progressed on these also. **(CPE024T)**
- 'Save The High Street' has been engaged by the Council's Regeneration Team to deliver tailored business support for town centre businesses across the seven town centres of Flintshire, to support their growth, development and diversification through the delivery of an intensive eight week support programme. Flintshire was the first local authority in Wales to partner with 'Save The High Street' using funding secured from the Shared Prosperity Fund. 14 town centre businesses participated in the 'Save The High Street' eight week intensive programme. Due to the success of the pilot project, a further 30 businesses will benefit from this provision between April and November 2024. Excellent feedback has been received from local businesses who participated and has been featured in the local press. Work has continued to roll-out grant schemes and encourage take-up amongst local businesses as take-up has been excellent. **(CPE028T)**
- The Regeneration Team secured £1.178million from UK Government to deliver Town Centre Investment Programme across seven towns in Flintshire (Buckley, Connah's Quay, Flint, Holywell, Mold, Shotton, Queensferry) in 2023/24 and 2024/25. The programme comprises of nine projects in total - a mix of capital and revenue initiatives aimed at supporting our Flintshire's high streets. **(CPE025T)**
- During January - March 2024, 42 support sessions have been delivered by the Council's Social Enterprise Officer to social enterprises in the towns of Buckley, Connah's Quay, Mold and Shotton. These sessions have involved understanding their needs and tailoring support provided to these in addition to

Assessment of our Seven Priorities and Well-being Objectives



Key Achievements and More

encouraging the social enterprises to utilise the Flintshire Social Impact toolkit to calculate their overall social value. Of the organisations supported over the last three months, this has involved a total of £807,269 social value being recorded. (CPE054T)

- £466,458 secured from Welsh Government’s ‘Transforming Towns’ and UK Government’s Shared Prosperity Funding £180,000 of this total being contributed to businesses towards improving their premises. (CPE025T)
- £63,130 has been awarded to local communities to deliver activities and events in towns across Flintshire to improve footfall and the vibrancy of towns. (CPE025T)
- The development of the Flintshire Social Impact toolkit and increase of numbers of social enterprises using it, continues to demonstrate the impact of social enterprise activity in Flintshire. During this reporting period (2023/24) the 14 participating social enterprises reported the generation of a combined social value of £2,119,680.98 through the 18 activities being measured. (CPE054T)
- The Business Development Team have delivered two Net Zero workshops and in partnership with Deeside Decarbonisation Forum have delivered four network events, engaging with 271 business delegates throughout the year. (CPE033T)
- Mold Street Market continues to thrive with an average of 66 traders attending each market day and 24 new traders have been accommodated since April 2023, (including the replacement of retired stallholders). Mold Indoor Market is currently 87% occupied with interest shown in the two remaining vacant units.

- 143 business support sessions were delivered to 43 social enterprises.
- Engagement with over 90 commercial investors to support new businesses moving into Flintshire or expanding current operations.
- Fibre connectivity has improved significantly in Flintshire recently. A number of regional projects to improve connectivity are approaching delivery phase. Locally, work is underway to encourage network operators to fill gaps in mobile phone coverage and capacity. (CPE05T)
- A successful joint partnership between Communities For Work Plus, Jobcentre Plus and Careers Wales through the Jobs, Skills and Training Events group has delivered a number of successful projects throughout the year highlighting opportunities available locally. (CPE042T)
- £160,000 Brilliant Basics Fund Grant was secured to develop and improve regionally recognised trails across Flintshire and associated infrastructure.
- The Flintshire Tourism Association supported with securing and the delivery of £64,000 funding from Cadwyn Clwyd to support wider business and marketing activities over the summer. (CPE032T)
- The Flintshire Tourism Ambassador Course was delivered in July 2023. Seventy ambassadors have completed and achieved the Bronze and Silver Award during 2023/24. (CPE032T) <https://www.ambassador.wales>

Council Plan (2023-28) Objectives Off Track

- **Sub-priority - Rural Regeneration**
 - CPE052T** Recruit a Digital Connectivity Officer to support rural communities to access better quality connectivity options.
 - CPE035M** Digital Connectivity Officer appointed.
 - CPE036M** Rural needs report completed.
- **Sub-priority - Town Centre Regeneration**
 - CPE038M** Completion of initial 3 (of 7) Place Making Plans in partnership with a range of stakeholders.
- **Sub-priority - Local Development Plan (LDP) Targets**
 - CPE039M** Completion of first LDP Annual Monitoring Report and submission to Welsh Government.
 - CPE040M** Completion of annual review of LDP housing trajectory.
 - CPE042M** Contribution to the scoping of the form and content of the North Wales Strategic Development Plan.
- **Sub-priority - Reducing Worklessness**
 - CPE043T** Deliver mentoring and wider support programmes to assist disadvantaged people to re-engage with the labour market.
 - CPE013M** Number of individuals receiving support.

Future Improvements

- The Council will be working closely with Welsh Government and communities in order to increase patronage on public transport through the delivery of education and infrastructure improvements.



Assessment of our Seven Priorities and Well-being Objectives



Priority:

Well-being Objective:
Supporting people in need to live as well as they can.



Personal and Community Well-being

What We Said We Will Do:

- Continue to grow the Microcare market, including access to commissioned care packages.
- Develop a national, regional, and local approach to Early Years Transformation so that all our children ages 0-7 have the best possible start in life and are able to reach their full potential.
- Support people to achieve their mental well-being outcomes by promoting personal and community well-being through open access courses delivered by the Learning Partnership.
- Work in partnership with the Community Mental Health Team and Social Services Mental Health Support Service to develop clear pathways for individuals needing access to Mental Health services, and a sustainable model for the future.
- Utilise the progression model as a way of promoting people's independence skills.
- Provide additional placements for step down care within our in-house provision (Croes Atti 2).
- Work with Housing to fund a small team of people to support individuals with low level Mental health problems to improve their housing.
- Plan for the relocation of Tri Ffordd supported employment project to Maes Gwern in Mold.
- Prepare for the implementation of the new Liberty Protect Safeguard procedures.
- Deliver a programme of registered Children's Homes to help avoid the need for residential placements outside Flintshire.
- Explore the recommissioning of advocacy services on a regional basis.
- Develop childcare expansion and seamless childcare provision across programmes.
- Continue to grow our in-house fostering service to support more looked after children.
- Continue to grow our in-house homecare service to support more people to live at home, utilising a rolling scheme of recruitment.
- Establish a Dementia Strategy Implementation Group, to include representation from people with lived experience.

Assessment of our Seven Priorities and Well-being Objectives

Key Achievements and More

- 46 Microcare businesses were operational at the end of March 2024. The intention is to increase this by another 10 providers over the next 12 months. [\(CSS014T\)](#)
- The Wellbeing and Recovery Team is now fully operational and delivering excellent outcomes. The service focusses on those residents who have housing problems, or are homeless, or at risk of homelessness and require additional support due to their mental health. The service is proving very successful and currently has a full caseload and a waiting list. The service is part funded through Social Care and Housing Support Grant and consideration will be given to increasing capacity during 2024-2025. [\(CSS015T\)](#)
- In order to provide additional capacity for step down care within our in-house provision, twelve step down Discharge to Recover and Assess beds have been agreed for Croes Atti Newydd (planned for completion in May 2025). This will increase the step down provision from its current level of 16 to a total of 28 across Flintshire. [\(CSS011T\)](#)
- The design concept for the Maes Gwern hub has evolved to incorporate areas to enable health services and therapies to be delivered at the site. This is in addition to the learning disability,



mental health, and autism support services to create an integrated social services and health hub. The construction start date to commence April 2024. [\(CSS002T\)](#)

- Continue to support individuals to achieve their mental well-being outcomes by promoting personal and community well being through open access courses delivered by the Learning Partnership, with 66 courses available. Courses have been well attended throughout the financial year. [\(CSS003T\)](#)
- The North East Wales Community Equipment service continue to deliver a level of service exceeding Welsh Government standards for equipment requests. 93% of equipment has been reused this year; this equates to £2,185,980 cost avoidance (average £42,076 a week). Without this level of re-use of equipment, the North East Wales Community Equipment Service budget would only cover 12.5 weeks of operation. [\(CSS006\)](#)
- Between April 2023 and March 2024, 1109 safeguarding reports for adults were received, representing a 23% increase on last year. 667 of these reports met the threshold for an enquiry under Section 126, representing a significant increase in demand, however, the Safeguarding Unit continue to prioritise safeguarding reports on an individual basis. [\(CSS006T\)](#)

Assessment of our Seven Priorities and Well-being Objectives

Key Achievements and More



- The children’s residential homes are now fully operational. Ty Nyth is a tri-party partnership collaboration between Flintshire County Council (FCC), Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB), offering up to four places for children and young people aged 8-18 years. Park Avenue provides care and support; including accommodation, for up to four children and young people between the ages of 8–18 years old who are supported by Flintshire County Council. Bromfield Park and Chevrons Road offers care and support including accommodation for one young person aged 8-18 years as a solo placement or two siblings aged 8-18 years. Mesen Fach is an emergency crisis flat on the site of Ty Nyth. (CSS007T)

- (CSS008T) Foster carer recruitment has been active this year, with four new general foster carers approved and a further eight connected person carers.
- (CSS018T) Flying Start two-year-olds part time childcare expansion Phase 2 is currently being rolled out across Flintshire with an additional 23 children for 2024/25.

- The Adults Advocacy Contract has been successfully commissioned in collaboration with Wrexham County Borough Council. This has been awarded to ASNEW for Independent Professional Advocacy and Community Advocacy, and Advance Brighter Futures have been awarded Self Advocacy. (CSS016T)
- The Flintshire Dementia Strategy supports around 850 people living with dementia, and carers, receiving care and support or engaging in community activities in Flintshire.
- Throughout 2023 over thirty community events were attended to engage with Flintshire residents to drive environment initiatives and behavioural change.
- Fourteen sessions offering a range of activities and sport for young people around Flintshire are available. The Youth Services work with Community councils and sit on the contextual safeguarding meetings to ensure they are in the right areas.



Council Plan (2023-28) Objectives Off Track

- **Sub-priority - Safeguarding**
CSS011M Percentage of Pre-birth assessments completed within timescales.
- **Sub-priority - A Well Connected, Safe and Clean Local Environment**
CST011M Number of targeted environmental educational campaigns undertaken to promote improved Local Environmental Quality.

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Future Improvements

- Recruitment for in-house home carers continues to be challenging, however the service has developed a recruitment plan to help increase the workforce and grow the share of the market.
- Increase the number of community champions to deliver environmental initiatives.

Assessment of our Seven Priorities and Well-being Objectives



Priority:

**Well-being Objective:
Enabling and supporting
learning communities.**



Education and Skills

What We Said We Will Do:

- Support the implementation of the revised curriculum for secondary pupils in years 7 and 8.
- Continue to deliver Alternative Provision (Education) and to increase the number of young people on the programme gaining qualifications and achieving their full potential (subject to external grant funding).
- Provide bespoke support for schools through training and development to improve the level of speech language and communication skills for pupils.
- Explore and develop options for in house provision in response to the increasing number of pupils struggling to engage with education due to mental health difficulties.
- Embed the delivery plan for Integrated Youth Services by maintaining focus on digital, school and community engagement.
- Provide Duke of Edinburgh Award training opportunities for young people in Alternative Provision, schools, and community groups (subject to external grant funding).
- Schedule Council approval to progress Wales Government’s Band B Sustainable Communities projects within the Learning Investment Programme.
- Continue construction of the 3-16 campus at Mynydd Isa.
- Deliver the Adult Community Learning (ACL) programme.
- Complete the annual strategic actions within the Welsh Education Strategic Plan 5-year action plan.
- Run a referral programme for children and young people with ACEs or a disability and their families to provide low cost / no cost physical activity opportunities to improve overall health and well-being.
- Embed a Whole School Approach to Emotional Health and Wellbeing in all Flintshire schools.

Key Achievements and More

- Informal Qualifications delivered by Flintshire Youth Service and eight young people were recruited for the Youth Work Young Leaders Award.
- Anti-Racism: 'Leaders of Now' is a pilot project that has seen young people from four secondary schools in Flintshire lead the way in challenging racism in their own settings.
- The model of intervention for the Community Focused Schools Team has been established and further developed to focus on transition. [\(CEY045T\)](#)
- All secondary schools in Flintshire have implemented the revised curriculum for secondary pupils in Years 7 and 8 from September 2023. Each school continues to work with their supporting improvement adviser to embed this work. [\(CEY044T\)](#)
- Over the past six months, from October 2023 to March 2024, the PlayPals project has been successfully implemented across eight schools in different areas of Flintshire.
- Substance Education by Flintshire Sorted: This was undertaken in twelve schools and PPRUs through assemblies, lunchtime walkaround sessions and input into lessons, engaging a total of 2,152 children and young people. 75 sessions also took place in the community.
- Over 70 Young People enrolled on the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh. [\(CAU019T\)](#)
- £6.23m of capital investment was injected across the school network to improve facilities for learners.
- Construction of new 3-16 campus continues and is progressing well, following the site start in November 2022 on the Argoed High School site. [\(CEY015T\)](#)
- Sixty young people successfully completed the John Muir Award through the Forest School programme.
- The Council's contribution to the Adult Community Learning Partnership continues to grow, with over 1,036 learners and 246 sessions being delivered during this reporting year. Examples of the courses that we provided include - First Aid for Parents, Pre and Post-natal Fitness, Employability Skills, Autism Awareness, Safeguarding, Social Media workshops, Food Safety qualifications. [\(CAU020T\)](#)
- Secured funding through the Shared Prosperity Fund to improve responses and support to children and young people at risk of exploitation by enabling Action for Children to deliver their SideStep Programme until December 2025.
- Welsh Language Music Club - 35 young people took part in a 4 week programme across two schools.
- 56 young people from secondary schools competed in the Eisteddfod in a variety of different competitions, including Cogurdd, Dance, Singing and Reciting.
- A review has been undertaken to consider the current provision and engage with Welsh medium settings to determine need. The findings are being collated and will be presented to the Welsh Education Strategic Plan Forum. [\(CEY054T\)](#)
- Flintshire schools are positively engaged with developing their work around the whole school approach to emotional health

Assessment of our Seven Priorities and Well-being Objectives

Key Achievements and More

and well-being. This work will be ongoing as schools continue to embed effective practice. (CEY055T)

- 24 candidates from schools and Education and Youth successfully completed the local Trauma Informed Schools UK diploma training. (CEY056T)
- The Council has successfully achieved the Integrated Youth Services delivery plan by maintaining a strong digital presence, ensuring school and community immersion workers and play team are active in schools, and sustaining ongoing community engagement. (CEY011T)
- All schools have now formally adopted their own digital strategy. This gives all schools a standard to work from to develop their digital progression in a structured manner. (CEY048T)

Council Plan (2023-28) Objectives Off Track

- **Sub-priority - Educational Engagement and Achievement**
 CEY004M Reduction in the number of permanent exclusions.
 CEY005M Reduction in the number of fixed term exclusions.
- **Sub-priority - Digital Learning Opportunities**
 CEY017M Number of Youth Work Sessions Delivered - Digital.
- **Sub-priority - Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)**
 CEY011M Number of Year 11 pupils studying Welsh.



Future Improvements

- The level of exclusion remains high across secondary schools, and this remains a targeted priority. The focus on Trauma Informed practice will continue with the aim of supporting a reduction in the need for exclusion by encouraging schools to adopt a different approach to managing serious behaviour incidents.
- There has been a 12 month gap in the position of the Welsh Language Youth Worker. The new post holder was successfully recruited at the end of 2023 and starts their position in May 2024. The sustaining of the current projects has been a success and focus will be placed on growth for 2024/25, including the Welsh language skills across the play and youth team.



Priority:

Well-being Objective:
Responsible, resourceful, and trusted Council operating efficiently as possible.



A Well Managed Council

What We Said We Will Do:

- Maintain competitive pay and reward, and terms and conditions of employment.
- Recruit sufficient permanent high quality staff with suitable qualifications and experience.
- Retain existing employees by supporting them to carry out their roles effectively, and by ensuring that our total offer for new and existing employees is competitive within the market place.
- Increase the level of Welsh Language across the organisation.
- Develop and implement an Action Plan to meet Welsh Government’s Anti-racist Wales Action Plan.
- Complete an annual self-assessment against the Welsh Language Standards and implement an action plan for improvement across all Portfolios.
- Publish the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report to meet our statutory public sector equality duties.
- Ensure the funding needs of the Council cover the medium term are met through financial planning.
- Ensure robust processes exist for the management and recovery of debt including Council Tax and rent.
- Monitor Council Progress against the Corporate Asset Management Plan.
- Continue to provide a corporate Contact Centre for handling telephone calls to the Council.
- Provide access to Council services on the internet in a responsive way (information can be accessed using different devices).
- Work with public sector partners, develop and publish a local Well-being Plan for 2023-28 setting out the local well-being objectives and how the Public Services Board, including the Council, aims to achieve them.
- Deliver three engagement events to encourage other organisations to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant, which contribute to Flintshire County Council being re-accredited with the Defence Employers Recognition Scheme Gold Award in 2024.

Assessment of our Seven Priorities and Well-being Objectives

5

Key Achievements and More

- During the year 754 positions were filled, which is positive and indicates that we are able to recruit to a large number of positions, all of which will have been assessed as meeting the essential criteria for the post (including qualifications and experience), (percentage determined after deducting those who commenced employment but left during the first 12 months (CHR004T)
- Turnover for 2023/24 was 13.55%, which means that the stability for the year was 88.69%. (CHR005T)
- A range of Welsh language courses have been accessed by a number of learners and by offering different levels/methods of learning makes it more accessible. (CHR008T)
- There have been 2,403 portal accesses to Vivup from September 2023 up until the end of February 2024. 500 self-help downloads have been recorded and 63 employees have accessed counselling. (CHR007T)
- The annual self-assessment for all Portfolios has been completed, with actions being identified and implemented. Regular reviews and reminders of Welsh Language Standards continue to be shared across the Portfolios. (CPA004M)
- The Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report was approved and published in March 2024. The action plan is now included within the Strategic Equality Plan 2024/28 which has now been published. (CPA004T)
- The Council was able to set a legal and balanced budget for 2024/25 in February 2024. Work is underway to update the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2025/26 onwards and an update report is scheduled for June/July 2024. (CFI001T)
- The Council continues to apply robust, but fair, debt recovery processes to maximise collection levels across all areas. At the same time, the Revenues service engages constructively with residents who struggle to meet their payment obligations by entering into affordable payment plans. The approach to debt recovery is set out in the Council's Corporate Debt Recovery Policy. (CFI004T)
- The Corporate Asset Management Plan informs the Capital Programme, which is reviewed annually, and progress is monitored throughout the year. The Corporate Asset Management Plan will be refreshed 2024/25. (CPA005T)
- Work has commenced on the Office Strategy; draft principles have been prepared and further work is required to firm up principles. (CPA007T)
- The corporate Contact Centre is open Monday-Friday between 08:30 - 17:00. The team continues to handle a wide range of telephone calls for services in Housing, Streetscene, Planning, Elections and Blue Badges. In addition, the team answer calls to the Council's main telephone number. (CGV009T)
- The Digital Flintshire Hub continues to promote a range of initiatives to help people to use digital technology now and in the future. The Hub includes resources to keep people safe online, training, health and wellbeing resources, digital events and activities. The Hub also provides information about the Council's ambitious plans contained in the Digital Strategy.
- The joint Flintshire and Wrexham Public Services Board (PSB) have been working on the first year of the Well-being Plan 2023-28. Three Outcome Boards and an Integration Team have been established and partnership project working is ongoing. (CPA010T)

Council Plan (2023-28) Objectives Off Track

- Sub-priority - People

CHR001M The number of working days lost per full time equivalent (FTE) local authority employees lost due to sickness absence.

CHR003M Percentage of permanent employees who leave within first year of employment.

CHR004M Percentage of employees who have completed all of mandatory modules.

- Sub-priority - Flintshire Assets

CPA006M Commercial rent review completed: To increase rental income in line with prevailing market rents to make sure that rental income is optimised. To ensure rental consistency within estates.

CPA007M County Hall Master Plan options appraisal/strategy: To develop a plan which will provide the blueprint for the redevelopment of County Hall site.

- Sub-priority - Digital

CGV008M 80% of telephone calls to the corporate Contact Centre answered.

- Sub-priority - Partnerships

CPA009M Number of organisations who sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant.



Future Improvements

- Although the use of agency workers has increased in 2023/24, reducing the use of agency workers still remains a key priority for the Council.
- Low subscribers to My Account by Contract Holders (tenants). Promotion will help increase awareness and Housing Officers should aim to offer digital by default whenever a new contract is issued.
- We need to encourage more organisations to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant. Two organisations signed up to the Covenant during 2023/24.

Strategic Equality Plan



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During the past 12 months, the new Strategic Equality Plan, (SEP) 2024-28 has been developed and published. The new Plan includes actions from Welsh Government’s Anti-racist Wales action plan and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Plus (LGBTQ+) Action Plan for Wales. The Council’s Housing Team is working with Tai Pawb to develop specific actions and training to embed an anti-racist approach within the Service. A new LGBTQ+ e-learning module has been developed to support the implementation of the new SEP and meet the commitments of the LGBTQ+ Action Plan for Wales.

Vision Support reviewed the Council website to ensure it is fully accessible for people who are blind or have visual impairments. The results of their review were positive and no issues with accessibility were identified.

We have continued to work with the University of Manchester on developing a new approach for Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA). The new IIA Tool has been piloted by several officers across the Council, this takes into account recommendations made by Audit Wales in their report “Equality Impact Assessments: more than a tick box exercise”. An evaluation of the new Tool will be completed by the University during 2024/25 which will involve interviews with both IIA authors and decision makers. This will help understand how the outcomes of IIAs influence decisions made by the Council.

Welsh Language

There has been an increased number of initiatives to increase the use of Welsh by employees. In addition to providing Welsh language skills training and offering informal chat sessions. Several teams are participating in Bangor University's ARFer project which aims to increase the use of incidental Welsh amongst employees, whatever their level of skill. We have developed video recordings with phonics to support employees use more Cymraeg in meetings and on the telephone. This means that employees can hear and see words and phrases to support pronunciation.

laith, the Welsh Centre for language planning, delivered a series of courses- "Welsh Matters for Everyone" and "Welsh Matters for Managers".

The aim of these courses was to look at:

- **Influences on language use** - reflect upon personal experience and knowledge, understand changes to the status of the Welsh Language and what influences language attitudes and behaviours.
- **Why Use Welsh** - understand National Policy and legislation and the Language Standards in Flintshire
- **Facts and figures about the Welsh Language** - linguistic demography of Wales and Flintshire
- **Working Bilingually** - importance of bilingual services

We have experienced difficulties recruiting Welsh speaking job applicants, as have other public bodies. To tackle this we worked with Wrexham County Borough Council and partners, including Menter Iaith Fflint a Wrecsam, Mudiad Meithrin and Coleg Cambria, to look at solutions to attracting and recruiting more Welsh speakers to our organisations. This has involved two employees being involved in promotional videos to show how we support employees to use Welsh at work. The North Wales Regional Public Services Board also commissioned Iaith to look at issues and solutions to recruiting and retaining Welsh speaking employees. This work will be completed during 2024/25.

During 2023/24, we asked employees to complete a Welsh language attitude survey the results will be used to develop more initiatives to promote the Welsh language during 2024/25.



Partnership and Collaboration Activity

Flintshire has a longstanding and proud track record of partnership working. The communities it serves rightly expect the statutory and third sector partners to work together to manage shared priorities through collaboration. The Flintshire Public Services Board is at the heart of promoting a positive culture of working together, setting shared priorities, and combining resources for the benefit of Flintshire, with an overall aim of improving local well-being.

The Flintshire Public Services Board was formally established in April 2016 following the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 coming into effect. The Flintshire Public Services Board and Wrexham Public Services Board formally merged in January 2023.

Membership of the Flintshire and Wrexham Public Services Board includes Natural Resources Wales, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Flintshire County Council, Wrexham County Borough Council, Association of Voluntary Organisations Wrexham, Flintshire Local Voluntary Council, Coleg Cambria, DWP, North Wales Police, Wrexham Glyndwr University and Welsh Government.

The Flintshire and Wrexham Public Services Board is working with its communities to change how we do things, to make sure we will be able to face the challenges ahead such as the climate and nature emergency, and how we ensure good mental health and wellbeing for all.

A key focus for the Flintshire and Wrexham Public Service Board has been the development of a new five-year Well-being Plan, drawing

on the findings of the Well-being Assessments produced in 2022. The Flintshire and Wrexham Public Services Board Well-Being Plan 2023-2028 contains two well-being objectives for the Public Services Board over the coming five years:

- 1. **Building flourishing communities by reducing inequalities across environment, education, employment, income, and housing.**
- 2. **Improve community well-being by enabling people of all ages to live safe, healthy, and independent lives.**

Under these objectives are several outcomes, which fall under three themes: Children and Young People, Our Communities, and Where We Work.

The Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028 will shape the work of the Public Services Board over coming years and there will be close working with other Public Services Boards across North Wales, along with local communities.



Risk Management

All Council Plans, business as usual and emerging risks are identified, assessed, treated, and monitored using the Council's Risk Management Framework.

Risks are identified using qualitative (milestones & actions) and quantitative (performance indicators, financial) data. Risk identification remains a key priority for the Council.

It is a continuous process which is embedded in not only in our day to day (business as usual) but embedded within our Council Planning, Portfolio Business Planning, Project Management, and Partnerships (short term, medium term and long term).



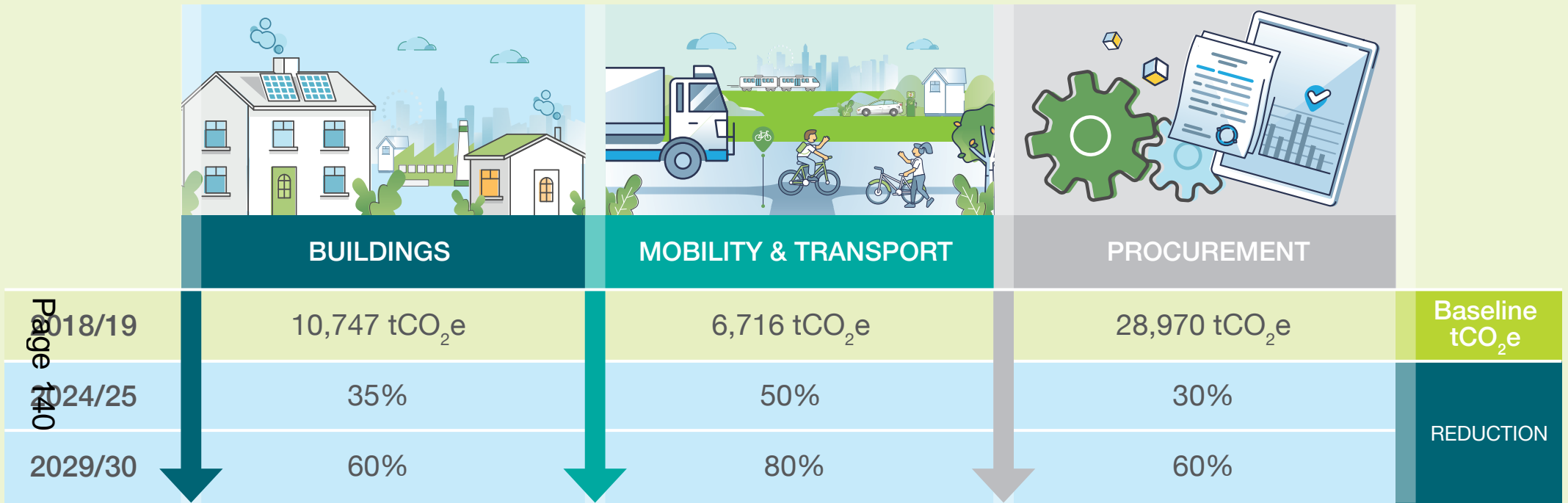
Regulation, Audit and Inspection

The Council is regulated by organisations throughout the year. These include, amongst others, Audit Wales, Estyn (the education inspectorate) and the Care Inspectorate Wales.

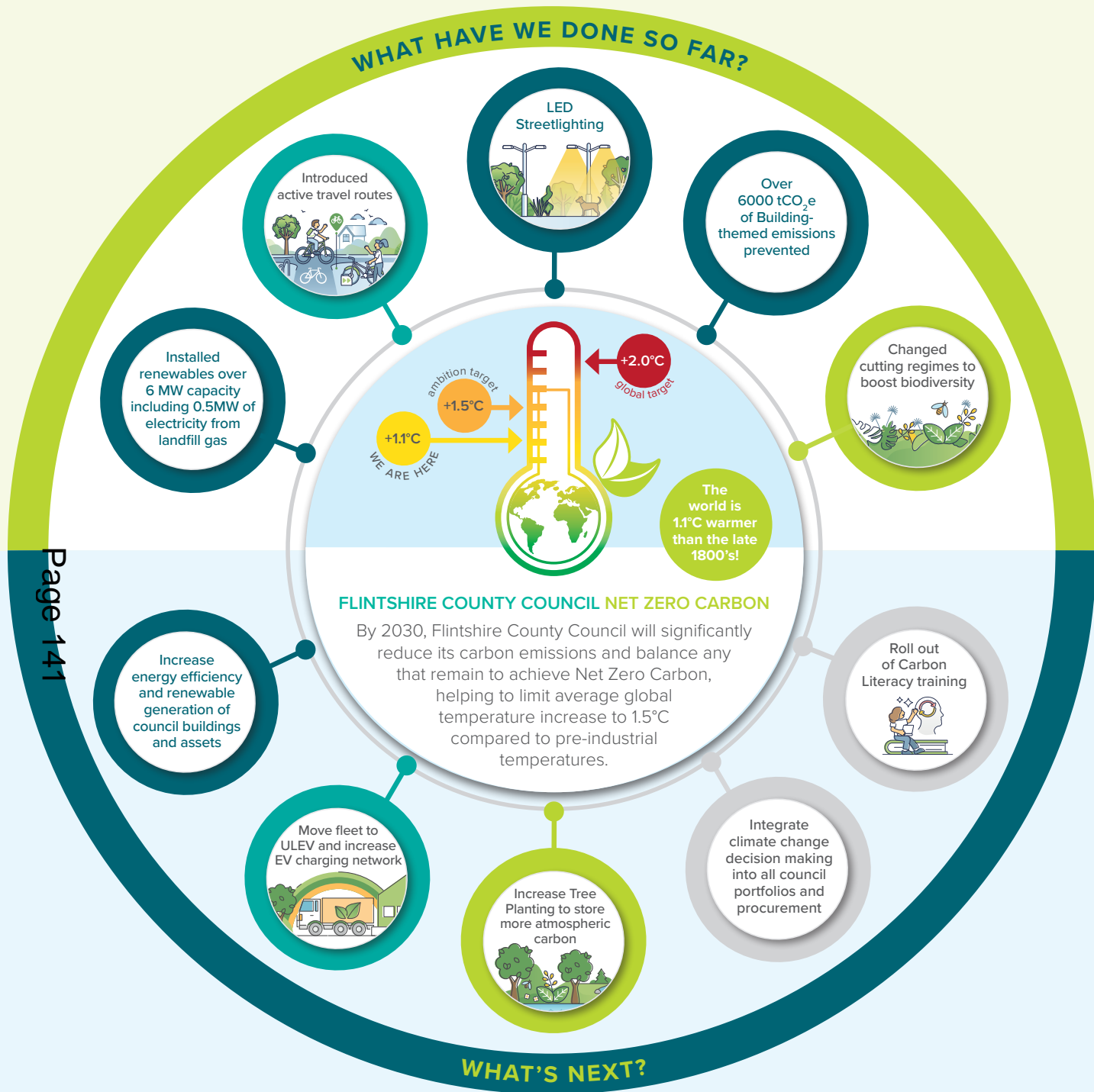
The Annual Audit Summary for 2023, sets out the audit and regulatory work completed by Audit Wales of Flintshire County Council since the last annual report which was published in April 2024. Overall, the Auditor General for Wales has reached a positive conclusion and no formal recommendations have been made during the year. Full details of the report are available on Audit Wales [website](#).



TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?



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LEARN MORE



CONTACT US

climatechange@flintshire.gov.uk



Flintshire County Council
Climate Change Strategy



What's your
carbon footprint?



Take our questionnaire

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg. Gweler y dudalen Gymraeg ar ein gwefan.

This document is also available in Welsh. See Welsh page on our website.



Our Flintshire, Our Future 2023 - 2024

The budget, your Council Tax and local services

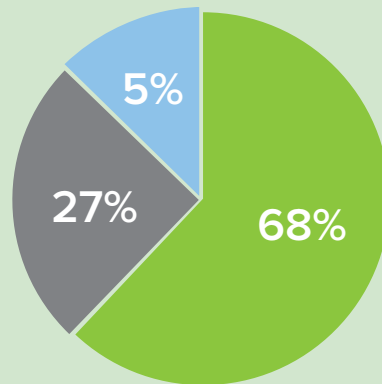
Every year councils have to set a budget which balances their resources with their spending needs. Between 2008 and 2020 all councils received reduced funding from government. As a low funded council - ranked 20 out of 22 councils in Wales - Flintshire was particularly exposed to the effects of this period of austerity.

Over the last 14 years, Flintshire County Council has reduced its spending by **£100M**. Every year it's been harder and harder to make more savings and protect services. At times hard budget choices have been needed.



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Where the Council's money comes from



- Comes from the Welsh Government
- Comes from Council Tax
- Comes from the fees we charge for some services e.g. planning fees, garden waste charges, Register Office fees

Budget Monitoring 2023/24

What your Council Tax pays for

The Council Tax you pay goes up every year, but not all the money collected goes to pay for council services. It also supports 34 Town and Community Councils, the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner and contributes to increases in funding for other regional services.

How Council Tax is shared between the Council and other public services

£125.5M is the total the Council expects to collect in Council Tax in 2023/24, of which:

80% is retained by the Council as a contribution to run local services

17% is collected on behalf of North Wales Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner

3% is collected on behalf of our Town and Community Councils

Flintshire County Council is committed to keeping its annual increase at 5% or less and has applied a 3.99% increase to pay for council services.

All six North Wales councils also contribute to the costs of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, The North Wales Coroners Service and GWE - the Regional Education Improvement Service. Flintshire has added an extra 0.96% to cover annual increases in these contributions.

This brings the total increase of Flintshire County Council's portion of Council Tax to 4.95%.



What this means in monetary terms for Council Tax for 2023/24

Using an average Band D property example:

	2023/24	2022/23	Increased Cost	Percentage increase
Flintshire County Council	£1,521.33	£1,449.58	£71.75	4.95%
North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner	£333.09	£316.80	£16.29	5.14%
Town and Community Councils*	£51.98*	£49.02*	£2.96*	6.04%*
TOTAL COST	£1,906.40	£1,815.40	£91.00	5.01%

* average cost across all 34 Town and Community Councils, the cost on individual bills will differ from Council to Council



The Council was successful in balancing the budget for 2023/2024

What is the Annual Governance Statement?

The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2018 require us to prepare a statement on internal control.

Like many authorities in Wales, this is referred to as the 'Annual Governance Statement'. This is a public document that reports on the extent to which we as the Council comply with our own code of governance.



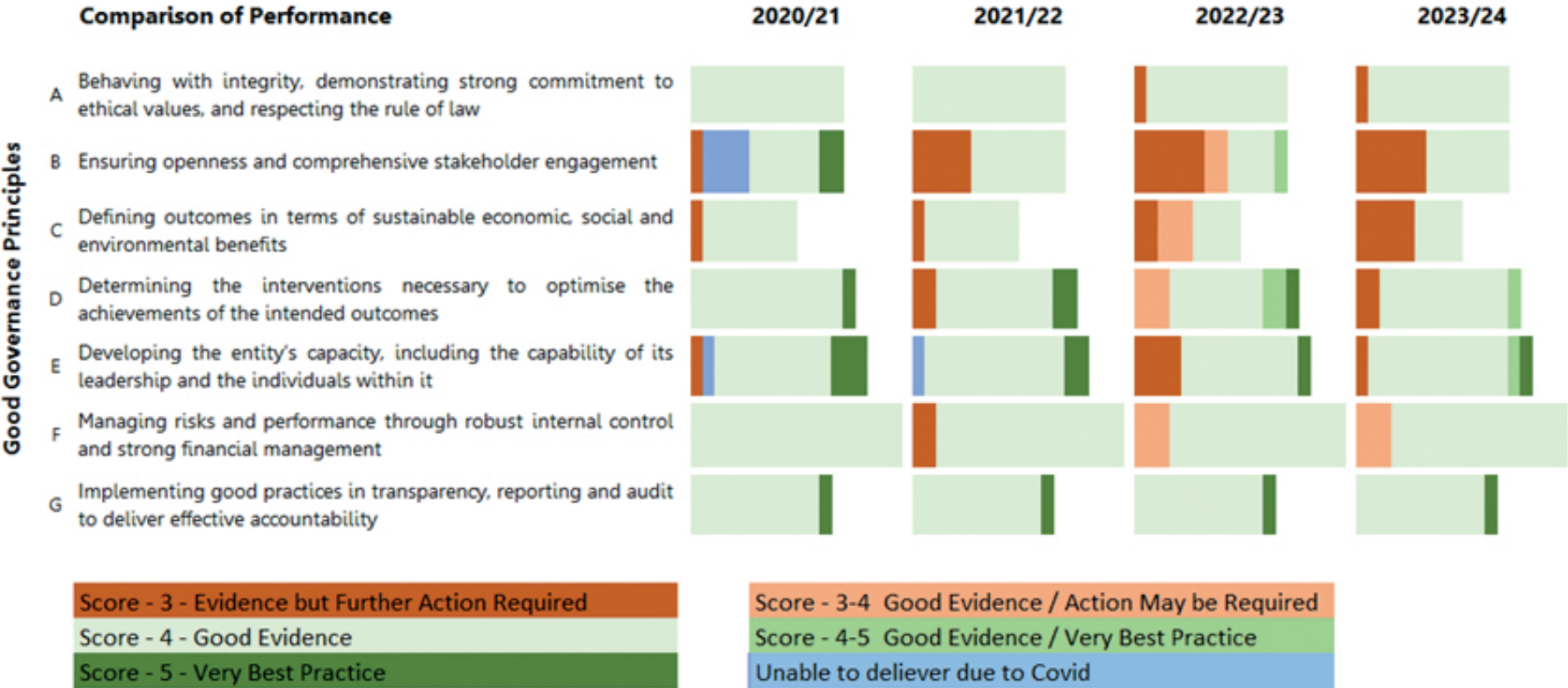
In the Annual Governance Statement, we, the Council:

- Acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of governance;
- Summarise the key elements of that governance framework and the roles of those responsible for the development and maintenance of the governance environment;
- Describe how we have monitored and evaluated the effectiveness of our governance arrangements in year, and any planned changes in the coming period;
- Provide details of how we have responded to any issue(s) identified in last year's governance statement;
- Report on any governance issues identified from this review and provide a commitment to addressing them; and
- In referring to the Council, this includes its group relationship with other entities such as New Homes and Newydd

The Annual Governance Statement reports on the governance arrangements that has been in place at Flintshire County Council during the financial year 2023/24 and up to the date of approval of the Statement of Accounts.

Annual Governance Statement

Comparison of the Effectiveness of the Council's Governance Arrangement



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There will not be a separate action for those scored 3-4 if the issue has already been covered by actions to address those scored a 3

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Corporate Self-assessment

The Corporate Self-Assessment is a comprehensive assessment of the corporate organisation and not a detailed assessment of the performance of each service portfolio, the assessment themes are designed in this way. The Corporate Self-assessment is meant to provide a platform for assurance and self-improvement and would lead to an improvement plan for the organisation.

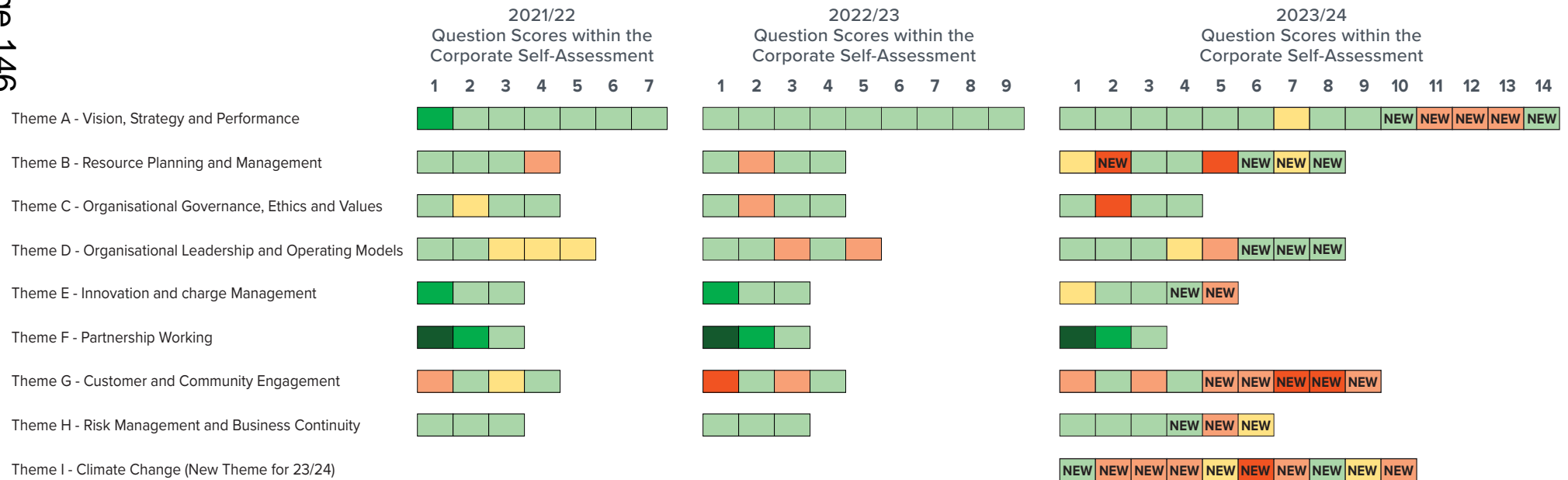
The Corporate Self-Assessment model focuses on a number of themes and considers a number of core questions within each of these themes. As with all models there will inevitably be overlaps across themes, however, the themes are sufficiently defined and demarked

to avoid too much overlapping or duplication. This year, the Corporate Self-Assessment also incorporates a number of additional questions and a new theme to cover areas that will be considered within the Panel Performance Assessment.

Building on the approach in 2021 the Corporate Self-assessment has a stronger focus on i) a more proportionate and targeted collection of evidence and ii) the analysis of evidence, focusing on the strengths, areas for development and the impact that is being achieved. This approach will help the formulation of the action plan.

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Comparison between 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 Corporate Self Assessments



■ Score 5 - Very Best Practice (1% ■ Score 4/5 (1% ■ Score 4 - Good Evidence (58%) ■ Score 3/4 (16%) ■ Score 3 - Evidence but Further Action Required (19%)
 ■ Score 2/3 - Some Evidence but Lacking in Key Areas (4%) ■ Score 2 - Some Evidence but Lacking in Key Areas (1%)

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

Note: A total of 32 new questions and a new theme (Theme I) were added to the 23/24 Corporate Self-assessment

Additional Background Information

There are a number of related documents which support the Annual Performance Report and are available on Flintshire County Council’s website.

- Council Plan 2023-28
- Social Services Annual Performance Report
- Welsh Language Standards
- Strategic Equality Plan
- Risk Management Framework
- Corporate Self-assessment
- Previous Annual Performance Reports

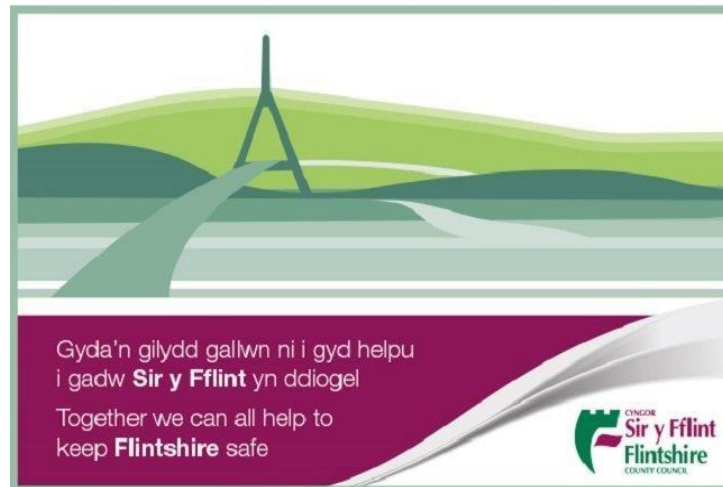


Thank you for reading our Annual Performance Report for 2023/24.

Your views and suggestions about how we might improve the content and layout of the Annual Performance Report for future years are welcome.

Please contact the Performance and Risk Management Team:
Email: PRM@flintshire.gov.uk

Council Plan End of Year Performance Monitoring Report 2023/24



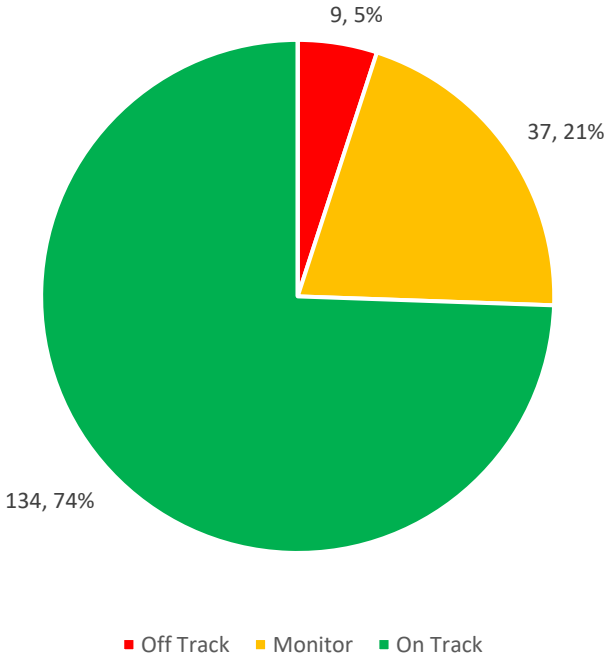
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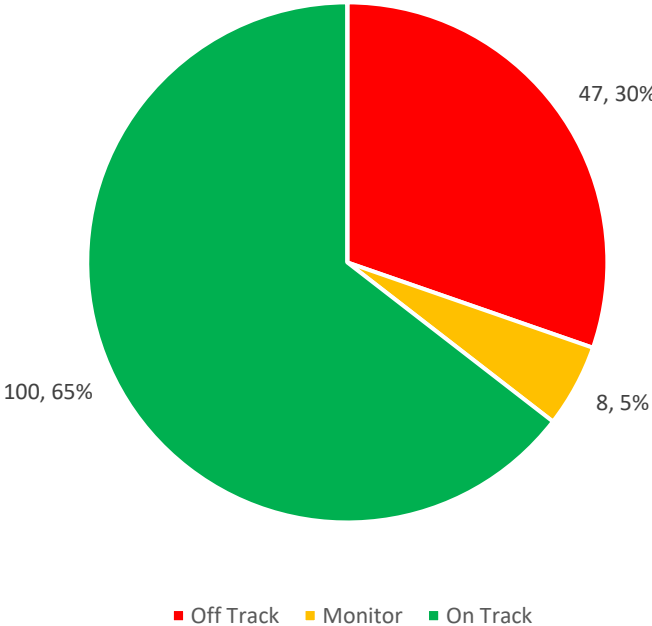
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Analysis

Council Plan - Action RAG Status



Council Plan - Measure RAG Status



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- Key**
- ▲ Red: Limited Progress – delay in scheduled activity and, not on track.
 - Amber: Satisfactory Progress – some delay in scheduled activity, but broadly on track.
 - ★ Green: Good Progress – activities completed on schedule and on track.

Actions Off Track

Priority	Sub-Priority	Code	Action	RAG
Affordable and Accessible Housing	Social Housing	CHC019T	Increase the Council's housing portfolio by building social housing properties and affordable properties for North East Wales (NEW) Homes	▲
		CHC024T	Support our tenants to access technology and create sustainable digital communities	▲
Green Society and Environment	Active and Sustainable Travel Options	CST018T	Declassification of hazardous routes across the county where appropriate through the implementation of engineering initiatives	▲
	Circular Economy	CST006T	Achieve Welsh Government recycling targets	▲
		CST008T	Promote the option to reuse and repair unwanted items at Household Recycling Centres by partnering with local Charities or social enterprises	▲
Economy	Rural Regeneration	CPE052T	Recruit a Digital Connectivity Officer to support rural communities to access better quality connectivity options	▲
	Reducing Worklessness	CPE043T	Deliver mentoring and wider support programmes to assist disadvantaged people to re-engage with the labour market	▲
A Well Managed Council	People	CHR006T	Reduce the use of agency workers	▲
	Flintshire Assets	CPA009T	Review of Industrial Estate Strategy (Area by Area)	▲

Measures Off Track

Priority	Sub-Priority		Measure	RAG
Poverty	Food Poverty	CHC006M	Number of residents supported by the “Hospital to Home” meals service	▲
Affordable and Accessible Housing	Housing Support and Homeless Prevention	CHC007M	Number of presentations to the homeless service	▲
		CHC008M	Percentage of successful prevention outcomes for homelessness under Housing (Wales) Act 2014	▲
		CHC09M	Percentage of successful relief outcomes for homelessness under Housing (Wales) Act 2014	▲
		CHC010M	Number of households accommodated by the Council under Housing (Wales) Act 2014 homeless duties	▲
		CHC011M	Average length of stay (days) for those households in interim homeless accommodation under Housing (Wales) Act 2014	▲
		Housing Needs and Housing Options	CHC015M	Number of applicants rehoused via SARTH by All Housing Partners
	CHC017M		Number of households rehoused with significant adaptations requirements	▲
	Social Housing	CHC018M	Number of Council Homes under construction	▲
		CHC021M	Number of Affordable Homes completed via NEW Homes	▲

Priority	Sub-Priority		Measure	RAG
		CHC037M	Increase in stock capacity correlates with demand profile	▲
		CHC039M	Total number of Medium Disabled Adaptations completed	▲
		CHC042M	Average number of days to complete a Medium Disabled adaptation	▲
		CHC044M	Average number of days to complete a Large Disabled adaptation	▲
	Private Rented Sector	CHC040M	Landlords engaged through Flintshire Landlord Forum	▲
Green Society and Environment	Net Zero Carbon Council	CPE018M	Percentage of Councillors received carbon related training	▲
		CPE019M	Percentage of employees received carbon related training	▲
		CPE020M	Number of contracts with carbon impact assessed	▲
	Climate Change and Adaptation	CPE024M	Increase in carbon sequestered (Kg/tCO _{2e})	▲
	Flood Risk Management Strategy	CPE025M	Completion of the Flood Risk Management Strategy by the revised Welsh Government due date	▲
	Fleet Strategy	CST013M	Number of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles on Fleet	▲
	Active and Sustainable Travel Options	CST016M	Number of hazardous routes declassified through the Implementation of Active Travel infrastructure to provide safe routes to schools	▲

Priority	Sub-Priority		Measure	RAG
	Circular Economy	CST004M	Percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted	▲
		CST017M	Reduce the tonnage of residual waste collected from residential properties	▲
		CST018M	Increase the tonnage of food waste collected from residential properties	▲
		CST019M	Obtain Welsh Government funding to implement a reuse initiative at the household recycling centres	▲
		CST020M	Implement a trial for the delivery of local benefits/local recycling targets initiative	▲
Economy	Rural Regeneration	CPE035M	Digital Connectivity Officer appointed - June 2023	▲
		CPE036M	Rural needs report completed by March 2024	▲
	Town Centre Regeneration	CPE038M	Completion of initial 3 (of 7) Place Making Plans in partnership with a range of stakeholders	▲
	Local Development Plan (LDP) Targets	CPE039M	Completion of first LDP Annual Monitoring Report and submission to Welsh Government (January 2024)	▲
		CPE040M	Completion of annual review of LDP housing trajectory	▲
		CPE042M	Contribution to the scoping of the form and content of the North Wales Strategic Development Plan	▲

Priority	Sub-Priority		Measure	RAG
	Reducing Worklessness	CPE013M	Number of individuals receiving support	▲
Personal and Community Well-being	Safeguarding	CSS011M	Percentage of Pre-birth assessments completed within timescales	▲
	A Well Connected, Safe and Clean Local Environment	CST011M	Number of targeted environmental educational campaigns undertaken to promote improved Local Environmental Quality	▲
Education and Skills	Educational Engagement and Achievement	CEY004M	Reduction in the number of permanent exclusions	▲
		CEY005M	Reduction in the number of fixed term exclusions	▲
	Digital Learning Opportunities	CEY017M	Number of Youth Work Sessions Delivered - Digital	▲
	Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)	CEY011M	Number of Year 11 pupils studying Welsh	▲
A Well Managed Council	People	CHR001M	The number of working days lost per full time equivalent (FTE) local authority employees lost due to sickness absence	▲
		CHR003M	Percentage of permanent employees who leave within first year of employment	▲
		CHR004M	Percentage of employees who have completed all of mandatory modules	▲

Priority	Sub-Priority		Measure	RAG
	Flintshire Assets	CPA006M	Commercial rent review completed: To increase rental income in line with prevailing market rents to make sure that rental income is optimised. To ensure rental consistency within estates	▲
		CPA007M	County Hall Master Plan options appraisal/strategy: To develop a plan which will provide the blueprint for the redevelopment of County Hall site.	▲
	Digital	CGV008M	80% of telephone calls to the corporate Contact Centre answered	▲
	Partnerships	CPA009M	Number of organisations who sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant	▲

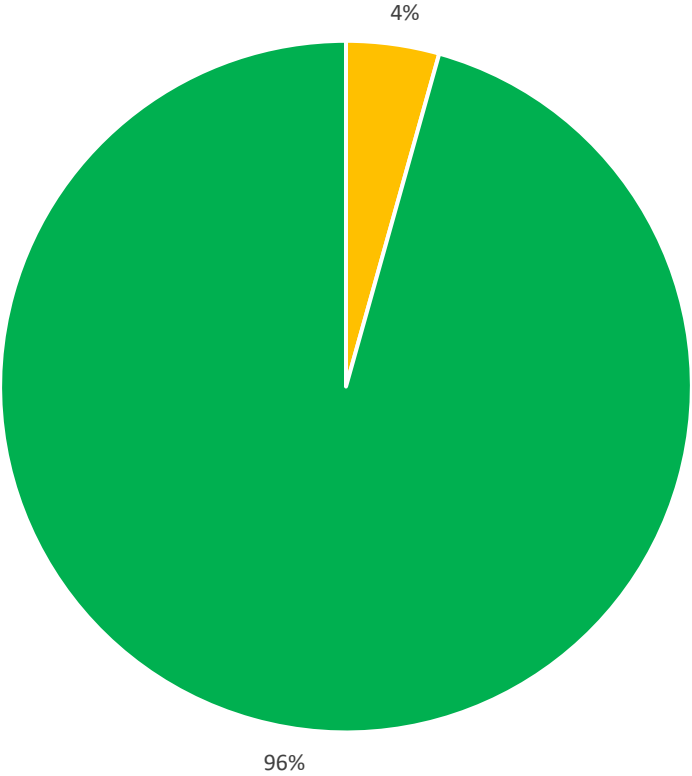
Poverty

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Well-being Objective: Protecting our communities and people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs and to be resilient.

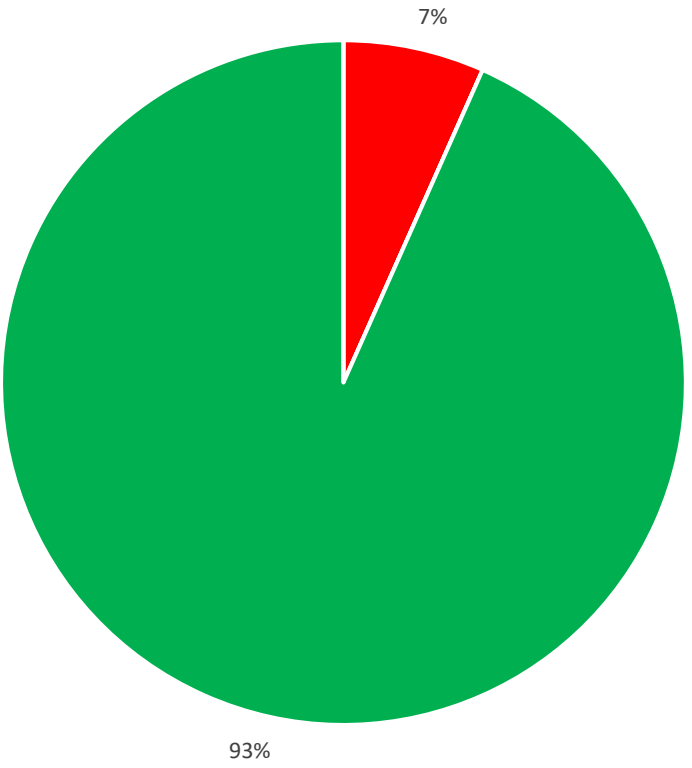
Poverty Overall Performance

Poverty - Action RAG Status



■ Off Track ■ Monitor ■ On Track ■ Missing Value

Poverty - Measure RAG Status



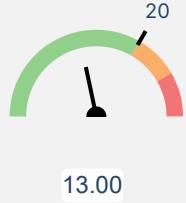
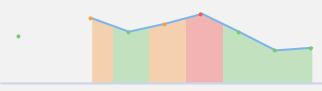
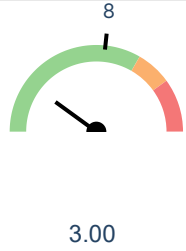


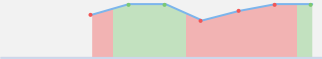
■ Off Track ■ Monitor ■ On Track ■ Missing Value

Income Poverty

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAU022T	Provide free access to swimming lessons (subject to WG funding), children's outdoor play areas, resources and information via library services	100%	✔	Throughout 2023/24, Aura managed the Welsh Government/Sport Wales Free Swimming Initiative (for children and young people aged 16 years and under, people aged 60 years and over, and veterans and serving Armed Forces personnel). Aura continued to inspect and maintain nearly 200 free to access outdoor children's play areas, and continued to support residents with free access to written and digital resources, together with free Wi-Fi and free public access to computers, via its library network.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAU023T	Provide free activities and sports sessions during all school holidays within communities across Flintshire (subject to external grant funding)	100%	✔	We offer a range of opportunities in a variety of venues for young people to attend. 6035 attended with 71 sessions on offer. this is reliant on Funding that we write bids for and are successful.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC001T	Maximise the number of people signposted for support to facilitate longer term change	100%	✔	The cost-of-living crisis continues to increase, impacting residents, and referrals to the Council continue to be received. Ongoing advice and support still form part of the Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) application process and advice is also provided around options for support, even if a DHP application is unsuccessful. It is envisaged that with the implementation of Managed Migration to Universal Credit early 2024, more residents will require access to this support.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC002T	Ensuring that take-up to benefit entitlement is maximised in a timely way by processing claims efficiently	100%	✔	The target times for processing Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction Scheme new claims and change of circumstances applications have been met: 17 days for new claims and 3 days for change of circumstances. By processing claims and changes to entitlement efficiently, customers receive the correct amount of financial support when they need it, which is supporting customers to reduce income poverty.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC003T	Maximise take up of the Discretionary Housing Payments scheme and other financial support	100%	✔	The grant for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) has been fully spent supporting households requiring financial support with rent payments. Additional funding via the homeless prevention funds has also provided further support for administering DHP applications for 2023/24. There has been no confirmation of additional funds for 2024/25.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC004T	Further develop our community hub approach giving access to a range of programmes, services and agencies together in one place	90%	★	The Community Support Hub in Shotton will remain open until March 2025. The Council are working on widening the model across Flintshire in collaboration with the Health Board and other agencies that are providing support in five key areas: food, income, fuel, digital and mental health.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC033T	Explore development of support schemes to mitigate in work poverty	100%	✔	A hardship scheme has been implemented to support Local Authority households. The Council continue to support households to mitigate effects of in-work poverty by promoting Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) and budgeting advice. Additionally, funding has been committed by homeless prevention funds to support DHPs.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC034T	Deliver Welsh Government support schemes linked to the cost-of-living crisis	100%	✔	In addition to delivering Welsh Government support schemes, the Council also delivered the Energy Bills Support Scheme on behalf of UK Government. This was the final scheme linked to the cost-of-living crisis and the last payment was issued in August 2023.

Income Poverty

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU019M	Number of children enrolled in free swimming lessons	6,937.00			<p>6,937.00</p>	
<p>The number of children in Free Swimming for 2023/24 was 6,937 attendances and 409 sessions delivered across all pools in Flintshire (not just Aura).</p>						
CAU020M	Number of free to access outdoor play areas available to children across the county	198.00	195.00		<p>198.00</p>	
<p>The number of outdoor children's play areas managed by Aura remains static. Technically, Aura maintains 198 play areas based on data held within its inspection software, though context is required as a traditional play area and a skate park located on the same site are categorised by the software as two facilities rather than one. The original Target of 195 anticipated the strategic withdrawal from at least three sites based on the recommendations of an independent play survey completed in late 2020 (which identified 12 sites as having potential for strategic removal).</p>						
CAU021M	Number of items loaned (physical and digital)	454,378.00	245,000.00		<p>454,378.00</p>	
<p>Our performance for resources has continues to improve during this reporting year, both for physical loans and for our comprehensive digital offer, which includes e-newspapers and magazines, e-books and e-audio books .</p>						

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHC001M	Average number of calendar days to process new claims for housing benefit and council tax reduction	13.00	20.00	22.00	 13.00	
<p>Performance has reduced since Q4 however this is expected as workloads are always higher in April due to an increase in new applications following the issuing of annual council tax bills and annual increases to rents. Also the Assessment Officer Team are carrying a vacancy.</p>						
CHC002M	Average number of calendar days to process change in circumstances for housing benefit and council tax reduction	3.00	8.00	6.00	 3.00	
<p>Performance has improved by 4 days since Quarter 1, maintaining the same level for Quarter 3 and Quarter 4. Our overall performance for the year 2023/24 is 4 days which is within target. The improvement in performance is a result of recruitment in Quarter 1. The Assessment Officer Team were fully staffed until January 2024, however, performance may begin to reduce during Quarter 1 of 2024/25 due to current vacancies.</p>						
CHC003M	Total spend of Discretionary Housing Payments (%)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	 100.0%	
<p>The Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) funds have been fully committed and spent. The level of funding in 2024/25 from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) remains the same as 2023/24. This continues to be a challenge for 2024/25.</p>						






Child Poverty

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAU013T	Provide free access to Fit, Fed and Read sessions during summer holidays providing activities, sport, reading, crafts and meals (subject to external grant funding)	100%	✓	The 2023 Fit, Fed and Read community programme took place in nine locations across the county during a five-week period in July and August 2023. It is a multi-agency scheme with a wide range of public sector partners tackling issues such as health inequalities, food poverty, community cohesion, literacy levels, and physical and mental well-being. 5,040 families and young people attended the 39 sessions held over the five weeks. Over 50% of participants attended four or more sessions. The scheme made a significant contribution in supporting 3,000 children to sign up to the annual Summer Reading Challenge. 110 volunteering hours were recorded by our young ambassadors.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAU014T	Provide free physical activity and well-being sessions within the summer School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) (subject to external grant funding)	100%	✓	Delivered in 13 schools for the 2023 Food and Fun, offering a minimum of 1 session a week with the option for the coordinators to book extra sessions for the 3 weeks of delivery. A range of sports and physical activities have been played during the 3 weeks, all lead by Aura Sport Development staff. A total of 1093 participants attended the 53 sessions within the program. this will continue Funding depending.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY003T	Encourage further take-up of the free school breakfast for year 7 pupils eligible for free school meals	100%	✓	All secondary schools were able to participate in the pilot project by the summer term of 2023. This national pilot ended in July 2023. Welsh Government are currently evaluating the findings from this.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY040T	Contribute to the network of school uniform exchanges across the county supported by enhanced web and social media promotion	100%	✓	A baseline survey was completed with schools during the summer term. This enabled us to establish a full understanding of uniform exchange schemes across the county and help us plan our future support strategy more effectively. Bespoke support was focused at secondary schools during the summer term. The Council website is currently being refreshed to provide further information regarding the uniform exchange schemes.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY043T	Continue to ensure children and young people have access to transitional play/youth activity to support succession from play opportunities into youth clubs to further support young people's development'	100%	✓	Areas of priority have been Leeswood and Sealand, with planning taking place in the Holywell area. The clubs are viewed as exit routes from play provision and a bridge into youth provision, such as a youth club.

Child Poverty

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU022M	Number of children attending Fit, Fed and Read sessions during school holidays	5,040.00	5,000.00		<p>5,040.00</p>	
<p>5,040 children attended with 3,000 meals distributed and 39 sessions delivered.</p>						
CEY001M	Total number of children pre-registered for Summer Play Scheme	3,681.00	2,500.00	3,970.00	<p>3,681.00</p>	
<p>In 2023, Flintshire Play Development's Summer Playschemes saw remarkable success, attracting 3,681 children across 56 county sites, total attendance 11,907, ensuring their right to play in safe, supervised settings. Our streamlined digital registration system significantly improved data collection and personal information handling. Additionally, Welsh language promotion at all sites was effective, with children actively engaging with Welsh resources and using Welsh incidentally.</p>						
CEY002M	Total number of children pre-registered for community and school play sessions/support	1,854.00	300.00	353.00	<p>1,854.00</p>	
<p>Our community provisions have thrived, welcoming over 1,854 children from October 2023 to March 2024. This momentum propels us to expand our offerings, ensuring year-round play opportunities for children.</p>						

Food Poverty

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAU013T	Provide free access to Fit, Fed and Read sessions during summer holidays providing activities, sport, reading, crafts and meals (subject to external grant funding)	100%		The 2023 Fit, Fed and Read community programme took place in nine locations across the county during a five-week period in July and August 2023. It is a multi-agency scheme with a wide range of public sector partners tackling issues such as health inequalities, food poverty, community cohesion, literacy levels, and physical and mental well-being. 5,040 families and young people attended the 39 sessions held over the five weeks. Over 50% of participants attended four or more sessions. The scheme made a significant contribution in supporting 3,000 children to sign up to the annual Summer Reading Challenge. 110 volunteering hours were recorded by our young ambassadors.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC005T	Introduce and develop a 'Well Fed at Home' service	100%		The 'Well Fed at Home' service launched in April 2023 and as this is a new initiative previous figures are not available to use as a base line. However, the service is proving popular. In Quarter 4, Well Fed had over 200 customers ordering meals from the Well Fed food hubs within the community led hubs and mobile shop.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC006T	Continue to develop delivery of a "Hospital to Home" meals service	10%		The 'Hospital to Home' 12-week pilot launched on 2nd January 2024, providing free Well Fed meals and fresh provisions to residents being discharged from the three local community hospitals (Mold, Holywell and Deeside). Over the 12 weeks, 3 referrals were received. The pilot has been extended for a further 12 weeks continuing to work collaboratively with the community hospitals and the Care and Repair Team. If there is no increase in take up over the next 6 weeks, the widening of the pilot will be considered to Wrexham Maelor hospital.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC007T	Continue to roll out a transported and delivered food service "Mobile Meals" to those who are vulnerable	100%		The 'Well Fed at Home' service launched in April 2023, with the 'Mobile Meals' forming part of this initiative. As this is a new initiative previous figures are not available to use as a base line. However, the service is proving popular. In Quarter 4, Well Fed had over 200 customers ordering meals from the Well Fed food hubs within the community led hubs and mobile shop.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC035T	Further develop the warm spaces initiative in partnership with organisations and third sector	90%		Since the Croeso Cynnes 'Warm Welcome' project ceased in March 2023, 24 of the community led hubs have remained open, providing a warm welcome whatever the weather. The Council continue to work closely with the hubs to understand the resident's needs, supporting them with funding applications to remain open for their community.

Food Poverty



Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHC005M	Number of residents enrolled in the "Mobile Meals" service	270.00	40.00	30.00		

The 'Mobile Meals' service continues to grow as part of the new Well Fed initiative, with over 200 customers purchasing the subsidized meals.

CHC006M	Number of residents supported by the "Hospital to Home" meals service	3.00	150.00	5.00		
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The discharging team in hospitals is aware of our hospital to home initiative, where we can provide a free food parcel for all patients who are being discharged if they require one. We are also working with the care and repair team as they support discharged patients to ensure they also have the opportunity to access the service. As with any new initiative, it takes time to bed-in therefore take up has been slow. Due to this we have extended the initiative for a further 12 weeks to maximise the take up and reminded the discharge team and care and repair to encourage their patients to accept the support. We have received great feedback from the residents we have supported so far, confirming it was a relief to know they had food to eat when they arrived home and they would be happy to pay for the service if they ever needed to in the future.




Fuel Poverty

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE001T	Reduce the risk of fuel poverty for residents by increasing the energy efficiency of homes	100%		1,203 measures delivered against a target of 1,200. The measure is made up of various component parts delivered by the Domestic Energy Efficiency Project team. Included within the statistic are works carried out on private and public housing stock for renewable heating, gas central heating, loft and cavity insulation and solar photo voltaic installations.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE002T	Engage, support and refer vulnerable households to reduce fuel poverty and improve health and well-being	100%		508 households were supported against a target of 200. Measure consists of work carried out on post installation work as well as energy advice, help and guidance for the general public to assist with fuel poverty and the current energy crisis in general.

Fuel Poverty

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE001M	Total number of households receiving energy efficiency improvements	1,203.00	1,200.00	1,245.00	 1,203.00	
<p>This measure is made up of various component parts delivered by the Domestic Energy Efficiency Project team. Included within the statistic are work carried out on private and public housing stock for renewable heating, gas central heating, loft and cavity insulation and solar photo voltaic installations.</p>						
CPE014M	Providing advice and signposting support to vulnerable households	508.00	100.00		 508.00	
<p>Measure consists of energy advice, help and guidance for the general public to assist with fuel poverty and the current energy crisis in general.</p>						

Digital Poverty

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAU015T	Provide free access to PCs and internet	100%		Aura's libraries provide access to a variety of digital stations, including standalone PCs, laptops and tablets available for loan or for use on site. We also provide networked internet access , Wi-Fi access at all our sites (including our mobile library) and help people to access the internet in their own homes through our Digital Loan Scheme.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CGV007T	Support people to use digital technology through Digital Workforce Volunteers	100%		Supported by workforce volunteers, Digital Surgeries launched in March 2024. A schedule of surgeries are planned throughout 2024 in different towns across the county.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CGV008T	Continue to provide free of charge public access to the internet at Flintshire Connects Centres	100%		Free of charge access to the internet is available at all Flintshire Connects Centres.

Digital Poverty

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU024M	Number of digital stations available across the libraries' network	145.00	145.00			
<p>Aura's libraries provide access to a variety of digital stations, including standalone PCs, laptops and tablets available for loan or for use on site. We also provide networked internet access , Wi-Fi access at all our sites (including our mobile library) and help people to access the internet in their own homes through our Digital Loan Scheme.</p>						
CGV006M	Number of Digital Surgeries held at Connects Centres	4.00	3.00			
<p>Digital Surgeries launched in Holywell Connects in March 2024. Feedback from those visiting the surgeries has been positive and plans are progressing to extend Digital Surgeries across the county in 2024.</p>						
CGV007M	Number of Sim Cards issued to people in low income households	104.00	15.00			
<p>Flintshire Connects continue to offer free data and SIM cards across all Centres in partnership with The Good Things Foundation.</p>						

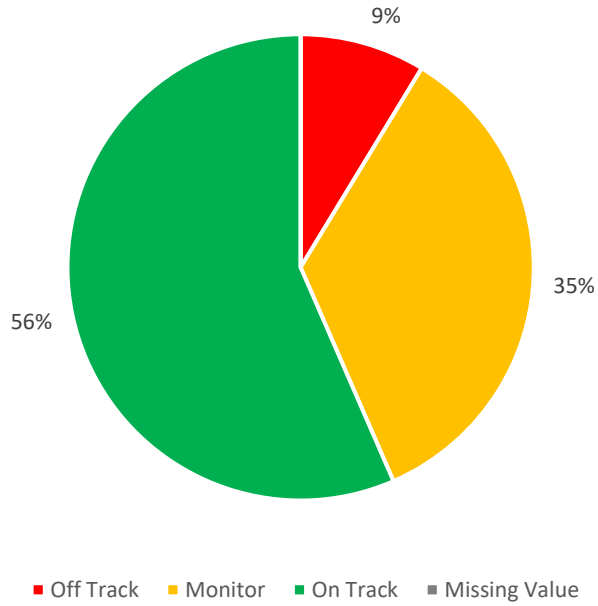
Affordable and Accessible Housing

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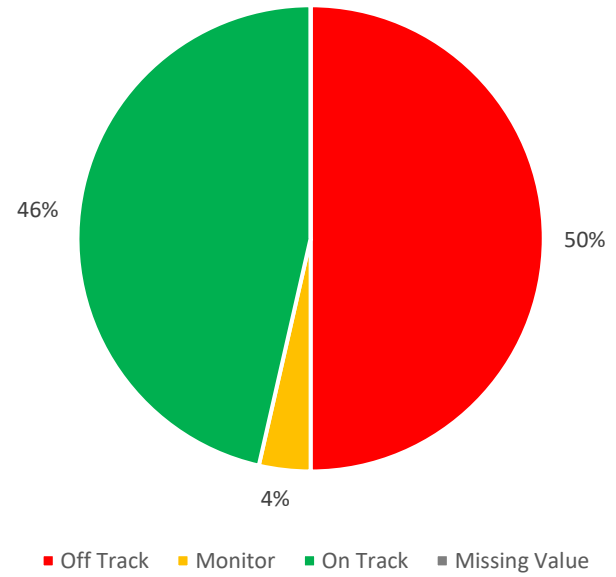
Well-being Objective: Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities

Affordable and Accessible Housing Overall Performance




Affordable and Accessible Housing - Action RAG Status







Affordable and Accessible Housing - Measure RAG Status



Housing Support and Homeless Prevention

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC008T	Promote housing support and homeless prevention services with our residents and partners	100%		<p>Work continues to promote services through the development of website content and active engagement with residents electronically, which for many is a preferred method of sourcing information. Additionally, officers regularly attend local activities to promote services and support offers through groups such as local Community Hubs, Children's Services Forum and Citizen Advice Bureau frontline worker events and the Flintshire Support Network (FSN). Due to increased service demand progress against this action has been slower than intended within the last quarter.</p> <p>The Ending Homelessness Board has established a Communication and Workforce delivery group, now meeting on a regular basis. Critical friend activities have been undertaken by delivery group members to review website content available on the Council's website. Resident involvement activities are also scheduled with residents from the homeless hub to provide further feedback. Officers continue to engage with local partners to promote services and network to raise the profile of Housing Support and Homelessness and ensure Homelessness is everyone's business.</p> <p>Work continues to review and enhance the current suite of leaflets and letters linked to housing support and homelessness and the Council will seek to engage residents again for insight and ensure these resources meet their needs.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC009T	Commission a wide range of housing related support that meets the needs of the people of Flintshire	60%		<p>A tender was published for a Complex Needs Supported Housing Project Age 25+ but all bids received were unsuccessful. The Council are revisiting the specification, costings etc., so the tender can be re-published. The Council have recently finalised the Families Floating Support tender and in the next few weeks this tender will be published. The Housing Support Gateway allocation has recently received a 7.8% increase, with the Welsh Government Minister providing clear expectation that this should be used to address pay pressures in the first instance and assist commissioners in supporting providers to deliver on our broader commitment to Fair Work and the Real Living Wage.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC010T	Ensure a multi-agency partnership approach to homeless prevention and develop a culture where homelessness is "everyone's business"	100%		<p>The Ending Homelessness Board has been established with full terms of reference and officer membership confirmed. The first meeting was held in December 2023. There is representation from across the Council with each portfolio nominating a representative to sit on the Board. The following delivery groups have now met 1) Communications and Workforce Development 2) Homeless Pressures Accommodation Supply 3) Partnerships, Processes and Protocols and adopted clear terms of reference and workplans which link to the action plan for rapid rehousing. Engagement with internal partners has been positive, however, more work on rapid rehousing is required with external partners as part of the rapid rehousing transition plan. A recent review of the Council's homelessness services by Audit Wales identified particular strengths in regard to partnership working with significant praise from partners and also in regard to the Council's collaborative nature of housing support and homelessness services, as reported to Cabinet in March 2024.</p>

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC011T	Ensure when homelessness does occur it is rare, brief and non-recurring	100%		Housing Support and Homelessness services continue to explore every opportunity to prevent homelessness and reduce escalations in housing hardships that may lead to risk of homelessness. As reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in March 2024, it is clear that a high percentage (42%) of all homeless presentations resulting in access to emergency housing were 'homeless on the day' cases. This means prevention activity within the statutory framework of 56 day prevention duties are a limited tool available to the Homeless Team. Further work is required through the partnership's protocols and problem case delivery group and the soon to be established data insight delivery group, to understand whether those households presenting on the day are known to wider partner services who could assist in identifying risk factors and assist people to access services earlier. This would support the aspiration for homelessness to rare. Barriers to achieving shorter periods of homelessness (brief) are significantly hindered through a lack of 1 bed general needs housing, however, the rapid rehousing transition plan seeks to address the issue of supply and access to suitable housing for those who experience homelessness. We continue to offer follow on support for those people who exit homelessness to ensure tenancy sustainability and reduce the likelihood of repeat occurrences of homelessness. Recent announcement by Welsh Government of a 7.8% uplift in Housing Support Grant is welcomed and will help sustain and respond to increased demand for housing support and prevention services.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC036T	Identify a site for a young person's homeless hub offering accommodation and support services	25%		We are currently revisiting and refining the details of the brief and developing a revised specification with colleagues from Youth Justice, Homelessness, Youth Services and Social Services for a 'Hub' approach. In addition, visits to existing hubs in other authorities are being arranged to understand the best designs and service configurations.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC037T	Progress build project for the new homeless hub accommodation.	50%		After revisiting and refining the detail of the brief a feasible design has now been received from the architects. We have informally consulted with Planning Service and a positive response to the proposals has been received. Discussions have also taken place with the Welsh Government in relation to pre-application technical advice and funding.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC038T	Deliver our Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan	100%		The Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan has now been submitted to Welsh Government and will be made available on the Council's website for public access and visibility in Quarter 1, 2024/5. The Ending Homelessness Board has been established and will oversee delivery of the Transition Plan. Delivery Groups have been established to take forward specific actions within the Transition Plan and report progress to the Board. The move to Rapid Rehousing is a long-term change programme. To support this, we will be recruiting a Rapid Rehousing Strategic Co-Ordinator as part of the Housing and Prevention Service restructure to support delivery and co-ordination of the Plan.

Housing Support and Homeless Prevention

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHC007M	Number of presentations to the homeless service	2,006.00	1,400.00	1,598.00		
<p>Presentations to the homeless service continue to be significant. Over the year a total of 2,006 presentations were made in 2023/24. Of those households who were identified as at risk of homelessness or homeless and approached the Council for support a total of 1,276 have progressed to a Homeless Assessment (Section 62 Housing (Wales) Act 2014) in the year. Those who did not progress were either offered advice and assistance, as they were not at risk of homelessness, ineligible, or further contact was not made when officers were seeking to undertake the Homeless Assessment. In the previous year, a total of 911 Section 62 Homeless Assessments were completed. This shows a 40% increase in demand for service.</p>						
CHC008M	Percentage of successful prevention outcomes for homelessness under Housing (Wales) Act 2014	61.00%	70.00%	59.25%		
<p>A total of 403 prevention outcomes have been recorded during the year. 234 of these were positive prevention outcomes where these households were supported to avoid homelessness. Those who did become homeless progressed onto other duties and were assisted accordingly by the Homeless Team under statutory duties. It is noted that fewer prevention duties have been accepted in the final quarter of the year. This highlights the challenge of operating a homeless prevention service, within current legislative framework, when high numbers of people present as homeless on the day and often fulfilling a priority need category triggering additional duties for the Council around homeless accommodation.</p>						
CHC009M	Percentage of successful relief outcomes for homelessness under Housing (Wales) Act 2014	40.00%	45.00%	44.26%		
<p>A total of 686 relief outcomes were recorded during the year. 264 of these were positive relief outcomes and these households were supported to exit homelessness. When breaking down the successful outcomes across reporting periods there were 60 positive outcomes in Quarter 1, 72 in Quarter 2, 83 in Quarter 3 and 48 in Quarter 4. This demonstrates significant challenges relating to homelessness and housing market conditions with fewer opportunities to move people on and help them exit homelessness.</p>						

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHC010M	Number of households accommodated by the Council under Housing (Wales) Act 2014 homeless duties	282.00	150.00	184.00	<p>150</p> <p>282.00</p>	

At the end of the reporting period, there were 282 households (363 people) in interim housing. This is a significant increase over the course of the year and reflects the ongoing pressures within the homelessness system. Annual target was to sustain a similar level of households in homeless accommodation. Whilst the number of homeless households accommodated by the Council is a concern this is not unique to Flintshire. The breakdown of household types is as follows; Single Male 199, Single Female 40, Families 124, Rough sleeping figures remain low (1).

CHC011M	Average length of stay (days) for those households in interim homeless accommodation under Housing (Wales) Act 2014	202.00	130.00	95.28	<p>130</p> <p>202.00</p>	
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Pressures on homeless accommodation continue to be significant with high numbers of households assisted with accommodation due to homelessness. There are significant barriers to move on from homeless accommodation, due to lack of available social housing (of the right types in the right places) and a difficult private rented sector. This means that people are remaining in homeless accommodation longer. The homeless cohort average stay was 151.33 days in Quarter 4. When broken down further by household type, singles and couples without children are reported as 206 day average with families reported as 177 days average. The total average days for the full year is 202 days.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHC012M	Number of referrals received through the Housing Support Gateway	2,007.00	1,400.00	1,447.00		

The Housing Support Grant Gateway (HSG) serves as our central referral system, facilitating access to essential support services. A total of 559 referrals were recorded during Quarter 4. For the full financial year, the HSG Gateway received 2,007 referrals. Referrals have increased by 7% compared to Quarter 4 of the previous financial year. Referrals increased by 12% from the preceding quarter (Quarter 3), indicating a notable increase in demand for support services. This is in line with trends from previous years.

Significant efforts have been made to promote our support services, resulting in heightened awareness and increased referral rates. Continuous engagement in promotional and outreach activities has contributed to the continued growth in referral numbers.

A recent review of the Housing & Prevention Service website hub has recently taken place to understand user experience and accessibility. A service user feedback session was conducted to gain insights into the preferences and needs of our target audience. Emphasis was placed on understanding how users navigate the website to identify areas for improvement. Valuable feedback obtained from the session will inform strategic enhancements to the website, ensuring it remains user-centric and responsive to the needs of our stakeholders.

The HSG Gateway continues to play an important role in connecting individuals with essential support services. The significant increase in referrals is evidence of the effectiveness of our promotional efforts and ongoing initiatives. Moving forward, we remain committed to optimizing service accessibility and encouraging feedback to drive continuous improvement to better serve our community.

Housing Needs and Housing Options

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC016T	Develop self-service approaches that enable people to identify their own housing options through online support	60%	●	<p>The website is currently under development to include additional self-service housing options advice. Developments will include a waiting time calculator for being rehoused into Social Housing and an eligibility tool.</p> <p>Applicants were recently invited to take part in a customer satisfaction survey. Respondents were asked to identify what services or functions they would like to access digitally. The responses included having the ability to notify the Council of changes in circumstances, complete reviews etc. This data will help inform future enhancements to our current online services.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC039T	Create a Single Point of Access service for housing help and advice	60%	●	<p>The dedicated Homeless Duty Officer pilot findings are still being analysed and will help inform future plans for service delivery. Any changes to the delivery of the Homeless Prevention Service will be embedded as part of the pending restructure.</p>

Housing Needs and Housing Options

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHC013M	Number of applicants on the Common Housing Register	2,067.00	2,400.00	2,424.00	<p>2,067.00</p>	
<p>At the end of Quarter 4 there were 2,067 live applications for Social Housing. The decrease in live applications can be linked to the Housing Register Team now only being responsible for Flintshire's register providing capacity to undertake data cleansing, dealing with cancellations and suspensions in a more timely manner. However, the demand for Social Housing remains high compared to the properties that become available each year.</p>						
CHC014M	Customer satisfaction data for the Housing Register Service (%)	40.00%	40.00%	52.27%	<p>40.00%</p>	
<p>In January all applicants were approached and invited to take part in the survey. 210 responses were received. When first approaching the Housing Register Service, 50% of applicants stated the service received was Excellent or Good. It is however noted in the following table that satisfaction drops when later asked to rate the 'Overall satisfaction with the Housing Register Service' where the response of Excellent or Good drops to 32%. This likely accounts for the fact that: 1) Residents are experiencing increased waiting times for social housing which creates general dissatisfaction with the services and assistance offered. 2) Changes being implemented to enable more digital access are yet to be fully rolled out.</p>						
CHC015M	Number of applicants rehoused via SARTH by All Housing Partners	539.00	610.00	534.00	<p>539.00</p>	
<p>There has been a total of 539 applicants rehoused via the Housing Register this year as follows; 62 were rehoused into Clwyd Alyn properties, Flintshire County Council 422, Grwp Cynefin 11, Wales and West 44. In Quarter 4 of this year the breakdown was as follows; Clwyd Alyn 16, Flintshire County Council 105, Grwp Cynefin 3, Wales and West 13 which totals 137 moves.</p>						

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHC016M	Number of applicants rehoused via SARTH by Flintshire County Council	422.00	440.00	366.00		
<p>This year 422 applicants moved into Flintshire County Council properties of which 105 applicants moved in Quarter 4.</p>						
CHC017M	Number of households rehoused with significant adaptations requirements	9.00	10.00	15.00		
<p>This measure seeks to highlight the work of the specialist housing panel and the rehousing of households with significant property adaptation requirements. Due to the complexity of some applicant's property need, the traditional route of the Common Housing Register and existing stock would not routinely meet the needs of this cohort of residents. The specialist housing panel therefore seeks to focus on those residents who without creative and innovative housing solutions, would fail to have their housing needs met. At the end of the reporting year there are 53 live applicants being reviewed by the specialist housing panel and 9 households have been successfully rehoused in the last 12 months. A further 6 households are under offer and awaiting works to be completed.</p>						

Social Housing

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC019T <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); position: absolute; left: -40px; top: 50%; font-weight: bold;">Page 181</div>	Work with housing association partners to build new social housing properties and additional affordable properties	90%	●	<p>There have been delays to the Programme, however, the Council continue to work closely with our Registered Social Landlords (RSL) partners to mitigate the various challenges and delays. These include the increase in the cost of living, which led to Contractors entering administration and withdrawing from contracts. Contractor insolvency and repricing/funding pressures impacted on start on site for Northern Gateway (100 units), Mynydd Isa (56 units) and completion of Station Road (8 units) and Buckley (9 units).</p> <p>Alternative contractors have been procured for Northern Gateway (100 units). Mynydd Isa (56 units) and are now on site and in contract. Expected contract full completion date for Mynydd Isa is set for November 2025, with a phased handover approach, with Phase 1 being available January / February 2025.</p> <p>In relation to Buckley (9 homes), the RSL obtained Board approval on the February 2024, for the revised contract and completion is now expected June 2024.</p> <p>Build started on Station Road (8 units) in August 2023, however as the original contractor went into administration an alternative contractor had to be sourced to complete this development and expected completion is October 2024.</p> <p>Additional Social Housing Grant funding was required to complete both Land at Buckley (9 units) and Station Road (8 units).</p> <p>An outline planning application for another scheme (62 homes) has faced delays and the RSL resubmitted the outline planning application, which was agreed in March 2024.</p> <p>Regular meetings continue to be held with the RSL's to try and identify any potential risks and delays to schemes in order to try and ensure that, where possible, mitigation and remedial action/s may be taken.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC020T	Increase the Council's housing portfolio by building social housing properties and affordable properties for North East Wales (NEW) Homes	0%	▲	<p>There has been slippage in Quarter 4 due to legal issues around Section 106 relating to six properties and completion delays affecting seven properties via Redrow. The Council had expected to have completed these within this financial year, however, it is anticipated these 13 properties will complete next financial year (2024/25).</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC021T	Ensure the Council's housing stock maintains the current Welsh Housing Quality Standards	50%	★	<p>The Council continues to target properties that do not meet the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) 65 rating through various improvement works. This includes, installation of efficient central heating systems, renewable technology (Solar Panels and Air Source Heating) and extensive external refurbishment contracts comprising of new windows, doors, loft insulation and roof coverings, the energy performance and thermal efficiency of our properties is addressed and improved. Our current average SAP rating for our entire stock is 73.5%.</p> <p>The Council are currently moving towards incorporating our decarbonisation measures into our investment programmes of refurbishment works to our tenanted homes.</p> <p>The Council are also currently working towards drafting a new compliance policy in relation to the new Welsh Housing Quality Standards 2023, which will be incorporated into our investment programmes, along with our standards and specifications of works.</p>

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC022T	Finalise the plan for the de-carbonisation of Council homes in line with Welsh Government guidance to ensure their thermal efficiency is optimised and the cost of heating homes are minimised	50%	★	The Decarbonisation Strategy is currently in draft form and the service is currently reviewing the associated work programmes and plans. The Strategy will be finalised, alongside the programme of works, over the next three years in line with Welsh Government deadlines. The delayed launch of Welsh Housing Quality Standards 2023 has impacted upon timescales. Contract holder and Member workshops will be scheduled, and updates conveyed through Programme Board, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and management team meetings.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC023T	Work with residents to ensure our communities are well managed, safe, and sustainable places to live	80%	★	Staff service improvement groups are working through priorities as identified through the last Survey of Tenants and Residents (STAR) to see where improvements can be made.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC024T	Support our tenants to access technology and create sustainable digital communities	10%	▲	The original business plan requesting Wi-Fi to be installed in the HRA community centres was declined by the Digital Strategy Programme Board, therefore an updated business case is being developed and will be presented to the board in the future.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC026T	In partnership with Denbighshire Council, create a new Dynamic Procurement System in order to ensure CPR's are met and provide a wider opportunity for tendering Disabled Adaptation projects	50%	●	This project has had numerous delays due to workforce absences and recruitment. In addition, due to a number of other framework agreements expiring at the end of March 2024, resources have been reallocated to focusing on these.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC040T	Ensure that any new social housing stock meets Development Quality Requirements (DQR) standard energy efficiency A rating	100%	★	Welsh Government published the refreshed Welsh Housing Quality (WHQS) standards on the 24th October 2023. All properties will be designed to meet the updated standards and Development Quality Requirements (DQR).

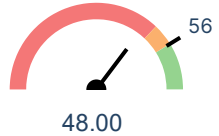
Social Housing

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHC018M	Number of Council Homes under construction	0.00	85.00	38.00		
<p>Schemes have slipped in the programme and are currently at Welsh Government Technical Approval stage before the planning applications can be submitted with a view to being on site in the last quarter of 2024/25. Mostyn (30) and homeless provision at Duke Street and Park Lane (6) were technically on site at the start of April 2023 i.e. this financial year and are now included in the number of Council Homes completed figure. The Council anticipate that by Quarter 4 next financial year, we should be on site with 55 homes. These include Wirral View (4), Ffordd Llanarth (20), Station Road (4), Alyn Road (4), Borough Grove (4), School Lane (3) and Altami Road (16).</p>						
CHC019M	Number of Council Homes completed	50.00	22.00	0.00		
<p>Whilst the figures show that we are ahead of programme this year with the number of homes completed, this is a result of slippage from the schemes included in the last financial year's figures. This figure includes Mostyn (30) and homeless provision at Duke Street and Park Lane (6) which were technically on site at the start of April 2023 i.e., this financial year and are now included in the number of Council Homes completed figure. This figure also includes acquisitions where Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP) funding has been utilised.</p>						
CHC020M	Number of Affordable Homes under construction via NEW Homes	13.00	0.00	6.00		
<p>There has been slippage in Quarter 4 due to some legal issues around Section 106, relating to six properties and completion delays relating to seven properties, which was expected to have been completed this financial year. However, we anticipate that these 13 properties will complete in the next financial year (2024/25).</p>						

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Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHC021M	Number of Affordable Homes completed via NEW Homes.	0.00	30.00	0.00		
<p>There has been slippage in Quarter 4 due to some legal issues around Section 106 details relating to six properties and completion delays relating to seven properties via Redrow which we expected to have been completed this financial year. However, we anticipate that these 13 properties will complete early next financial year.</p>						
CHC022M	Number of Residential Social Landlords (RSL's) homes under construction	173.00	96.00	22.00		
<p>This figure includes schemes, which have been delayed and also those where additional funding has been provided by the Welsh Government. This includes Buckley (9) and Station Road (8), 100 units at Northern Gateway and 56 units at Mynydd Isa.</p>						
CHC023M	Number of Residential Social Landlord (RSL's) homes completed	30.00	33.00	43.00		
<p>We were anticipating that a three bed additional needs scheme would have completed by the end of March 2024. However, due to delays in acquiring the property, completion is due end of April 2024.</p>						
CHC026M	Total number of Small Disabled Adaptations completed	964.00	320.00	987.00		
<p>The referrals received have been higher than expected for a second year and therefore, there are plans to review this and gain understanding of the reasons why and the target to be reviewed in the process.</p>						

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHC027M	Average number of days to complete a Small Disabled adaptation	14.00	28.00	7.00		
<p>The Care and Repair team undertake all minor works and are currently meeting Welsh Government targets. These are small adaptations, which are classed as priority. They are to prevent risk, hospital admissions, and include fitting grab rails and handrails within properties.</p>						
CHC034M	Total number of Disabled Adaptations completed	1,050.00	428.00	1,097.00		
<p>We have far surpassed the original target for this year and this has been the result of an increase in the number of minor adaptations referrals received and completed.</p>						
CHC036M	100% spend of Welsh Government funding for the PDP	96.00%	100.00%			
<p>There were 26 schemes that were originally prioritised for inclusion within the main programme. Although not all of these schemes were able to be progressed for various reasons circa 96% of the allocated Social Housing Grant of £13.3m has been drawn down this financial year. In addition, the Council also submitted an expression of interest form in relation to Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP) funding in 2023/24. The Council were initially awarded circa £1.6m. Subsequently, at the end of 2023, the Council applied for additional TACP funding of around £1.1m, which was agreed by the Welsh Government and we anticipate that our total allocation of TACP in 2023/24 will be at least £3m.</p>						

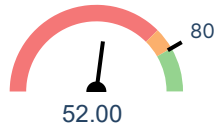

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHC037M	Increase in stock capacity correlates with demand profile	48.00	56.00		 48.00	
<p>Over 70% of the programme for development consists of one or two bedroom units. The housing prospectus has identified a higher percentage of housing is required for single person households under retirement age and for smaller households. There is an historic imbalance in the proportion of housing available to this group, with most social housing consisting of two or three bedroom houses for families and also sheltered housing for people over the age of 55. Of the 80 additional units provided 60% consist of 1 and 2 bed units.</p>						
CHC038M	Maintain the Welsh Housing Quality Standard to all Flintshire County Council stock (%)	100.00%	100.00%		 100.00%	
<p>The Council continue to maintain the existing Welsh Housing Quality Standards whilst implementing the new standards accordingly. The new standards will be measured from April 2024 onwards.</p>						
CHC039M	Total number of Medium Disabled Adaptations completed	77.00	100.00		 77.00	
<p>Unfortunately, due to staff absences within the team, jobs were not progressed as quickly as usual within Quarter 4. This target was set using an average of last years completed cases, however it is noted that is it difficult to compare data as the number of completed cases varies every year. The number of adaptations is dependent upon the number of referrals received from Social Services. The number of referrals the Council will receive yearly from the public is unknown.</p>						

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHC042M	Average number of days to complete a Medium Disabled adaptation	136.00	122.00			
<p>Unfortunately, the target timescales for medium jobs has not been met, there have been delays on some cases which have been caused by unforeseen events. The Christmas period and recent spells of bad weather has also created delays and impacted on the number of jobs completed in Quarter 4. Medium sized adaptations can be wide in scope and therefore, can take a range of days to complete.</p>						
CHC043M	Total number of Large Disabled Adaptations completed	9.00	8.00			
<p>Having had staffing shortages in 2021/22, meant that only four large adaptations in 2022/23 were completed. All vacancies were filled successfully and we have exceeded our target for 2023/24.</p>						
CHC044M	Average number of days to complete a Large Disabled adaptation	508.00	456.00			
<p>All outstanding legacy cases have now been completed, however they have still had an adverse effect on the current target, although there has been improvement in Quarter 4. Although meeting this target can be difficult when cases are complex, the aspiration for next year is to meet the target, especially as all outstanding legacy cases have been completed.</p>						

Private Rented Sector

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC028T	Engage with private sector tenants, giving them a voice, and responding to their needs	100%	★	The Council continue to work with The Pension Advisory Cymru and North Wales Local Authority partners to increase resident engagement in the private rented sector. This is proving challenging but efforts continue and communication and awareness activities are ongoing. With the recent changes to Local Housing Allowance (LHA) Rates and uplifts due 1st April 2024 the group have focused on responding to questions about the new LHA Rates. A further factsheet has been produced and released in March 2024 about this issue.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC029T	Work in partnership with landlords and private sector agents to better understand their needs	90%	●	Work continues with regards to housing support and advice for landlords when they have issues with residents. This is positive prevention activity to avoid housing problems and risks of homelessness. Where landlords are selling properties we now have a purchase offer and an established process in partnership with Housing Strategy and Empty Homes Teams. This is in direct response to landlords telling us they are selling up and leaving the market. The action is not 100% complete as the Council had intended to have more Landlord Forums in partnership with the National Residents Landlords Association but have not been able to complete these Forum Meetings as initially intended.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHC044T	Create a Private Sector Housing Support Team	100%	✔	In terms of the actions that the service can take to deliver this task, we are 100% complete. The Private Sector function for Housing & Prevention Service will sit within the Homefinder Team (remit housing advice, housing register, homeless accommodation, landlord support). All jobs have been costed into the restructure and currently undergoing job evaluation. Confirmation has been received that Housing and Prevention Service is a priority for job evaluation and restructure.

Private Rented Sector

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHC040M	Landlords engaged through Flintshire Landlord Forum	52.00	80.00			

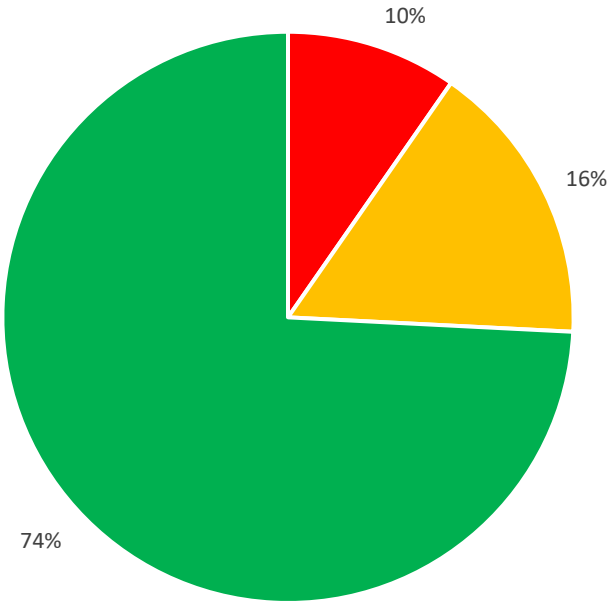
The Landlord Forum has not met as frequently as we had hoped this year. Another online forum was held in January 2024 and 27 landlords and agents registered. The Forum agenda included sector specific updates from the National Residential Landlords Association (NRLA); an overview of landlord support services offered by the Council and promotion of the Housing Support Gateway; and support available for contract holders. Council staff have also supported colleagues in the NRLA at regional events and coffee and catch-up sessions hosted by the NRLA.

Green Society and Environment

Well-being Objective: Limiting and enhancing the impact of the Council's services on the natural environment and supporting the wider communities of Flintshire to reduce their own carbon footprint.

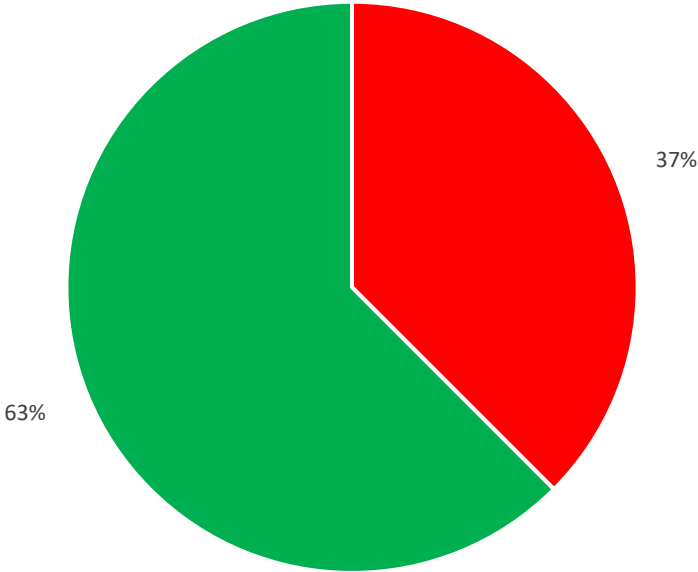
Green Society and Environment Overall Performance

Green Society and Environment - Action RAG Status





Off Track Monitor On Track

Green Society and Environment - Measure RAG Status

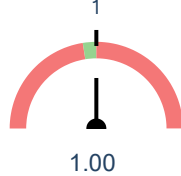
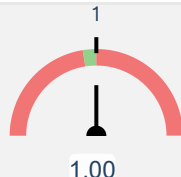
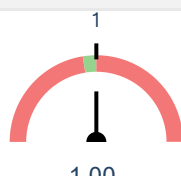


Off Track On Track

Phosphates Mitigation

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
 CPE044T	Produce guidance on viable and deliverable options to mitigate the impact of phosphates from new development on Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) protected rivers	100%		This action is no longer relevant nor required. The adoption of the Local Development Plan (LDP) was premised on the basis of certain allocated housing sites having to demonstrate nutrient neutrality in terms of not harming the Bala Lake and River Dee Special Area of Conservation (SAC) through the release of phosphates from waste water treatment works into the River Alyn. Work commenced on the feasibility of developing wetlands alongside the waste water treatment works at Mold, Buckley and Hope, which would have required developer financial contributions as part of a process to have been set out in Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). However, the release of updated and unchanged permits for the three waste water treatment works by Natural Resources Wales and the availability of 'headroom' (difference between the level of phosphate permitted by the permit and the actual level of phosphate being released by the treatment works) evidenced by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water has provided a window within which to deliver LDP allocations. However, in the longer term it will be necessary to revisit mitigation measures and the production of SPG to address phosphates and river quality and this is being overseen by the Dee Nutrient Management Board.

Phosphates Mitigation

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE015M	Completion of Flintshire County Council's Wetlands Feasibility Study Report	1.00	1.00		 <p>1.00</p>	
<p>The need for a Wetlands Feasibility Report has been overtaken by headroom capacity at Mold, Buckley and Hope waste water treatment works. Housing sites in the Local Development Plan (LDP) can be accommodated by the existing waste water treatment works, without harm to the Bala Lake and R. Dee Special Area of Conservation.</p>						
CPE016M	Completion of Review of Permits at wastewater treatment works by NRW	1.00	1.00		 <p>1.00</p>	
<p>In conjunction with Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have issued revised permits for Mold, Buckley and Hope waste water treatment works. 'Headroom' exists to accommodate the waste arising from Local Development Plan (LDP) allocations without harm to the Bala Lake and R. Dee Special Area of Conservation.</p>						
CPE017M	Upgrade of Mold and Buckley wastewater treatment works by DCWW	1.00	1.00		 <p>1.00</p>	
<p>Mold, Buckley and Hope waste water treatment works are operating well below the phosphate limits specified in the revised Natural Resources Wales permits. There is no need at present for investment at these three facilities in terms of dealing with phosphates.</p>						

Net Zero Carbon Council

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE009T	Review the procurement policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from suppliers	100%	✔	100% complete. The revised Procurement Strategy for 2024/2027, which includes a key theme on climate change, was formally adopted by Cabinet in March 2024.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE010T	Develop plans towards net zero carbon for our assets in line with Welsh Government guidance	100%	✔	The Council's investment in the RE:fit framework for 2024/25 and 2025/26 will see energy efficiency and renewable energy works worth £1.5 million invested in our building assets. The framework has been awarded and project work will commence post-April 2024. Welsh Government commissioned surveys of our school sites through AECOM are being carried out throughout 2024 and these will help to inform any further works needed to decarbonise our buildings.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE011T	Work with Flintshire's leisure and culture trust partners to reduce carbon emissions	100%	✔	The Climate Change Team have continued to work with AURA on establishing their baseline carbon footprint, and formulating a carbon reduction plan through engagement with their stakeholders. Leisure facility assets will be appraised as part of the RE:fit programme alongside other Council building stock.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE045T	A net zero carbon Council by 2030 and supporting wider decarbonisation actions across the County, making this central to Covid-19 recovery	10%	★	The Council's carbon footprint for 2022/23 has been calculated and reported to Welsh Government. This report was appraised by both the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in November 2023. The programme of activities to decarbonise the Council's assets and services continues to work to plan by meeting interim targets. This is a long term target taking us to 2030, and we are currently on target at 10%, giving us a green RAG status.

Net Zero Carbon Council

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE004M	Reduction in Council greenhouse gas emissions	32,328.00	33,521.00	44,980.00		
<p>Emissions for 2022/23 were lower than forecast, however, this is largely due to the change in emission factors for supply chain. Baselines will be reviewed within the Climate Change Strategy Review in 2024/25.</p>						
CPE018M	Percentage of Councillors received carbon related training	48.00%	80.00%			
<p>Engagement and take up of carbon related training by Members has been lower than anticipated (32 Members), and the delay in roll out of the carbon essentials e-learn has meant a more accessible training has not been available. However, Carbon training has now been added to the mandatory training for Councillors and therefore, it is anticipated that this figure will rise over 2024/25.</p>						
CPE019M	Percentage of employees received carbon related training	0.85%	5.00%			
<p>52 employees have completed carbon related training. 32 of these are senior leaders from across the Council which is very positive. This target for 2023/24 has not been met due to the delay in launch of the Climate essentials e-learn. This is being rolled out alongside the new e-learning platform, and will be promoted to ensure take up is higher over 2024/25. It should also be reviewed that this training is included in the mandatory learning for employees.</p>						

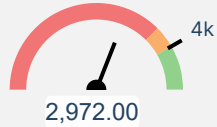
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Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE020M	Number of contracts with carbon impact assessed	3.00	10.00			
<p>Although only three large contracts have been assessed, these equate to a value of approximately £81 million over the next few years, which will not only allow us to report actual carbon emissions from these contracts, but include carbon measures within the construction phase so as to lower the carbon impact of our new build operations. Further engagement with large suppliers and commissioning officers will improve this target over the next financial years.</p>						
CPE021M	Percentage of schools accessing the support package	25.00%	15.00%			
<p>20 schools have accessed the Carbon toolkit package which is now available publicly on the Council's website. Ongoing support and engagement is being provided to schools to ensure successful delivery of the support package.</p>						
CPE022M	Percentage of Town and Community Councils accessing the support package	59.00%	15.00%			
<p>20 Town and Community Councils have accessed the Carbon toolkit package which is now available publicly on the council's website. Ongoing support and engagement is being provided to them to ensure successful delivery of the support package.</p>						


Climate Change and Adaptation

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE012T	Review the Council's Flood Risk Management Strategy	60%	●	A working draft of the strategy has been drafted with consultants and the next stage is to complete the draft action plan in order to carry out stakeholder consultation with Members and key stakeholders. This will then lead to a public consultation exercise on the strategy before review of comments made, sign off by the Council, and submission to Welsh Government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE013T	Review the Council's Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment	100%	✔	Strategy complete and feedback has been provided to our consultants. The strategy has not yet been submitted to Welsh Government as there are further delays in the publication of the revised TAN15
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE014T	Carry out flood investigations and alleviation works where appropriate	100%	✔	This is an ongoing business as usual task that is the core business of the FCERM team. They are currently still engaged with multiple investigations following storm Babet and will be planning mitigation works as part of completing the review of the Food Risk Management Strategy.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE015T	Assess the feasibility of schemes within land assets for resisting flood and drought while enhancing biodiversity and increasing carbon storage	90%	★	Work has been carried out between both Climate Change and Biodiversity teams to identify land assets that would be appropriate for such schemes. All land assets have been assessed through a matrix considering a number of criteria including flood risk, potential for development, biodiversity value, etc. This desktop exercise has highlighted a small list of potential sites for schemes. This is being further investigated and scoped with other teams across the Council to create a final list of feasible schemes. Completion target June 2024.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE046T	Ensure climate change and biodiversity are considered a priority in key decision making across all Council services	90%	★	The new Integrated Impact Assessment has been through piloting and has now been launched across the Council in partnership with Manchester University. This new tool ensures that decisions affecting carbon impacts, biodiversity impacts, equalities and Welsh language. Process and roll out are being reviewed with support from Internal Audit with changes being made over the coming months.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE047T	Identify projects to further support climate adaptation ambitions following Welsh Government guidance	40%	●	Research has been carried out to establish best practice and collate risks relevant and applicable to the county of Flintshire. Workshops with stakeholders to define risks and mitigation actions are being integrated into the climate change strategy review over 2024/25.

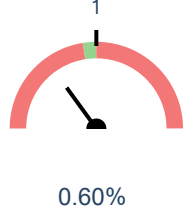
Climate Change and Adaptation

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE023M	Number of homes protected in vulnerable flood risk areas in Flintshire	0.00				
Target will be set once the Flood Risk Management Strategy has been completed						
CPE024M	Increase in carbon sequestered (Kg/tCO ₂ e)	2,972.00	4,000.00			
Tree planting over the 2023/24 year, that can be included within the carbon sequestration data, has been lower than forecast. Targets will be updated to reflect this.						

Flood Risk Management Strategy



	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
 CPE012T	Review the Council's Flood Risk Management Strategy	60%	●	A working draft of the strategy has been drafted with consultants and the next stage is to complete the draft action plan in order to carry out stakeholder consultation with Members and key stakeholders. This will then lead to a public consultation exercise on the strategy before review of comments made, sign off by the Council, and submission to Welsh Government

Flood Risk Management Strategy

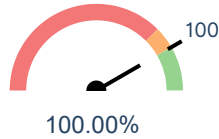

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE025M	Completion of the Flood Risk Management Strategy by the revised Welsh Government due date (March 2024)	0.60%	1.00%		 <p>0.60%</p>	

The Council have informed Welsh Government of its intention to complete its strategy by Autumn 2024 and this has been accepted.

Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment


	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
 CPE013T	Review the Council's Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment	100%		Strategy complete and feedback has been provided to our consultants. The strategy has not yet been submitted to Welsh Government as there are further delays in the publication of the revised TAN15

Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment

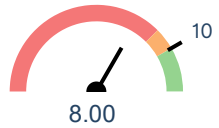
Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE026M	Percentage compliance with Welsh Government delivery timetable	100.00%	100.00%			

The delivery timeframe has slipped as Welsh Government have not yet been able to publish TAN15, which needs to happen in order for the strategy to be finalised and compliant with the TAN.

Fleet Strategy





	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
 CST015T	Reduce the environmental impact of our fleet by transitioning to ultra low emission vehicles (ULEV)	3%	★	Following the decision to return the fleet provision to an in-house service, work has commenced to renew the fleet and move through a managed exit with the incumbent supplier. This work continues and future planning to enhance the ultra low emission vehicles (ULEV) fleet will continue throughout 2024.

Fleet Strategy


Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CST013M	Number of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles on Fleet	8.00	10.00			

Six Electric Cars have been delivered to Social Services and two Electric Recycling Collection Vehicles have entered service in March 2024.

Green Environment

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE016T	Enhance the natural environment through the delivery of the Section 6 Environment (Wales) Act 2016 biodiversity duty	100%		Significant natural environment enhancement through changes in estate management, tree planting, green infrastructure projects. Section 6 delivery supported by increased cross department awareness and action and additional grant funded natural environment team capacity.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE017T	Deliver an increase in canopy cover as part of the Urban Tree and Woodland Plan	100%		The annual tree planting programme is complete with over 10,000 trees planted.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE048T	Progress Ash Dieback Action Plan	100%		Despite lead officer absence for six months and a gap in technical support due to officer retention/recruitment, the team completed the high risk/priority Flintshire owned tree works.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE049T	Develop a strategy to improve biodiversity and carbon sequestration on the agricultural estate	30%		This action has been delayed due to delays in Welsh Government guidance and support. Decisions around strategy to engage farmers with carbon action hinges on Welsh Government's new Agricultural payment scheme and its approach towards supporting sustainable farming. A decision making tool is being developed for when land assets become available, to ensure that all considerations are made for the land in meeting the Council's ambitions and targets, before the land being disposed of. This work will continue over the next financial year.

Green Environment



Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE005M	Number of Green infrastructure improvement and planting projects	8.00	6.00			

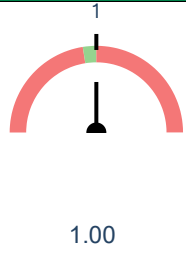
Green infrastructure and planting projects exceed the target of 6 and include: living screens, shotton, enhanced wildflower sites Mold, Connahs Quay and Buckley, Orchard creation and tree planting in Saltney, Pond restorations in Shotton and Gwernymynydd and tree planting in Mostyn.

CPE027M	Carry out baseline site species surveys on our 12 target sites to inform future increase in biodiversity from our interventions	12.00	12.00			
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Site surveys undertaken at all our wildflower sites before and following creation. Site surveys also completed at all potential sites for biodiversity enhancement through the landholdings project work.

Flintshire Forest


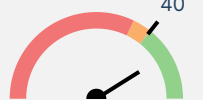
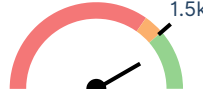
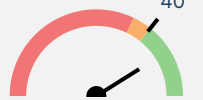
	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
 CPE050T	Develop a Flintshire Forest Plan	100%		Work to understand a Flintshire Forest vision is complete. Analysis of available land has been completed. Draft Plan being finalised and designed.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE028M	Produce a detailed Plan for delivery, to include sites highlighted for inclusion, identified funding for planting and an Engagement Plan	1.00	1.00			
Target completed						

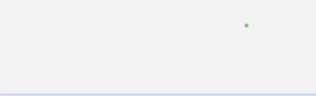
Green Access

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE019T	Explore opportunities to develop the Flintshire Coast Park through the production of a scoping study	100%	✓	Scoping study is completed and has been reported to Cabinet. Shared Prosperity Funding secured to further progress establishing the Coast Park. Development Officer recruited to deliver the funding to enable the launch of the new coast park in 2024.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE020T	Deliver the Rights of Way Improvement Plan with a focus to ensure improved access for all and the promotions of Walking for Health	100%	✓	Annual programme of works to deliver the Rights of Way Improvement Plan is complete with over £75,00 additional spend from the Access Improvement Grant.

Green Access

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE029M	Utilise external funding to produce management plans and feasibility documents to inform development of the Coast Park	4.00	4.00		 <p>4.00</p>	
Target completed						
CPE030M	Install Kissing Gates on the network	46.00	40.00		 <p>46.00</p>	
Target exceeded						
CPE031M	Surface 1500 metres of footpaths	1,620.00	1,500.00		 <p>1,620.00</p>	
Target exceeded						
CPE032M	Remove barriers from the network	46.00	40.00		 <p>46.00</p>	
Target exceeded						



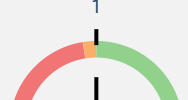

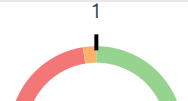

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Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE033M	Install roadside way markers	50.00	50.00			
Target achieved						
CPE034M	Carry out bridleway improvements	1,450.00	1,200.00			
Target exceeded						

Active and Sustainable Travel Options

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CST004T	Support the development of public electric vehicle charging network	0%	★	Electric Vehicle (EV) charging feasibility study and associated Delivery Plan completed in February this year. The aim of the study is to identify the next phase of EV charge-points within public car parks in Flintshire. A total of 46 sites were considered with their development being prioritised within three phases of delivery. The outcome of the study formed our 2024/25 Welsh Government Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (EULEV) transformation funding application which has been successful.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CST005T	Promote active travel and further develop the County's walking and cycleway network	98%	★	Active Travel Schemes programmed for this year have been completed with the exception of minor outstanding elements which are in the process of completion.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CST016T	Implementation of 20mph national legislation	100%	★	The Council have been successful in receiving Welsh Government grant funding for the progression of 20mph exceptions. The team are also working closely with Welsh Government to assist with the anticipated amendment to criteria.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CST017T	Implement formalised crossing facilities at existing school crossing patrol sites	98%	★	All civil engineering works associated with the formalised crossing facilities has been completed and will be operational in May 2024.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CST018T	Declassification of hazardous routes across the county where appropriate through the implementation of engineering initiatives	50%	▲	Active Travel scheme has been completed which has the effect of declassifying a hazardous route. Approval is required to instigate declassification.

Active and Sustainable Travel Options

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CST014M	Number of formalised crossing facilities implemented at existing School Crossing Patrol sites	3.00	3.00		 3.00	
All civil works completed. Crossings to be operational in May 2024.						
CST015M	Implementation of 20mph speed limits on the County's restricted roads.	1.00	1.00		 1.00	
Change of National Legislation for restricted roads implemented successfully within Flintshire. Further work regarding criteria amendments and exceptions process is ongoing.						
CST016M	Number of hazardous routes declassified through the Implementation of Active Travel infrastructure to provide safe routes to schools	0.00	1.00		 0.00	
Engineering initiatives are in place which enables declassification of hazardous route. Awaiting support for implementation.						

Circular Economy

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CST006T	Achieve Welsh Government recycling targets	75%	▲	While the statutory recycling target for 2023/24, is 64%, we aspire to meet the target of 70% ahead of 2024/25. Our year end recycling performance for 2022/23 fell short of the 64% target resulting in potential additional infraction fines by Welsh Government. The quarter three performance for 2023/24 is showing a performance outturn of 63.79%, which is likely to decrease further following quarter four data submissions. A review of the Waste Strategy is now complete following support from the Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP) and Local Partnerships (commissioned by Welsh Government). A new Resource and Waste Strategy was approved for adoption in March 2024 and work has begun on implementing the required interventions to improve recycling performance.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CST008T	Promote the option to reuse and repair unwanted items at Household Recycling Centres by partnering with local Charities or social enterprises	50%	▲	A funding bid to introduce a reuse initiative across all Household Recycling Centers was submitted to Welsh Government for Circular Economy Funding in June 2022. In late 2023, an outcome for the funding application was received stating that the application had been unsuccessful therefore, there is no financial provision available to introduce the scheme. Officers are now reviewing the initiative and utilising the concept to help deliver on priority one of the newly adopted Resource and Waste Strategy. Discussions with Welsh Government on ways to support this are due to take place in April 2024.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CST009T	Work in partnership, actively support and engage with community led groups by developing recycling initiatives	100%	✱	The Waste Strategy Team have been actively engaging with communities in Flintshire to promote our recycling and reuse services. This has taken place with housing associations, at community group meetings and on the door step. Local community groups have engaged with the team to promote our recycling initiatives and encourage participation. A six week consultation took place with Flintshire residents and stakeholders to gain their input into developing a future Resource and Waste Strategy. Five engagement events took place in January where team members met and discussed recycling with Flintshire residents. Work has begun with Repair Café Wales to introduce more repair centres.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CST019T	Review the Council's Waste Strategy	100%	✱	A review of the councils current waste strategy, waste data and operational delivery took place throughout 2023 and into 2024. This concluded with a revised Resource and Waste Strategy being adopted by the Council in March 2024 which will support the authority in achieving national recycling targets and minimise the potential of infraction fines.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CST020T	Develop a Recycling Waste Transfer Station for the deposit and processing of recyclable materials	0%	●	This action needs to be closed. Plans to develop a site are not currently financially viable.

Circular Economy

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CST004M	Percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted	63.97%	70.00%	60.00%		
<p>The recycling percentage for Quarter 1 was 66.69%, for Quarter 2 was 65.89%, and Quarter 3 was 58.25% giving a nine month average of 63.97% (correct at time of entry and subject to data verification). This increase in comparison to the pervious year has been predominantly due to an increase in garden waste collected. For Quarter 4 (January to March 2024) data is not available at the time of reporting.</p>						
CST005M	Average Recycling rate across Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)	76.08%	80.00%	76.00%		
<p>Quarter 4 recycling performance across all Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) has gone below 80% due to the reduced tonnages of DIY materials (wood, rubble, scrap metal) and garden waste which are typically higher during the spring and summer months.</p>						
CST017M	Reduce the tonnage of residual waste collected from residential properties	0.60%	10.00%			
<p>The amount of residual waste disposed of reduced by 56 tonnes (0.6%) in Quarter 4 (January to March) 2023/24 in comparison to the same period in the previous year.</p>						

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CST018M	Increase the tonnage of food waste collected from residential properties	1.20%	15.00%		<p>1.20%</p>	
<p>The amount of food waste collected for Quarter 4 (January to March 2023/24) has increased by 15 tonnes in comparison to the same period of time in the previous year resulting in the amount of food waste collected increasing by 1.2%. Without political approval to make changes to our waste and recycling collections service (2023/24) we were unable to improve recycling (food waste) capture from the residual waste stream, so the target was not achieved. We did promote food waste recycling on a number of occasions via communications (website/social media/event days/leaflets) to improve uptake, as requested by Elected Members, but this had minimal impact.</p>						
CST019M	Obtain Welsh Government funding to implement a reuse initiative at the household recycling centres	0.00	1.00		<p>0.00</p>	
<p>A funding bid to introduce a reuse initiative across all Household Recycling Centers was submitted to Welsh Government for Circular Economy Funding in June 2022. In late 2023, an outcome for the funding application was received stating that the application had been unsuccessful therefore, there is no financial provision available to introduce the scheme. Officers are now reviewing the initiative and discussing the concept to help develop a wider Resource and Waste Strategy.</p>						
CST020M	Implement a trial for the delivery of local benefits/local recycling targets initiative	0.00	1.00		<p>0.00</p>	
<p>This initiative was proposed to support the authority with achieving 70% recycling targets. As the Councils recycling improvement action plan was not accepted as being sufficient and evidence based in demonstrating it would achieve this. This initiative was postponed while staff resource was utilised to undertake the wider Waste Strategy Review.</p>						

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Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CST021M	Number of education campaigns on recycling and waste minimisation undertaken to improve recycling performance	4.00	3.00		 4.00	

Five community drop in events were undertaken in January 2024, to educate residents on recycling targets, performance, impacts and future aspirations. We took part in the national Be Mighty, Recycle food waste campaign and food waste action week to promote food waste minimisation and recycling awareness. We promoted the legislative changes being introduced for workplace recycling, supporting local businesses, schools and the third sector to become compliant. Working with our housing team and social housing providers we identified ways to support their residents to recycle as much of their waste as possible.

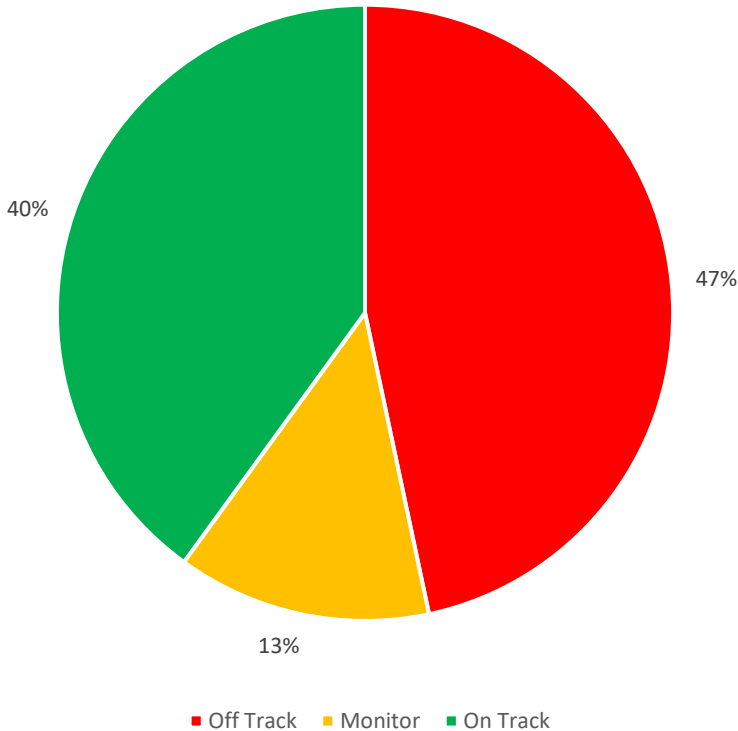
Economy

Well-being Objective: Connecting communities and enabling a sustainable economic recovery and growth.

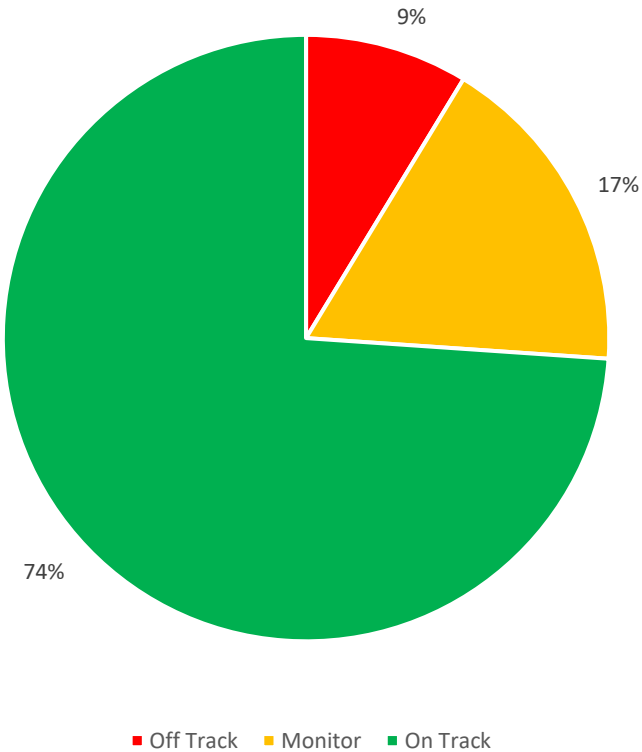
Economy Overall Performance

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Economy - Measure RAG Status



Economy - Action RAG Status



Rural Regeneration



	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE051T	Ensure that Economy interventions consider and meet the needs of rural businesses and individuals.	100%		All current interventions (outside of specific town centre projects) supporting individuals and businesses are targeting all of the County.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE052T	Recruit a Digital Connectivity Officer to support rural communities to access better quality connectivity options	50%		Two attempts to recruit into the role have failed. The job has been rewritten and we hope to readvertise in April 2024.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE053T	Commission a data review for rural Flintshire and hold community consultation to better understand rural community needs	25%		Discussions are underway with Wrexham University about how the needs of rural Flintshire residents can be most effectively assessed and supported.

Rural Regeneration







Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE035M	Digital Connectivity Officer appointed - June 2023	0.00	1.00			
Recruitment failed. Job has been rewritten and we hope to readvertise in April 2024.						
CPE036M	Rural needs report completed by March 2024	0.00	1.00			
Limited capacity has delayed the development of the report. Discussions are now underway with Wrexham University about the needs assessment process.						

Town Centre Regeneration

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAU016T	Libraries and leisure centres are community well-being hubs with social objectives underpinning their operation	100%	✓	Aura continued to operate four leisure centres and seven libraries (plus the mobile library and home library service) throughout 2023/24.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE024T	Monitor the health and vitality of town centres to support effective management and business investment decisions	100%	✓	Work has continued during Quarter 4 (January - March 2024) to monitor and respond to the health, vibrancy and needs of town centres across Flintshire. This has included planning and delivering an online consultation for four towns across Flintshire, which 3,356 local people responded to, and also reviewing data related to the town centres to develop up-to-date profiles of the current strengths and focus for future improvement/ investment. This work has been undertaken as part of the on-going place making plan development work which is focusses on an individual plan being developed for seven towns across Flintshire. The focus of the past three months has been on initiating work in four of these seven towns (Connah's Quay, Flint, Mold and Queensferry). The place making plan for Shotton has been developed to final draft during the last three months (consultation on which will be undertaken in the next three months). The Shotton plan identifies 10 key themes and priorities responding to local needs. The place making plans for both Holywell and Buckley have also been commissioned and work has progressed on these also within the last three months by the place making consultant appointed by the Council's Regeneration Team (with funding secured from the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund). It is anticipated these two plans will be completed by July 2024 (Holywell) and October 2024 (Buckley). Data and statistics gathered to monitor the health and vitality of these towns will inform the priorities outlined in these emerging plans.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE025T	Encourage and support investment in town centre properties to facilitate more sustainable uses and including improvements to the environment	100%	✓	The Regeneration Team secured £1.178million from UK Government to deliver Town Centre Investment Programme across seven towns in Flintshire (Buckley, Connah's Quay, Flint, Holywell, Mold, Shotton, Queensferry) in 2023/24 and 2024/25. The programme comprises of nine projects in total –a mix of capital and revenue initiatives aimed at supporting our Flintshire's high streets. Two of the nine projects have included designing and launching two grant schemes: i) Town Centre Property Improvement Grant (capital funding) and also ii) Town Centre Activities and Events Grant (revenue funding). Uptake from local beneficiaries has been extremely positive. By March 2024, £466,458 has been invested in property improvement schemes to premises on the high streets across towns in Flintshire, including £180,000 of this total being contributed from businesses towards improving their premises. £63,130 has been awarded to local communities to deliver activities and events in towns across Flintshire to improve footfall and the vibrancy of towns. Work has also continued to secure investment from Welsh Government to invest in town centre premises/projects. £410,500 grant has been claimed for completed town centre investment projects in the last three months.







	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE028T	Engage town centre small businesses and promote support packages available to them	100%		'Save The High Street' has been engaged by the Council's Regeneration Team to deliver tailored business support for town centre businesses across seven town centres across Flintshire, to support their growth, development and diversification through the delivery of an intensive eight week support programme. Flintshire was the first local authority in Wales to partner with 'Save The High Street' using funding secured from the Shared Prosperity Fund. 14 town centre businesses have participated in the 'Save The High Street' eight week intensive business support pilot project between January and March 2024. Due to the success of the pilot project, a further 30 businesses will be able to benefit from this provision between April and November 2024. Excellent feedback has been received from local businesses who participated and has been featured in the local press. Work has continued to roll-out grant schemes and encourage take-up amongst local businesses. Take-up has been excellent, demonstrating a real need for grant funding investment, without which private sector investment in towns in Flintshire would have not happened/been significantly less.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE054T	Understand the needs of and supporting community enterprises in town centre locations	100%		During the last three months (January - March 2024), 42 support sessions have been delivered by the Council's Social Enterprise Officer in to to social enterprises in the towns of Buckley, Connah's Quay, Mold and Shotton. These sessions have involved understanding their needs and tailoring support provided to these in addition to encouraging the social enterprises to utilise the Flintshire Social Impact toolkit to calculate their overall social value. Of the organisations supported over the last three months, this has involved a total of £807,269 social value being recorded on the toolkit. Support sought from Flintshire County Council amongst social enterprises over the last three months has included: i) exploration of legal structures; ii) development of business plan(s); iii) general business support advice; iv) help to expand and set-up and operate from an additional premises and v) support and advice regarding sustaining community asset. The Town Centre Activities and Events Grant Scheme managed by the Council's Regeneration Team (with funding through the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund), has received applications from a range of social enterprises. Funds awarded to date has assisted these organisation to deliver their aims and objectives whilst provide useful information to the Council to better understand their needs and aspirations.

Town Centre Regeneration

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU025M	Average number of weekly public opening hours available within leisure centres and library branches in Flintshire towns	536.00	536.00		 536.00	
<p>Opening hours of Aura’s four leisure centres and seven libraries remain relatively static with no reduction in service levels. Some opening hours were subject to minor tweaks but this was due to the need to be responsive to customer needs rather than a reduction of the offer.</p>						
CPE037M	Completion and circulation of town centre performance data analysis report	4.00	1.00		 4.00	
<p>Four reports have been developed (not as yet circulated) as these are feeding into the development of place making plans for the towns of Connah's Quay, Mold, Flint and Queensferry (currently at development stage). Target will be met in 2024/25.</p>						
CPE038M	Completion of initial 3 (of 7) Place Making Plans in partnership with a range of stakeholders	1.00	3.00		 1.00	
<p>Shotton Place Making Plan is at completed stage - ready to be consulted on. Holywell and Buckley Plans are under development (external consultants appointed to deliver these). Target will be met in 2024/25.</p>						

Business

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE029T	Support small and/or local businesses to engage with public sector procurement opportunities	100%		Business Development has worked throughout the year with Robertson Construction (Mynydd Isa School development), Read Construction (Flint Primary School development) Wall-Lag Ltd (Domestic Energy) and Gilbert Ash (Theatr Clwyd development) to support local supply chain engagement through delivery of virtual Meet the Buyer sessions; develop corporate social responsibility activities and encourage added social value commitments from Tier 1 and Tier 2 contractors.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE030T	Support recovery of the County's street and indoor markets	100%		Mold Street Market continues to thrive with an average of 66 traders attending each market day and 24 new traders have been accommodated since April 2023, including the replacement of retired stallholders. Mold Indoor Market is currently 87% occupied with interest shown in the two remaining vacant units. Holywell Market numbers remain low with an average of seven traders each week. Market events and activities delivered throughout the year, such as Christmas and Easter Markets has resulted in increased footfall from residents and visitors to the towns. A dedicated Markets Promotion and Engagement Officer has been funded through Shared Prosperity Fund to raise the profile of the county markets and the market offer to wider audiences, including group travel, through additional events, promotional campaigns and social media activity.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE031T	Support growth of the local and regional food and drink business sector through marketing and collaborative projects	100%		The Council has supported Mold Food and Drink Festival with hosting a successful event in September 2023. Ongoing financial support for Clwydian Range Food and Drink activities i.e. researching local food and drink products. Their availability, supply and demand by the tourism sector within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB. We supported the organising of a local Food and Drink Networking event with Flintshire Tourism Association which provided an opportunity for local food and drink producers to showcase their products to 75 attendees (tourism and hospitality businesses). We accessed external fund to create tourism and hospitality grant programmes to support food and drink sector businesses wanting to invest in improving visitor experiences and target new markets. Shared Prosperity Fund - £679,000.

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
 CPE032T	Support recovery of the tourism and hospitality sectors and rebuild confidence in the industry	100%		<p>The Council has successfully accessed external funding to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and improve regionally recognised trails in Flintshire and associated infrastructure which is being much appreciated by those who are benefiting from these improvements. Brilliant Basics Fund R3 - £160,000 grant. • Improve connectivity to our coast and countryside including improving visibility of assets by implementing a programme of new and upgraded tourist and boundary sign packages for sites of cultural, heritage and natural significance. Shared Prosperity Fund - £335,000 • Create tourism grant programmes to support tourism businesses wanting to invest in improving visitor experiences and target new markets. 10 applications supported to a total value of £191,165 in 2023/24 FY. Shared Prosperity Fund - £679,000 • Launched the Flintshire Tourism Ambassador Course in July 2023. 70 ambassadors have completed and achieved the Bronze and Silver Award in 2023/24. https://www.ambassador.wales/ • Supported the Flintshire Tourism Association with securing and the delivery of £64K funding from Cadwyn Clwyd to support wider business and marketing activities over the summer. • Drafted a new Destination Management Plan 2024/26 with industry partners to support the development of the visitor sector, improve the appeal of the County to visitors and increase the economic impact of the sector. • Completed a visitor accommodation bedstock audit for Flintshire. Around 300 visitor accommodation businesses in Flintshire. 18,392 visitor accommodation bedspaces (86% in caravan and camping establishments).
 CPE033T	Support local businesses in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient	100%		<p>Business Development has delivered two Net Zero workshops and in partnership with Deeside Decarbonisation Forum has delivered four network events, engaging with 271 business delegates throughout the year. The events are designed to share best practice within private sector decarbonisation work programmes and encourage business collaboration across Flintshire. Shared Prosperity Fund has been awarded to support a number of carbon reduction projects across Flintshire (ranging from private sector business grants to academic research) to encourage businesses to adopt greener technologies, reduce carbon footprints and become more resource efficient.</p>
 CPE034T	Increase the scale and impact of the social business sector	100%		<p>The development of the Flintshire Social Impact toolkit and increase of numbers of social enterprises using it, continues to demonstrate the impact of social enterprise activity in Flintshire. During this reporting period the 14 participating social enterprises reported the generation of a combined social value of £2,119,680.98 through the 18 activities being measured</p>

Business



Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE008M	Number of small or micro businesses receiving support	837.00	600.00	352.00		
<p>Delivered 35 confidential impartial coaching and mentoring sessions to industrial commercial directors to encourage:- decision making relating to private sector inward investment and business expansion; act as a commercial critical friend and confidant regarding business operations. Engaged with 43 larger and 42 smaller commercial private investors to support new businesses moving into Flintshire or expanding current operations. • Delivered 15 training, advice and networking events with partners focusing on business continuity and resilience. Engaged with 717 business delegates.</p>						
CPE009M	Number of social enterprises receiving support	49.00	48.00	71.00		
<p>During this reporting period the Social Enterprise Lead Officer delivered 138 business support sessions to 49 entrepreneurs across Flintshire.</p>						
CPE010M	Number of local businesses supported to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient	271.00	48.00	78.00		
<p>Delivered 2 Net Zero workshops and in partnership with Deeside Decarbonisation Forum delivered 4 network events, engaging with 271 businesses. to share best practice within private sector decarbonisation work programmes and encourage business collaboration across Flintshire. Supported a number of Shared Prosperity Fund carbon reduction projects across Flintshire (ranging from private sector business grants to academic research) to encourage businesses to adopt greener technologies, reduce carbon footprints and become more resource efficient.</p>						

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Transport Connectivity



	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CST021T	Review and update the Councils Integrated Transport Strategy	60%	★	The Council has provided feedback to the Corporate Joint Committee on the Case for Change along with current status of Strategic projects and feedback from local member workshops held in Autumn 2023. In order to progress the process further, Welsh Government will be organising a series of workshops with regional leads to discuss transport aspirations with a view to complete the Regional Transport Plan in March 2025.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CST022T	Support the establishment of CJsCs and delivery of the Joint Regional Transport Plan	60%	★	The Council has provided feedback to the Corporate Joint Committee on the Case for Change along with current status of Strategic projects and feedback from local member workshops held in Autumn 2023. In order to progress the process further, Welsh Government will be organising a series of workshops with regional leads to discuss transport aspirations with a view to complete the Regional Transport Plan in March 2025.

Transport Connectivity

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CST008M	Number of schemes delivered through the Welsh Government Active Travel Fund	2.80	3.00	3.00	 <p>2.80</p>	

Active Travel schemes programmed for this year have been completed with the exception of minor elements which are currently being completed.

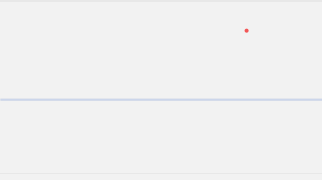
Digital Infrastructure

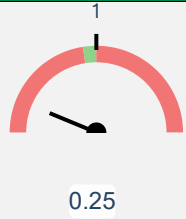
	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
 CPE055T	Improve digital connectivity across the County for businesses and residents	100%		Fibre connectivity has improved significantly in Flintshire recently. A number of regional projects to improve connectivity are approaching delivery phase. Locally, work is underway to encourage network operators to fill gaps in mobile phone coverage and capacity.

Local Development Plan (LDP) Targets

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE038T	Monitor overall Plan performance via the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and submit to Welsh Government	50%	●	Following the adoption of the Local Development Plan in January 2023, the first Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will need to reflect the first full 12 month period following adoption. The AMR will have a base date of 1st April 2024, and must be submitted to Welsh Government by 31st October 2024. Initial work on producing a draft report is underway.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE039T	Maintain and update the Local Development Plan (LDP) Housing Trajectory in line with planning decisions made	50%	●	The updating of the housing trajectory will form part of the first Annual Monitoring Report to be submitted to Welsh Government by 31st October 2024. Work on monitoring housing land is undertaken each April and will feed into the trajectory.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE040T	Make decisions at Planning Committee in line with the adopted Local Development Plan (LDP)	100%	✔	Policies in the adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) have been consistently applied in both Planning Committee and delegated decisions on planning applications.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE041T	Reference the LDP growth strategy in early work on a North Wales Strategic Development Plan (SDP)	20%	●	Work is commencing on scoping out the preparation of a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for North Wales. The growth strategy of the Local Development Plan (LDP) will provide up to date planning context for the SDP.

Local Development Plan (LDP) Targets

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE039M	Completion of first LDP Annual Monitoring Report and submission to Welsh Government (January 2024)	0.50	1.00		 <p>0.50</p>	
<p>Work is underway on the first Annual Monitoring Report with a base date of 01/04/24 to be submitted to Welsh Government by 31/10/24. A report on progress will be taken to Planning Strategy Group.</p>						
CPE040M	Completion of annual review of LDP housing trajectory	0.50	1.00		 <p>0.50</p>	
<p>Work on updating the housing trajectory is being undertaken as part of work on the first Annual Monitoring Report with a base date of 01/04/24 to be submitted to Welsh Government by 31/10/24.</p>						
CPE041M	Percentage of decision made on planning applications in accordance with officer recommendation	91.70%	100.00%		 <p>91.70%</p>	
<p>In the January, February and March 2024 Planning Committees, one application out of 12 was refused contrary to officer recommendations.</p>						


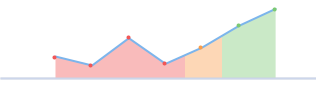
Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE042M	Contribution to the scoping of the form and content of the North Wales Strategic Development Plan	0.25	1.00			

The Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) has appointed a Project Coordinator and Officers are assisting in collating all background evidence and setting up a framework structure for the Strategic Development Plan.

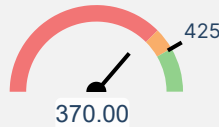
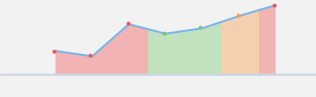
Reducing Worklessness

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE042T	Co-ordinate a multi-agency approach to support businesses to recruit people from disadvantaged groups	100%	✔	A successful joint partnership between Communities For Work Plus, Jobcentre Plus and Careers Wales through the Jobs, Skills and Training Events group has delivered a number of successful projects throughout the year highlighting opportunities available locally in Flintshire including: job fairs, recruitment events, sector specific based training and where necessary redundancy support events. This continued during Quarter 4 where the group partnered with Eleven 11, a training company who provides a full turnkey civil engineering solution for the utility and telecommunications sector, this saw 10 individuals selected to take part in four weeks of intensive training to become Water Repair and Maintenance Operatives and gain industry-recognised qualifications. These individuals are coming to the close of their training and will be offered guaranteed job interviews with Eleven 11 Group who are supporting Welsh Water with their current work schedule across North Wales.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPE043T	Deliver mentoring and wider support programmes to assist disadvantaged people to re-engage with the labour market	90%	▲	Mentors have engaged with their participants to provide on-going employability support to move them closer to the labour market or gaining employment. All the relevant ID requirements have been obtained by the mentors for the new participants of the programme. Participants have met regularly with the mentors to identify their support needs and have produced a plan of action to ensure that the right support is given to each individual.

Reducing Worklessness

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE012M	Number of individuals entering employment, learning or volunteering	206.00	185.00	118.00		

At the end of Quarter 4 we have surpassed our target for the number of individuals entering employment, learning or volunteering. Individuals have been successful in securing roles within hospitality and events, construction, logistics and production to name a few. Preparation for employment has been key throughout this year as individuals still struggle with the effects of covid on their confidence and mental health. Young people especially have benefited from a Preparation into Employment course at Flint library which has given them the confidence and skills to move closer to the labour market. Volunteering and work placement opportunities with Groundwork and FLVC have further supported clients on their pathway to gaining meaningful sustainable employment.

CPE013M	Number of individuals receiving support	370.00	425.00	267.00		
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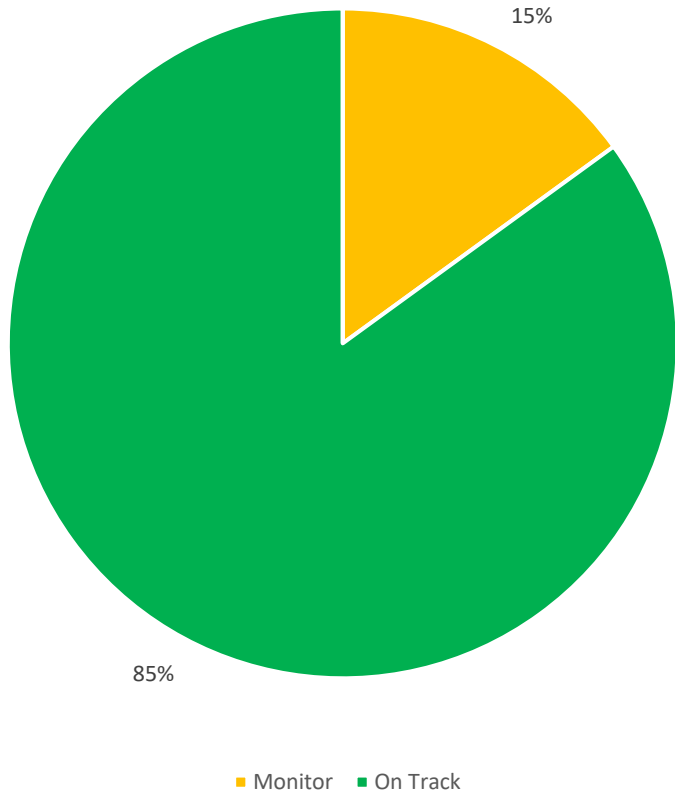
In Quarter 4, a total number of 59 participants registered on the Communities for Work plus programme. Referrals were received from Work Wednesday (Flint library), Job Centre Plus, Flintshire County Council's website, internal departments of Flintshire and self referrals.

Personal and Community Well-being

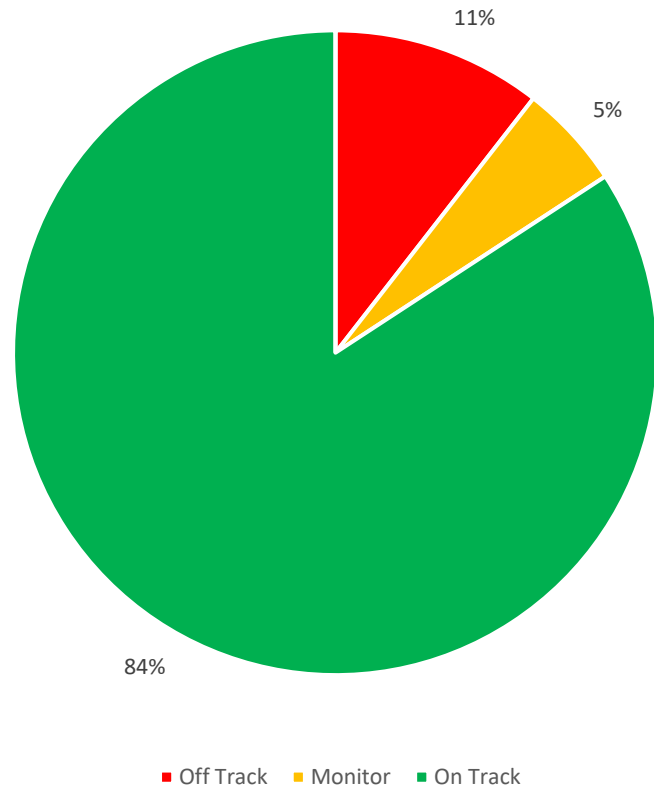
Page 237 **Well-being Objective:** Supporting people in need to live as well as they can.

Personal and Community Well-being Overall Performance






Personal and Community Wellbeing - Action RAG Status







Personal and Community Wellbeing - Measure RAG Status



Independent Living

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS001T	Develop a national, regional and local approach to Early Years Transformation so that all our children ages 0-7 have the best possible start in life and are able to reach their full potential	100%		The work programme for 2023/24 has been completed, with some projects continuing into 2024/25. There has been significant benefit and system change due to partnership collaboration locally, regionally and nationally benefiting families. The transformation to date, and piloting and testing should support Welsh Government in making further policy decisions across the sectors and spectrum of need to ensure effective outcomes for all children and longer-term health and wellbeing outcomes. Key areas of work are being independently evaluated which will be shared with key partners and Welsh Government, to enable the work to be prioritised going forward. A draft Early Years Strategy has been completed, however, as Welsh Government notified closure of the Early Years Pathfinder funding late December, 12 months earlier than anticipated, a decision is to be made by the Flintshire Early Years Board (June 2024) and Regional Partnership (April 2024) to agree the way forward including the prioritisation of exiting projects e.g. parent and infant relationships, Brain Story and resilience. A letter has been sent to Welsh Government from the Regional Partnership and a meeting is arranged (April 2024) to discuss future plans with the Welsh Government Deputy Director for Childcare, Early Years and Play Division.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS002T	Plan for the relocation of Tri Ffordd supported employment project to Maes Gwern in Mold	100%		The design concept for the Maes Gwern hub has evolved to incorporate areas to enable health services and therapies to be delivered at the site in addition to the learning disability, mental health, and autism support services to create an integrated social services and health hub. The construction contract was signed in March and the construction start date on site was 8th April. Work undertaken on the site primarily include clearance of the area where the main build will be situated. The construction phase is scheduled to be for a 12-month period therefore, the operational date is projected to be April 2025. The external contractors are working with the client design team which includes the local authority and partner organisations who will deliver services from the Maes Gwern site to coordinate Stage 5 design meetings which are scheduled to commence in June 2024.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS003T	Support people to achieve their mental well-being outcomes by promoting personal and community well-being through open access courses delivered by the Learning Partnership	100%		There are currently 66 courses available. Courses are well attended and some courses are now being delivered as weekly community groups by the Learning Partnership.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS011T	Provide additional placements for step down care within our in-house provision (Croes Atti 2)	100%		12 step down Discharge to recover and assess beds have been agreed for Croes Atti Newydd which is planned for completion in May 2025. This will increase the step down provision from its current level of 16 to a total of 28 across Flintshire.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS013T	Work in partnership with the Community Mental Health Team and Social Services Mental Health Support Service to develop clear pathways for individuals needing access to Mental Health Services, and a sustainable model for the future	90%		Visits to other areas have taken place and further discussions with staff are taking place. A decision will be made in May 2024.



	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS014T	Utilise the progression model as a way of promoting people's independence skills	100%		The Progression Service continues to develop across Adult Disability Services, embedding the progression model of support across both Learning and Physical Disability teams. The approach to support is based on the strengths of the individual and as a result has enabled a reduction in the provision of paid support, using creative support systems, third sector and building on natural support within local communities. The Progression Service consists of the additional resource of a social worker specialising in Neurodiverse individuals aged 16-18 years. The Social Worker is working as part of a multi agency approach to ensure these young people have the support in place to focus on a future which is not dependent on agency support, promoting their independence at all levels. The Progression Service has also secured an Employability Coordinator via LD transformation service who will work across Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council with individuals with a Learning Disability whose aim is to work in paid employment.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS015T	Work with Housing to fund a small team of people to support individuals with low level Mental Health problems to improve their housing	100%		The Well-being and Recovery Team is now fully operational and is delivering excellent outcomes. This is a small team of a Social Worker and two Support Workers. The service focusses on those residents who have housing problems or are homeless or at risk of homelessness and require additional support due to their mental health. The service is proving incredibly successful and currently has a full caseload and a waiting list. The service is part funded through Social Care and Housing Support Grant and consideration will be given to increasing capacity during 2024/25.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS019T	Continue to grow the Microcare market, including access to commissioned care packages	100%		46 Microcare providers are currently working with the Council. We hope to be able to increase this number by a further 10 next year.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS020T	Complete a review of Community Mental Health provision and define a model for the future	90%		Visits to other areas have taken place and further discussions with staff are taking place. A decision will be made in May 2024.

Independent Living

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS003M	Direct Payments as a % of home-based services	43.00%	40.00%	41.00%	<p>43.00%</p>	
<p>The Council consistently delivers around 40% of our home based services through a direct payment and have met our target for the year.</p>						
CSS004M	Percentage of urgent requests for equipment that meet or exceed the national 1 Day response standards	100.00%	98.00%	100.00%	<p>100.00%</p>	
<p>The North East Wales Community Equipment Service has been able to maintain a 100% completion for 2023/24.</p>						
CSS005M	Percentage of requests for equipment that meet or exceed the national 7 Day standard	100.00%	80.00%	100.00%	<p>100.00%</p>	
<p>The standard of 7 day delivery for community equipment continues to be upheld.</p>						
CSS006M	Percentage of equipment that is re-used	93.00%	70.00%	93.00%	<p>93.00%</p>	
<p>The North East Wales Community Equipment Service continue to exceed the re-use of equipment standard with 93% of equipment being re-used in 2023/24. This equates to £2,1857,980 cost avoidance throughout the year, a cost avoidance of £42,076 a week. Without this level of re-use of equipment the North East Wales Community Equipment Service budget would only last 12.5 weeks.</p>						


Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS007M	Number of courses delivered by the Learning Partnership	53.00	50.00	70.00		
Six courses were cancelled due to facilitator ill health or weather conditions (59 would have been delivered).						
CSS008M	Number of attendees for courses delivered by the Learning Partnership	281.00	180.00	300.00		
394 individuals booked onto the course, but only 281 attended.						
CSS007M	Number of Microcare business established	46.00	34.00			
This figure represents the number of Microcare businesses operational at the end of March 2024. Our intention is to increase this by another 10 providers over the next 12 months.						

Safeguarding

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS005T	Promote the corporate e-learning package	100%		The e-learning module continues to be advertised corporately and via our Social Services Training Directory. Due to the volume of staff turnover there will be a continual need for this training to be undertaken. We are currently running with a completion rate of 80.01% for Social Services staff. In addition to the e-learning module we have delivered quarterly virtual sessions for staff unable to access the corporate platform. This figure is not captured within the data provided.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS006T	Prepare for the implementation of the new Liberty Protect Safeguard procedures	100%		The UK Government have announced that they do not intend to bring forward the necessary legislation to implement the Liberty Protection Safeguards (the LPS) within this Parliament. This means that Welsh Government cannot bring forward its own regulations to implement the LPS in Wales. Despite this decision, the Welsh Government has confirmed that it remains committed to providing funding to protect the rights of those who lack mental capacity under the current Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) system to ensure that that these rights are protected ahead of any future implementation of the LPS.

Safeguarding



Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS009M	Percentage of adult safeguarding enquiries that met the 7 day timescale	96.00%	92.00%	87.00%	<p>96.00%</p>	
<p>Between April 2023 and March 2024, 1109 safeguarding reports for adults were received, representing a 23% increase on last year. 667 of these reports met the threshold for an enquiry under Section 126. This is a significant increase in demand, which has resulted in our target for the year not being met. The Safeguarding Unit continue to prioritise safeguarding reports on an individual basis.</p>						
CSS010M	Percentage of reviews of children on the Child Protection Register due in the year that were carried out within the statutory timescales	98.00%	99.00%	98.00%	<p>98.00%</p>	
<p>The Children's Safeguarding Unit continue to maintain consistency in holding case conferences within statutory timescales, working with increasing numbers on the child protection register. The main theme in the few reviews which have fallen out of timescale for Quarter 4 is linked to tracking of younger family members, and ensuring their reviews are completed relative to the time of their birth rather than in collaboration with other older siblings.</p>						
CSS011M	Percentage of Pre-birth assessments completed within timescales	80.00%	96.00%	100.00%	<p>80.00%</p>	
<p>We have achieved our annual target with 96% of pre-birth assessments, due in the year, being completed within timescales. Quarter 4 of the year was challenging with eight of the ten pre-birth assessments completed within timescales and two outside. During this time there was a significant volume of referrals. All work is screened and risk rated to inform prioritisation.</p>						

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS012M	Percentage of children who were reported as having run away or gone missing from home who were offered a return interview	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	 100.00%	

We have a missing children coordinator who offers return interviews to all children and young people who go missing however, these are not always taken up. 75% of the children who go missing are looked after by the Local Authority.

Direct Provision to Support People Closer to Home



	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS007T	Deliver a programme of registered Children's Homes to help avoid the need for residential placements outside Flintshire	100%	★	Ty Nyth Children's Residential Home is a tri-party partnership collaboration between Flintshire County Council (FCC), Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC) and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB), offering up to four places for children and young people aged 8-18 years. Park Avenue provides care and support; including accommodation, for up to four children and young people between the ages of 8-18 years old who are supported by Flintshire County Council. Bromfield Park offers care and support including accommodation for one young person aged 8-18 years as a solo placement or two siblings aged 8-18 years who are supported by Flintshire County Council. Chevrons Road offers care and support including accommodation for one young person aged 8-18 years as a solo placement or two siblings aged 8-18 years who are supported by Flintshire County Council. Mesen Fach is an emergency crisis flat on the site of Ty Nyth, currently going through the registration process.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS008T	Continue to grow our in-house homecare service to support more people to live at home, utilising a rolling scheme of recruitment	100%	★	Recruitment continues to be challenging however, the service has developed a recruitment plan to help increase the workforce and grow the share of the market.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS009T	Continue to grow our in-house fostering service to support more looked after children	100%	★	Recruitment has been active this year, with four new general foster carers approved and a further eight connected person carers. Connected person assessments have been busy this year but unfortunately these do not always result in approvals. To support the healthy interest in general fostering we have arranged 'Skills to Foster' training which will translate to an increase in applications.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS016T	Explore the recommissioning of advocacy services on a regional basis	100%	✔	The Adults Advocacy Contract has been successfully commissioned in collaboration with Wrexham County Borough Council. This has been awarded to ASNEW for Independent Professional Advocacy and Community Advocacy, and Advance Brighter Futures have been awarded Self Advocacy. The contract starts in January 2024 with an end date of January 2027, and a possible 1 year extension.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS017T	Increase skills around autism with respect to advocacy	100%	✔	ASNEW staff have completed their training. This action has been completed.

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
 CSS018T	Develop childcare expansion and seamless childcare provision across programs	100%		<p>Flying Start two-year-olds part time childcare expansion Phase 2 is currently being rolled out across Flintshire with an additional 23 children for 2024/25.</p> <p>Four Business Justification Cases (BJCs) that were submitted to the Welsh Government Early Years and Childcare Capital Programme 2022/25, two have now begun their feasibility survey. These suitability surveys will allow us to determine if the site is suitable to have a building project undertaken on it and will also inform us as to where we can consider building the modular building. The other two BJCs are to remain with the Welsh Government for consideration. Once the new modular buildings have been completed then there will be an additional 50-60 additional childcare places available in Flintshire that will offer a seamless pathway for early years children's childcare and learning pathways.</p> <p>Flintshire have also received confirmation from the Welsh Government that the funding for the Small Capital Grant 2024/25 has also been authorised. It is anticipated the Small Capital Panel will be re-established by June 2024, to consider the new applications that will come across.</p> <p>The final modular for the Phase 1 of the 2021/24 programme has been completed. This has increased childcare capacity and provided more seamless early years pathways between childcare and education in nine areas. Phase 2 2023/25 programme is underway, including the Croes Atti build in Oakenhalt.</p>

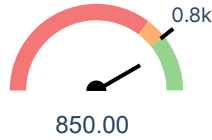

Direct Provision to Support People Closer to Home

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS013M	Rate of people over 65 helped to live at home per 1,000 population	30.50	34.00	32.50	 30.50	
<p>This measure includes individuals who are supported within their community through reablement services, domiciliary care, day services and occupational therapy and therefore, are not requiring a residential care placement.</p>						
CSS014M	Number of new foster carer approvals in the year	12.00	9.00	14.00	 12.00	
<p>Recruitment has been active this year, with four new general foster carers approved and a further eight connected person carers. Connected person assessments have been busy this year but unfortunately, these do not always result in approvals. To support the healthy interest in general fostering we have arranged 'Skills to Foster' training which will translate to an increase in applications.</p>						
CSS015M	Number of People with a learning disability accessing Project Search to improve their employability skills	14.00	12.00	16.00	 14.00	
<p>The local authority continues to support two Project SEARCH programmes operating within Flintshire, co-hosting one of the programmes with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB). Across the two schemes, a total of 14 individuals are currently accessing the programme.</p>						

Local Dementia Strategy

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
 CSS010T	Establish a Dementia Strategy Implementation Group, to include representation from people with lived experience	100%		A Dementia Project Board has been established to oversee all strategic developments to support people living with dementia, and their carers, in Flintshire.

Local Dementia Strategy

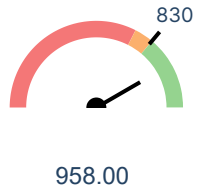

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS016M	Number of people supported through the Dementia Strategy	850.00	800.00	810.00		

Estimated number of people living with dementia, and carers, receiving care and support or engaging in community activities in Flintshire.

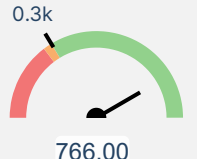
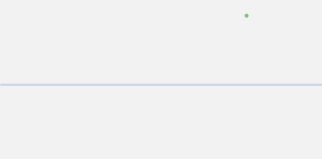
A Well-connected, Safe and Clean Local Environment

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
 CAU017T	Provide community hub sessions which target areas that have high anti-social behaviour and crime rates; to support young people who are at risk and to engage them with partners (subject to external grant funding)	100%		14 session available around Flintshire offering a range of activities and sport. We work with Community councils and sit on the contextual safeguarding and VARM meetings to ensure we are in the right areas 15913 with 805 sessions this year. This is reliant on Funding that we write bids for and are successful.
 CST012T	Work in partnership, actively support and engage with community led groups by developing Local Environmental Quality initiatives	100%		Partnership working continues to flourish and this Quarter has seen some considerable sized events taking place - especially in clearance of waste which has been flytipped. Spring cleaning events were organised to enhance community involvement and external stakeholders were in attendance for support and promote local initiatives.

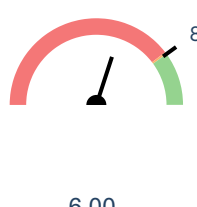

A Well-connected, Safe and Clean Local Environment

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU026M	Number of current monthly members with NERS, Well-Being and Junior subscriptions	958.00	830.00			

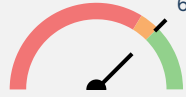
For the 12-month period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, the National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS) averaged 362 direct debit paying members per month, Well-Being (post-NERS exit membership) averaged 122 per month, and Junior (11-17 years) averaged 474 per month. All three schemes grew incrementally throughout the year as the post-pandemic return to normality continued, particularly the confidence levels of NERS and Well-Being clients, with NERS membership increasing by 18% and Well-Being membership increasing by 62% when comparing the March 2024 outturn with the April 2023 figures. The Actual (averaged) annual figure for the three fitness schemes totals 958 which exceeds the average Target for the four quarters (815) by 143 or 17.5%.

CAU027M	Number of community sessions held and number of participants attending	766.00	300.00			
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The number of community sessions held in 2023/24 was 766 with 10872 people attending.

CST011M	Number of targeted environmental educational campaigns undertaken promote improved Local Environmental Quality	6.00	8.00	4.00		
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Other environmental campaigns were made during this period but these were in collaboration with the Waste Strategy Team. Workshops and presentations across Flintshire and in collaboration in Sandycroft with Network Rail. Attendance at Communitiy Council Meetings

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CST022M	Number of community engagement events attended to promote improved Local Environmental Quality	6.00	6.00		 6.00	

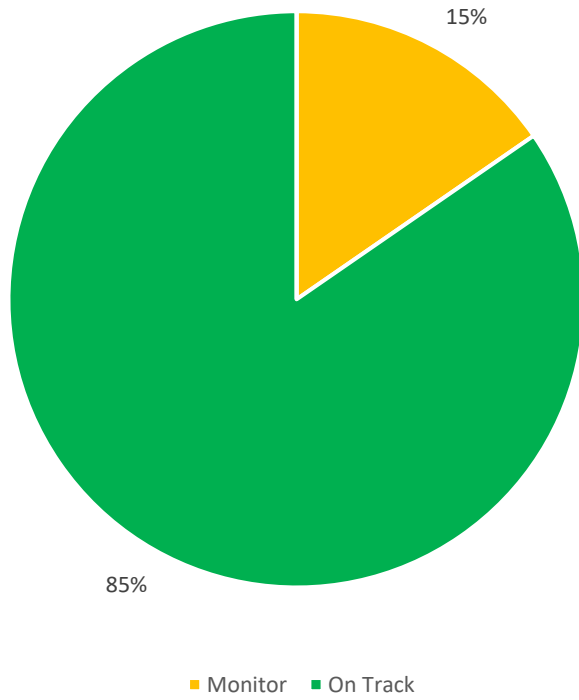
Events such as the Easter litter pick in Pennyfford and Ffynonngroyw, collaborations with local stakeholders, Countyside Services, KWT and residents. Clean up at Westwood Primary School in Buckley. Alleyway cleaning and clearance in Connah's Quay.

Education and Skills

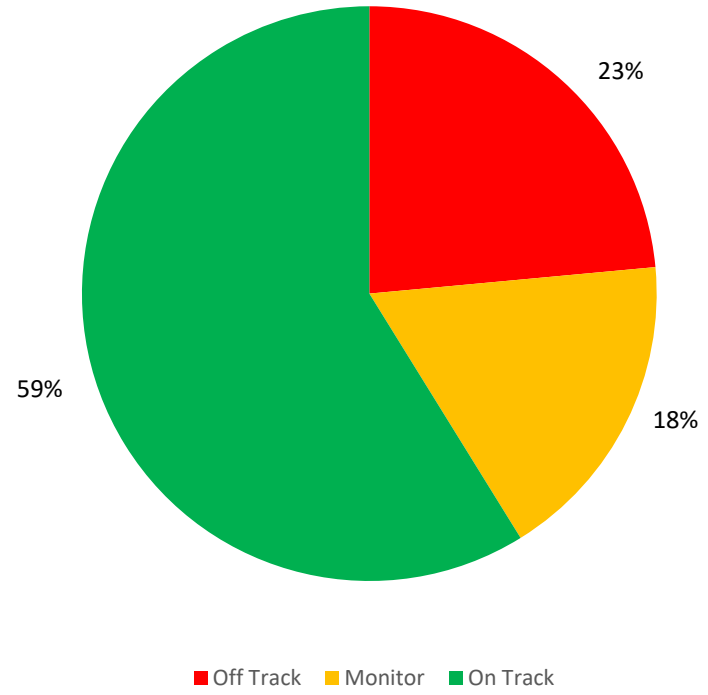
Well-being Objective: Enabling and supporting learning communities.

Education and Skills Overall Performance

Education and Skills - Action RAG Status



Education and Skills - Action RAG Status






Educational Engagement and Achievement

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY007T	Embed the revised processes and procedures in relation to attendance and exclusion, using data to better inform and target interventions at both a pupil and school level	100%	✔	Data now forms a more integral part of the monitoring in relation to attendance and exclusion. This has supported targeted interventions which have resulted in positive outcomes. Levels of attendance have improved across both the primary and secondary sector and are above the Welsh average. Levels of exclusion remain a challenge.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY024T	Continue to deliver Alternative Provision (Education) and to increase the number of young people on the programme gaining qualifications and achieving their full potential (subject to external grant funding)	100%	★	The 'Learning through Leisure' course has continued to run and proved successful for a number of learners across the secondary school network. The outcomes for learners will be known later in the academic year.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY044T	Support the implementation of the revised curriculum for secondary pupils in years 7 and 8	100%	✔	All secondary schools in Flintshire have implemented the revised curriculum for secondary pupils in Years 7 and 8 from September 2023. Each school continues to work with their supporting improvement adviser to embed this work. Schools can access ongoing professional development through the consortium.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY045T	Through the roll out of the Wales Government delivery model for Community Focused schools establish a collaborative approach to reduce school exclusion and improve school attendance	100%	✔	The model of intervention for the Community Focused Schools Team has been established and further developed to focus on transition. Important links have been developed with the identified communities to facilitate implementation of the intervention.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY046T	Explore and develop options for in house provision in response to the increasing number of pupils struggling to engage with education due to mental health difficulties	100%	★	A model of in-house provision has been developed and implemented under the umbrella of Plas Derwen Pupil Referral Unit. The provision has been successful in providing an alternative educational option for learners with a range of needs including mental health challenges.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY047T	Provide bespoke support for schools through training and development to improve the level of speech language and communication skills for pupils	80%	★	Current priorities - Further Implementation and Supervision of Talkboost Language Interventions for Nursery to Year 2 pupils. Ongoing rollout of Key Stage 2 Intervention needed. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board's Speech and Language Therapy Team (SALT) are no longer able to support the Supervision and roll, out due to funding changes. Education will endeavour to sustain the rollout.

Educational Engagement and Achievement

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CEY004M	Reduction in the number of permanent exclusions	31.00	25.00	27.00		
<p>There has been an overall increase in the level of permanent exclusion, with Substance Misuse accounting for the majority of incidents. Work has been undertaken to review the Council's policy and practice in relation to this area.</p>						
CEY005M	Reduction in the number of fixed term exclusions	2,096.00	1,150.00	1,677.00		
<p>There has been a notable increase in the levels of fixed term exclusion across the secondary sector with physical assault against a pupil and verbal abuse/threatening behaviour towards an adult accounting for the majority of incidents.</p>						
CEY006M	Percentage of pupil attendance in secondary schools	89.00%	89.00%	87.80%		
<p>Secondary attendance has improved and met the target. The use of Welsh Government grant funding for Attendance Support Officers has supported the improvement. At 89%, the attendance level was the third highest in Wales.</p>						
CEY007M	Percentage of pupil attendance in primary schools	92.10%	93.00%	92.40%		
<p>Whilst the target of 93% hasn't been achieved, primary school attendance in Flintshire compares favorably with that of other counties as the fifth highest nationally. The highest national value recorded for the year was 92.9%.</p>						

Digital Learning Opportunities









	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAU018T	Increasing take-up of digital learning opportunities supported by Aura	100%		Aura have continued to provide access to digital support for customers and the community at all seven static locations, as well as offering access to our digital loan scheme for people to access the digital world in their own homes. During this reporting period we have seen an increase in the demand for more informal, bespoke support for one or two issues as opposed to groups of people wanting to attending set courses . This is reflected in the smaller number of people being supported(CAU005M) , but a higher number of sessions being delivered (CAU006M). E.g one on one session to show people how to use applications such as WhatsApp, Video calling and streaming services. Our digital drop in sessions have been an ideal way to meet this demand.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY011T	Embed the delivery plan for Integrated Youth Services by maintaining focus on digital, school and community engagement	100%		We have successfully achieved our Integrated Youth Services delivery plan by maintaining a strong digital presence, ensuring our school and community immersion workers and play team are active in schools, and sustaining ongoing community engagement.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY048T	All schools to have a formally adopted Digital Strategy	100%		All schools have now formally adopted their own digital strategy . This gives all schools a standard to work from to develop their digital progression in a structured manner.

Digital Learning Opportunities

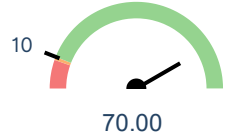
Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU005M	Number of learners	356.00	385.00	224.00		
<p>Aura have continued to provide access to digital support for customers and the community at all seven static locations, as well as offering access to our digital loan scheme for people to access the digital world in their own homes. During this reporting period we have seen an increase in the demand for more informal, bespoke support for one or two issues as opposed to groups of people wanting to attend set courses. This is reflected in the smaller number of people being supported (CAU005M), but a higher number of sessions being delivered (CAU006M). E.g. one on one sessions to show people how to use applications such as WhatsApp, Video calling and streaming services. Our digital drop in sessions have been an ideal way to meet this demand.</p>						
CAU006M	Number of sessions	229.00	15.00	1,174.00		
<p>Exceeded target.</p>						
CEY014M	All schools to have a formally adopted Digital Strategy by December 2023	100.00%	100.00%			
<p>Completed - Digital Strategies are in place in all schools.</p>						

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CEY015M	Number of Youth Work Sessions Delivered - School	925.00	390.00			
Schools delivery is running at full capacity and is delivered through individual and group work.						
CEY016M	Number of Youth Work Sessions Delivered - Community	511.00	400.00			
Open access sessions continue to be developed through clubs and detached provision.						
CEY017M	Number of Youth Work Sessions Delivered - Digital	86.00	100.00			
Delivery is focused around face to face as per consultation feedback on the needs of young people, commissioned through the Public Services Board. This has resulted in staffing resources being reprioritised into direct delivery with young people rather than on expanding digital provision, hence the target not being met.						



Learning Environments

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAU019T	To provide Duke of Edinburgh Award training opportunities for young people in Alternative Provision, schools, and community groups (subject to external grant funding)	100%		Last Year we had 70 Young People enrolled on the Bronze and Silver D of E.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY015T	Continue construction of the 3-16 campus at Mynydd Isa	100%		Construction of new 3-16 campus continues following site start in November 2022 on the Argoed High School site. Progress continues in line with the construction programme and Phase 1 of the campus is on target to be delivered as expected and within the parameters of the contract for the project.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY018T	Schedule Council approval to progress Wales Government's Band B Sustainable Communities projects within the Learning Investment Programme	100%		The Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme is designed to be delivered over a number of waves, or 'bands' of investment, currently in Band B (2019/24) the Council has agreed with Welsh Government a total investment of circa £85 million. Three projects identified within Band B have been delivered, four are currently progressing, one is at initial scoping phase, one at design development stage and two are currently in construction.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY019T	Progress the development of a new premises plan for the North-East Wales Archive	90%		The Council received notification from the National Lottery Heritage Fund on 28th March 2024, that it has been successful in its application for grant funding to support the development of a new archive facility. This grant offer is now in the process of being accepted by the Cabinets of both Flintshire County Council and Denbighshire County Council.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY049T	Commence construction of the Drury CP refurbishment and extension	75%		Project has been paused at design development stage due to declining learner numbers. This has impacted on the current design brief and heightened the risks around Welsh Government business case approvals. The project has been paused to allow forensic assessment of forecasting of learner numbers for the school.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY050T	Complete construction of the Penyffordd CP extension	100%		Construction of the extensions to Ysgol Penyffordd CP have now been completed and building extensions have now been successfully handed over to the school.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY051T	Commence design development options for a new Welsh medium primary school for Buckley / Mynydd Isa area	25%		Project is at the early planning and scoping stage. Strategic discussions continue with the Welsh Government Sustainable Learning Communities Capital Investment Team and internally to develop an operating model of the provision. It is proposed that this project will now move to the next wave of school modernisation projects under the rolling programme of investment as outlined in the Strategic Outline Programme to be agreed at Cabinet and Welsh Government in the near future.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY052T	Determine a strategy for school modernization within the Saltney area	50%		An early engagement process was completed in July 2023 to understand the schools' and community views. Feedback has been reviewed to determine next steps. It is proposed that this project will now move to the next wave of school modernisation projects under the rolling programme of investment as outlined in the Strategic Outline Programme to be agreed at Cabinet and Welsh Government in the near future.

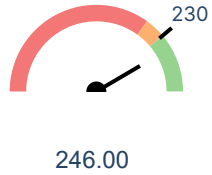

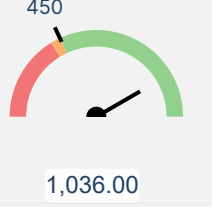
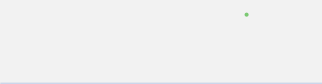
Learning Environments

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU029M	Number of young people engaged in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme	70.00	10.00			
70 Young people on the Bronze and Silver award.						




Learning Community Networks

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAU020T	Delivery of the Adult Community Learning (ACL) programme	100%		Our contribution to the Adult Community Learning Partnership continues to grow, with over 1,036 learners and 246 sessions being delivered during this reporting year. Examples of the courses that we provided include – First Aid for Parents, Pre and Post-natal Fitness, Employability Skills, Autism Awareness, Safeguarding, Social Media workshops, Food Safety qualifications and Positive Mental and Physical Well-being support sessions.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY020T	Continue to consolidate the joint working between Flintshire County Council and Denbighshire County Council through the Northeast Wales Archive to provide a sustainable and resilient service	100%		The joint working between the two Council archive services is embedded and successful under the first arrangement of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Now that the grant offer has been received from National Lottery the MOU will be replaced by a formal legal agreement between the two services. This has been drafted and will be finalised at the appropriate time of the development phase I linked to the grant funding offer outlined above.

Learning Community Networks

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU015M	Number of Adult Community Learning (ACL) courses available to the public - Sessions	246.00	230.00	440.00	 246.00	
<p>Examples of the courses we provided include – First Aid for Parents, Pre and Post-natal Fitness, Employability Skills, Autism Awareness, Safeguarding, Social Media workshops, Food Safety qualifications and Positive Mental and Physical Wellbeing support sessions.</p>						
CAU030M	Number of Adult Community Learning (ACL) courses available to the public - Learners	1,036.00	450.00		 1,036.00	
<p>Exceeded target</p>						

Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY031T	Extend the range of youth services delivered bilingually to encourage young people to retain and use their Welsh language skills into early adulthood	100%		Flintshire Youth Services remains committed to extend the range of services delivered bilingually. A new Welsh Language Officer has been appointed and this will continue to drive the commitment forward.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY053T	Complete the annual strategic actions within the WESP 5-year action plan	100%		All actions were given a RAG rating and discussed at the summer term meeting of the Welsh in Education Forum. No actions were identified as red and the annual report was submitted to Welsh Government in July 2023. The Forum has now moved to implementing year two of the five year action plan.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY054T	Review Welsh medium resource provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs	100%		A review has been undertaken to consider the current provision and engage with Welsh medium settings to determine need. the finding are being collated and will be presented to the WESP Forum.

Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CEY010M	Number of pupils in Year 1 in Welsh medium education	119.00	130.00	110.00		
<p>119 from pre validated PLASC as at January 2024. This is an increase of 9 from last years PLASC which was 110.</p>						
CEY011M	Number of Year 11 pupils studying Welsh	87.00	103.00			

This measure relates to the number of year 11 pupils in the current cohort at Ysgol Maes Garmon who are studying through the medium of Welsh. This figure is outside of the Council's control and is dependent on parental/pupil choices as to where they access secondary education.

Well-being

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAU021T	Run a referral programme for children and young people with ACEs or a disability and their families to provide low cost / no cost physical activity opportunities to improve overall health and well-being (subject to Action for Children funding) – by March 2024	100%	✓	141 Disability referrals engaged 143 Young People referrals engaged.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY046T	Explore and develop options for in house provision in response to the increasing number of pupils struggling to engage with education due to mental health difficulties	100%	★	A model of in-house provision has been developed and implemented under the umbrella of Plas Derwen Pupil Referral Unit. The provision has been successful in providing an alternative educational option for learners with a range of needs including mental health challenges.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY055T	Embed a Whole School Approach to Emotional Health and Wellbeing in all Flintshire schools	100%	✓	This work has progressed well and Flintshire schools are positively engaged with developing their work around the whole school approach to emotional health and well-being. This work will be ongoing as schools continue to embed effective practice.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEY056T	Improving awareness of trauma informed practice with schools and Education and Youth workforce	100%	✓	24 candidates from schools and Education and Youth successfully completed the local TISUK diploma training. The trauma informed approach group comprising of High school leads and LA staff met termly. This group provided an effective forum to engage with our high schools for the sharing of good local practice between schools and served as a local sounding board for introducing national initiatives. We are now in a much stronger position to build from individual practice into a wider reaching Belonging Strategy.

Well-being

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU031M	Number of referrals received and number of referrals engaged (ACE)	284.00	150.00			
141 Disability referrals engaged 143 Young People referrals engaged.						
CEY018M	All schools to have a Whole School Approach to Emotional Health and Well-being	100.00%	100.00%			
<p>100% of Flintshire schools are engaged and are implementing the requirements of the Welsh Government's Whole School Approach to Emotional Health and Well-being Framework. 79% of Flintshire Primary and Secondary schools have completed the required assessment tool and 50% have an action plan to prioritise development across their identified themes. Schools are receiving tailored ongoing support both face to face and online, in order to meet the requirements and are benefiting from additional capacity in the Healthy Schools team.</p>						

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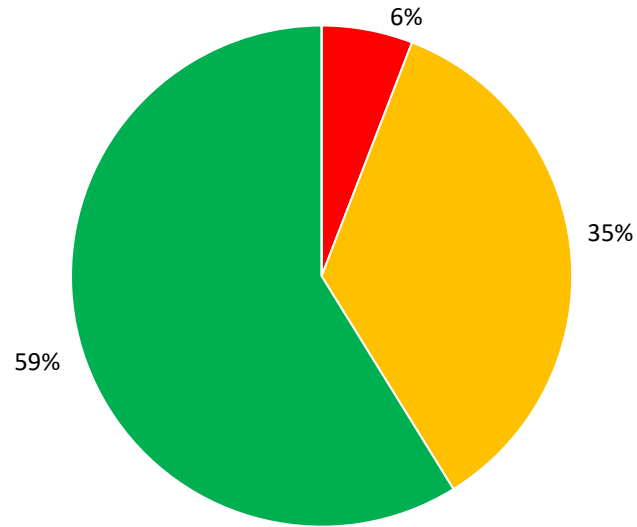
A Well Managed Council

Well-being Objective: A responsible, resourceful, and trusted Council operating efficiently as possible.

A Well Managed Council Overall Performance

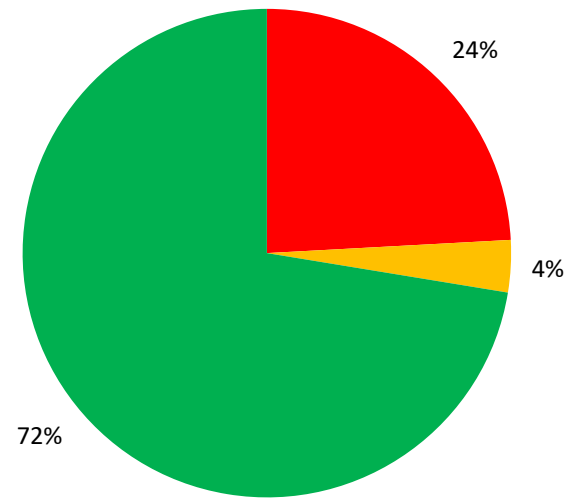
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A Well Managed Council - Action RAG Status



Off Track Monitor On Track

A Well Managed Council - Measure RAG Status



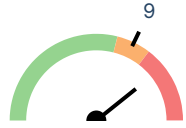
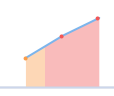
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People

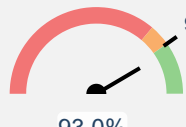
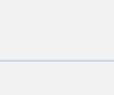
	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHR001T	Provide a workforce planning framework for use across the organisation	80%	●	Portfolios are provided with key information (including establishment control, headcount, diversity, age etc.,) monthly to enable them to undertake workforce planning for their own areas. The Chief Officer Team and the Human Resources Business Partner (HRBP) team have attended several workshops run by the LGA to look at options to introduce a single coherent workforce planning framework for use across the organisation. Once a decision has been made, we will be able to roll-out across the organisation.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHR002T	Implement a compliant and sustainable new pay model	50%	●	Work is ongoing. A preferred model is emerging (subject to cost).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHR003T	Maintain competitive pay and reward, and terms and conditions of employment	75%	●	Linked to CHR002T - Pay model is key to maintaining competitive pay and reward.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHR004T	Recruit sufficient permanent high quality staff with suitable qualifications and experience	89%	●	754 positions were filled during the year which is positive and indicates that we are able to recruit to a large number of positions, all of which will have been assessed as meeting the essential criteria for the post (including qualifications and experience). (percentage determined after deducting those who commenced employment but left during the first 12 months).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHR005T	Retain existing employees by supporting them to carry out their roles effectively, and by ensuring that our total offer for new and existing employees is competitive within the market place	88.69%	●	Turnover for 2023/24 was 13.55% which means that the stability for the year was 88.69%.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHR006T	Reduce the use of agency workers	0%	▲	The number of active placements via Matrix during 2023/24 was 110 (Streetscene and Transportation 67, Housing and Communities 26, Social Services 9, Chief Executives 3, Planning, Environment and Economy 2, Governance 2 and Education and Youth 1) compared to 78 in 2022/23. We report on total active placements as well as those that have exceeded 12 weeks as part of AWR (Agency Worker Regulations) where agency workers would receive the same rate of pay as a contracted Flintshire County Council employee. That said, agency workers engaged via Matrix are paid the same rate as a contracted employee from day one: As of 31 March 2024, there were 110 active agency placements on Matrix across all portfolios. At the time of running the report, 71 placements exceeded 12 weeks (37 Streetscene and Transportation, 18 Housing and Communities, 9 in Social Services, 3 in Chief Executives, 2 in Governance and 1 each in Education and Youth, and Planning, Environment and Economy). The number of active placements is a snapshot at a point in time and refers to open placements, it does not mean they are all engaged and working.

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHR007T	Promote the Council's Employee Assistance Programme to increase usage	5%	★	There have been 2,403 portal accesses to Vivup from September 2023 up until the end of February 2024. This would account for over 30% of Council employees if each access was an individual employee. This statistic is not measured as individual employees portal access i.e. one person could access many times. 500 self-help downloads have been recorded and 63 employees have accessed counselling. The breakdown is: 12 telephone counselling (approx. 6 session each - standard), 14 virtual counselling (approx. 6 sessions each - standard), 15 face to face counselling (approx. 6 sessions each - standard), 22 in the moment support - employees needing a one-off support discussion, and signposting to appropriate support.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHR008T	Increase the level of Welsh Language across the organisation	100%	✔	A range of Welsh language courses have been accessed by a number of learners. Offering different levels/methods of learning makes it more accessible.


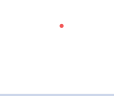
People

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHR001M	Number of working days lost per full time equivalent (FTE) local authority employees lost due to sickness absence	10.99	9.00		 <p>10.99</p>	

The year-end cumulative turnover percentage for 2023/24 is 10.99%. This shows an improvement when compared to the previous year (11.78%). Long term sickness (absence over four weeks) accounts for 6.56 days per FTE with the remainder (4.43) attributed to short-term absence. 26% of all absences across the Council are related to mental health, 21% musculoskeletal, and 11% due to infections. Attendance continues to be managed closely, with Managers, Occupational Health (OH) and HR working together to provide additional support, including mindfulness, counselling, stress management courses, stress risk assessments etc. CareFirst is also available to provide additional support.

CHR002M	Percentage of apprenticeships which result in a positive outcome	93.0%	90.0%		 <p>93.0%</p>	
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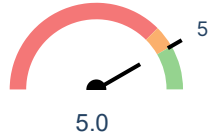
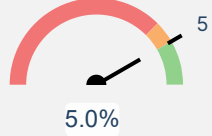
80% of apprenticeships got jobs internally, 10% got external jobs and 3% went on to university.

CHR003M	Percentage of permanent employees who leave within first year of employment	1.3%	1.0%		 <p>1.3%</p>	
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During 2023/24, 81 permanent employees left the authority within the first year of employment. 53% are due to personal reasons, 20% for alternative employer/career development and 7% was due to the nature of the work.



An exit interview survey is given to all leavers where they are able to complete anonymously and provide HR with feedback and more detail regarding the reason for leaving. This will enable HR and Portfolios to put measures in place to reduce the level of turnover.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHR004M	Percentage of employees who have completed all of mandatory modules	53.7%	100.0%		<p>53.7%</p>	
<p>The new E-Learning platform (Learning@Wales) was launched in March and a promotional launch was carried out to encourage the completion of the mandatory modules. The monthly completion report continues to be provided to Portfolios to ensure records and completions are kept up to date. Managers are asked to liaise with their teams to ensure that they carry out any training that is not 'completed' against their record.</p>						
CHR005M	Number of employees trained on Mental Health First Aid across the organisation (Increase)	145	150		<p>145</p>	
<p>We had 106 employees trained and increased that by 39 in Quarter 4. This increases the overall number to 145 employees trained across the organisation. Due to the moratorium we had to delay further courses. There are more planned for 2024/25.</p>						
CHR006M	Number of Mental Health First Aid Champions across the organisation (Increase)	35	30		<p>35</p>	
<p>There were 35 Mental Health First Aid Champions across the organisation in 2023/24. These numbers should increase during 2024/25, as we are planning to work with both the Housing and Communities Portfolio and the Planning, Environment and Economy Portfolio, which will involve training more Mental Health First Aid Champions.</p>						

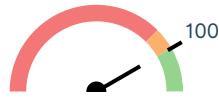
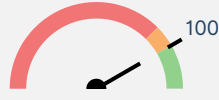
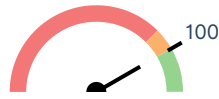
Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHR007M	Increase usage of the Council's Employee Assistance Programme	5.0	5.0			
<p>A targeted campaign (during January 2024) was launched on the Infonet where a range of topics were promoted in order to raise awareness of the scope of the service . This resulted in an increase of 60% in portal access during January 2024 compared to that in December 2023. Comms promotion on the Infonet and shared with Schools regarding Key themes will be launched during April, May and June which will reflect UK awareness topics such as Maternal Mental Health, Men's Health week, and stress awareness month etc. Usage will be measured from statistics in quarterly reports and initiatives aligned to national UK health initiatives.</p>						
CHR008M	Percentage of employees undertaking Welsh Language Training (Increase)	5.0%	5.0%			
<p>Our apprentices attended weekly Welsh language classes - 27 learners attended Learn Welsh Taster courses and 31 learners enrolled on Learn Welsh Cymru courses.</p>						

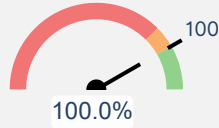

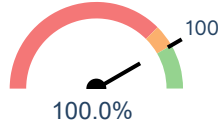
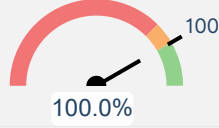
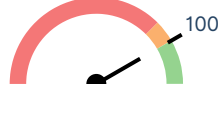
Anti-Racist and Anti-Discriminatory Council




	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CEY057T Complete a Portfolio annual self-assessment against the Welsh language standards and implement action plan to improve - Education and Youth	100%	✔	The Portfolio Self-assessment against the 2023/24 standards have been completed. Action plans are being implemented.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CGV013T Complete a Portfolio annual self-assessment against the Welsh language standards and implement action plan to improve - Governance	100%	✔	The portfolio self-assessment has been undertaken and all areas are compliant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CHC045T Complete a Portfolio annual self-assessment against the Welsh language standards and implement action plan to improve - Housing and Communities	100%	✔	The Self-assessment for the Housing and Communities Portfolio has been completed and actions have been identified and implemented. Regular reviews and reminders of Welsh Language Standards continue to be shared across the Portfolio.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CPA001T Publish the Workforce Information report to meet our statutory public sector equality duties	100%	✔	Workforce Information Report completed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CPA002T Publish the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report to meet our statutory public sector equality duties	100%	✔	The Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report was approved and published in March 2024.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CPA003T Complete a Portfolio annual self-assessment against the Welsh language standards and implement action plan to improve - Chief Executives	100%	✔	Portfolio Self-assessments are complete. These have been reviewed to identify areas for improvement.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CPA004T Develop and implement an Action Plan to meet Welsh Government's Anti -racist Wales Action Plan	100%	✔	The action plan is now included within the Strategic Equality Plan 2024/28 which has now been published.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CPE056T Complete a Portfolio annual self-assessment against the Welsh language standards and implement action plan to improve - Planning, Environment and Economy	100%	✔	Portfolio Self-assessment complete and Action Plan is in place.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CSS023T Complete a Portfolio annual self-assessment against the Welsh language standards and implement action plan to improve - Social Services	100%	✔	Annual Self-assessment against the Welsh Language Standards is complete and an action plan to improve was implemented in April 2023.

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
 CST023T	Complete a Portfolio annual self-assessment against the Welsh language standards and implement action plan to improve - Streetscene and Transportation	100%		Portfolio Self-assessment is complete.





Anti-Racist and Anti-Discriminatory Council

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CEY019M	Portfolio self-assessments against the Welsh Language Standards completed and Action Plans achieved - Education and Youth	100.0%	100.0%		 <p>100.0%</p>	
The Portfolio Self-assessment against the 2023/24 standards have been completed. Action plans are being implemented.						
CGV012M	Portfolio self-assessments against the Welsh Language Standards completed and Action Plans achieved - Governance	100.0%	100.0%		 <p>100.0%</p>	
Governance Portfolio Self-assessment undertaken annually.						
CHC041M	Portfolio self-assessments against the Welsh Language Standards completed and Action Plans achieved - Housing and Communities	100.0%	100.0%		 <p>100.0%</p>	
The Housing and Communities Portfolio Self-assessment has been completed and action plan implemented. Reviews and reminders across the Portfolio in respect of the Welsh Language Standards continues						

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPA001M	Strategic Equality Action Plan in place and actions achieved	100.0%	100.0%			
The Strategic Equality Plan is in place. Progress on actions for 2023/24 will be published during 2024/25.						
CPA002M	Workforce Information Report published	100.0%	100.0%			
Workforce Information Report completed.						
CPA003M	Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report published	100.0%	100.0%			
The Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2022/23 has been published within statutory timeframes i.e. by 31.03.2024.						
CPA004M	Portfolio self-assessments against the Welsh Language Standards completed and Action Plans achieved - Chief Executives	100.0%	100.0%			
All portfolios have completed Self-assessments. Analysis of Self-assessments has been undertaken to identify any areas of risk.						

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE043M	Portfolio self-assessments against the Welsh Language Standards completed and Action Plans achieved - Planning, Environment and Economy	100%	100%		 100%	
Portfolio Self-assessment complete and Action Plan is in place.						
CSS018M	Portfolio self-assessments against the Welsh Language Standards completed and Action Plans achieved - Social Services	100.0%	100.0%		 100.0%	
Portfolio Self-assessment is complete.						
CST023M	Portfolio self-assessments against the Welsh Language Standards completed and Action Plans achieved - Streetscene and Transportation	100.0%	100.0%		 100.0%	
Portfolio Self-assessment is complete.						

Financial Resilience

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CFI001T	Ensure the funding needs of the Council over the medium term are met through financial planning	100%		The Council was able to set a legal and balanced budget for 2024/25 in February 2024. Work is underway to update the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2025/26 onwards and an update report is scheduled for June/July 2024.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CFI002T	Ensure that robust monitoring arrangements are in place for revenue and capital	100%		Detailed budget monitoring and reporting arrangements have continued. The revenue monitoring position is reported monthly and the capital monitoring position is reported quarterly (Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CFI003T	Ensure an adequate level of reserves is maintained by the Council	100%		Projected levels of Unearmarked Reserves and Earmarked Reserves are reported monthly and quarterly respectively within the budget monitoring report. A statement on the levels and adequacy of overall reserves was included in the budget setting report to Council and Cabinet for the 2024/25 financial year.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CFI004T	Ensure robust processes exist for the management and recovery of debt including Council Tax and rent	100%		The Council continues to apply robust, but fair, debt recovery processes to maximise collection levels across all areas. At the same time, the Revenues service engages constructively with residents who struggle to meet their payment obligations by entering into affordable payment plans. The approach to debt recovery is set out in the Councils Corporate Debt Recovery Policy.

Flintshire Assets

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPA005T	Monitor Council Progress against the Corporate Asset Management Plan	50%	●	The Corporate Asset Management Plan informs the Capital Programme which is reviewed annually and progress is monitored throughout the year.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPA006T	Review and refresh the Corporate Asset Management Plan	50%	●	The Corporate Asset Management Plan will be refreshed 2024/25.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPA007T	Form and agree Office Accommodation Strategy	50%	●	Work has commenced on the office strategy, draft principles have been prepared and COT has been consulted. Further work required to firm up principles.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPA008T	Commercial Estate Rent Review	20%	●	Due to legal complexities, external advice is required. Tender submissions have been received and in the process of being evaluated.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPA009T	Review of Industrial Estate Strategy (Area by Area)	20%	▲	Due to new priorities and insufficient resource this piece of work is unlikely to be completed this financial year. Two estates have been reviewed as part of the Levelling Up bids and a strategy will be formulated for one of them.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPA005M	To increase energy efficiency within our retained units to meet EPC grade C by 2027 and Grade B by 2030	100.0%	70.0%		<p>70 100.0%</p>	
<p>All our units have now had Energy Performance Certificates and a survey which has identified the likely works required for the future minimum energy standards. However, our consultant has advised that the MEES legislation remains dormant and has not been enacted. The advice received is to do nothing for now until clarification occurs.</p>						
CPA006M	Increase rental income	20.0%	100.0%		<p>100 20.0%</p>	
<p>External advice procured. Target to review and increase rental income for 20% of rental properties in 2024/25. Slippage on target given the complexities.</p>						
CPA007M	County Hall Master Plan options appraisal/strategy: To develop a plan which will provide the blueprint for the redevelopment of County Hall site.	25.0%	50.0%		<p>50 25.0%</p>	
<p>This work is linked to the Office Strategy. We have agreed principles and structures are being established for work streams, phased implementation to follow.</p>						

Digital

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CGV009T	Continue to provide a corporate Contact Centre for handling telephone calls to the Council	100%		The corporate Contact Centre is open Monday-Friday between 08:30 – 17:00. The team handle a wide range of telephone calls for services in Housing, Streetscene, Planning, Elections and Blue Badges. In addition, the team answer calls to the Council's main telephone number 01352 752121.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CGV010T	Continue to administer a complaints procedure for customers to provide feedback on their experience with the Council	100%		The Concerns and Complaints Policy is based on an all Wales model for complaints handling in the public sector. The Council works closely with the Ombudsman to share examples on best practice and it also chairs the all Wales Corporate Complaints Officer Group.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CGV011T	Continue to promote My Account as an access channel to access the Council and its services	100%		The Council continues to promote My Account through the website and social media. My Account and opportunities for integration with back office systems is always at the forefront when designing digital services.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CGV012T	Provide access to Council services on the internet in a responsive way (information can be accessed using different devices)	100%		All of the Council's digital services are designed to be responsive to ensure that our customers can access digital services using a device of their choice e.g., laptop, tablet, smartphone.

Digital

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CGV003M	Number of My Account subscriptions.	36,566	37,268	30,381		
<p>My Account is at the forefront of all system development and portfolios have been invited to share their ideas to increase subscriptions, including Housing where Contract Holder (tenant) take-up is low. Marketing and promotion of My Account is ongoing.</p>						
CGV008M	80% of telephone calls to the corporate Contact Centre answered	69.0%	80.0%			
<p>During 2023/24 the corporate Contact Centre received over 182,000 telephone calls, of which 69% were answered. Significant recruitment and retention challenges have been well reported, which is a contributing factor to the service not achieving its target. The largest proportion of telephone calls relates to Housing and Streetscene services. Housing received over 68,000 telephone calls, of which 71% were answered and Streetscene received almost 80,000 telephone calls of which 72% were answered. As the service moves in to 2024/25, it remains firmly committed to upskilling employees and training those who are new, to improve performance.</p>						
CGV009M	70% of Step 1 complaints against Council services are dealt with within 10 working days	83.9%	70.0%			
<p>Complaints performance remains a priority for senior management and is regularly shared across portfolios to monitor trends, patterns, and actions. An ongoing programme of training is available to the workforce through Learning and Development and internal communications are regularly reviewed to ensure information is up to date and current.</p>						

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Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CGV010M	Number of unique website views	100,490,000.00	1,000,000.00			

Between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024, the Council's website has been used over 1.49 million times with over 4.25 million pages viewed. These figures illustrate the high volume of traffic to the website.



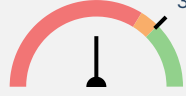



CGV011M	Number of eforms submitted to the Council	35,395.00	26,500.00			
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During Quarter 4, the Council received 35,395 eforms bringing the overall total for 2023/24 to 89,196. There was a significant increase in transactions during Covid as more people used digital service to apply for support e.g., Covid grants. Whilst volumes have reduced, they remain higher than pre pandemic volumes, which demonstrates more people are using digital services to transact with the Council.

Partnerships

	Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPA010T	Work with public sector partners, develop and publish a local Well-being Plan for 2023-28 setting out the local well-being objectives and how the Public Services Board, including the Council, aims to achieve them.	100%		The joint Flintshire and Wrexham Public Services Board (PSB) have been working on the first year of the Well-being Plan 2023-28. Three Outcome Boards and an Integration Team have been established and partnership project working is ongoing.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPA011T	Deliver three engagement events to encourage other organisations to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant , which contribute to Flintshire County Council being re-accredited with the Defence Employers Recognition Scheme Gold Award in 2024.	100%		Engagement events have been delivered by the Business Team. The Engagement Officer for the Armed Forces Employers Recognition Scheme is also invited to attend the Flintshire Armed Forces Forum. There is a standing agenda item to encourage other organisations to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPA012T	Review arrangements with alternative delivery model to ensure the ongoing delivery of shared outcomes, priorities and services	25%		Ongoing and will continue into 2024/25. Some delay in scheduled activity, new timescales agreed/or are to be confirmed.

Partnerships

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPA008M	Number of engagement events held to encourage sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant	3.00	3.00		 3.00	
<p>The Business Team have held different events throughout the year to which the Engagement Officer for the Employers Recognition Scheme has been invited to attend and deliver presentations.</p>						
CPA009M	Number of organisations who sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant	2.00	3.00		 2.00	
<p>Two organisations have committed to signing the Armed Forces Covenant, following support from the Business Team. This measure is no longer appropriate. Given the Council's role in delivering on the Armed Forces Covenant, and its lack of ability to influence other organisations to sign the Covenant, it has been agreed that going forward, the Council will no longer be set targets in relation to getting other organisations to sign up.</p>						
CPA010M	Production and publication of an Annual Report which reports on progress to achieve the well-being objectives contained within the local Well-being Plan 2023-28 (%)	25.0	25.0		 25.0	
<p>The 2023 Annual Report will be produced in Summer 2024 with draft report going to the joint Flintshire and Wrexham Public Services Board (PSB) meeting for comments in June 2024.</p>						



FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 4 th December 2024
Report Subject	Review of Political Balance
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council is required under the Political Balance Rules contained in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended, to review the Council's political balance calculations following a number of changes to political group membership and also the membership of the Cabinet.

There are also rules under the Local Government Measure (2011) on allocation of chairs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That seats on committees be allocated in accordance with political balance as shown in appendix A.
2	That any changes to nominees be notified to the Democratic Services Manager as soon as possible before the next meeting of each committee.
3	That Council decides which groups will appoint the chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees
4	That Council appoints a new chair for the Constitution and Democratic Services Committee from amongst councillors who are not in any group or who are in the group without a seat on Cabinet ("non-executive groups")

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE CALCULATION OF POLITICAL BALANCE
1.01	<p>The Council is required, as soon as practicable, after a change in the composition of political groups to recalculate political balance in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. Since the last calculation, a number of councillors have moved political group.</p>
1.02	<p>In addition, the composition of the Cabinet has changed and now contains members from the Independent Group. This is the first time such a change has happened part way through a year since the introduction of the Local Government Measure 2011 (“the Measure”). Ordinarily, a chair is appointed for the whole year, however, the Measure requires council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. reassess which groups can nominate the chair of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) when there is a change in the groups with a seat on Cabinet (“executive groups”); and2. to appoint a new chair to the Constitution and Democratic Services Committee who is not in an executive group.
1.03	<p>The basis of the statutory requirement is that Committee seats should be allocated to political groups (so far as is practicable) in the same proportion as those groups have to the total membership of the County Council.</p> <p>The allocation of seats on Committees to the political groups must recognise that:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(i) There must be no Committees whereby only one group has all the seats;(ii) Where there is a majority group it is entitled to a majority upon every Committee. (This does not apply where the largest group does not have an overall majority);(iii) The total number of seats allocated to each political group should be (in so far as is practicable) in the same proportion as those groups’ strengths upon the full Council;(iv) Each Committee should (so far as is practicable) have the same proportional division between political groups as is represented upon the full Council.(v) where there are councillors who are not a member of any group, the council must allocate seats to them <p>Thus if a group holds 25% of the total number of Councillors it should have:</p>

	<p>1) 25% of the overall number of seats on the Council; and 2) 25% seats on each Committee.</p> <p>These rules are applied in hierarchical order, so it is more important to allocate the correct number of seats overall than it is to allocate the correct number of seats on a particular committee. This is important because groups will typically have an entitlement to seats on a committee that isn't a whole number. If every notional entitlement were to be rounded down the group would have too few seats, and conversely it would have too many if every entitlement were rounded up.</p> <p>Allocating seats on each committee is therefore a case of rounding off entitlement (up or down) to fill all the seats on each committee without giving any group too many or too few seats. Especially with the OSC's it is often the case that a group will be rounded up on some and down on others. The choice of which ones get rounded up/down gives an element of flexibility.</p> <p>NB Under the legislation these rules do not apply to either the Cabinet or the Standards Committee.</p>
1.04	<p>In addition, at Flintshire we have two non-statutory conventions that we seek to apply when allocating seats:</p> <p>1) we seek to allocate seats to those members who wish to serve on a specific committee. We therefore try to allocate seats, in so far as that is possible, to groups (or individual councillors) based on their expressed wishes. This will often influence when to round up a partial entitlement to a seat; and</p> <p>2) Whilst we allocate seats to all the groups on each of the "personnel" committees on a politically balanced basis, as these committees meet extremely rarely, we don't take those seats into account when assessing the overall allocation of seats on the principal committees. This particularly benefits the smaller group whose allocation might otherwise be reduced by seats on committees that rarely meet.</p>
1.05	<p>The political balance calculation is attached as Appendix A. This is one possible lawful allocation of seats. Due to the choices made when rounding off entitlements on each committee, other possible lawful allocations may exist.</p>
1.06	<p>As explained above, we are also required under the Measure to reassess which group appoints which OSC chair. We have not had to do this part way through a year before. Appendix A contains the entitlement of each group to appoint a chair. Council needs to decide which groups will appoint which chairs, noting that three chairs will be allocated collectively to the executive groups who will choose how they are allocated.</p>
1.07	<p>The Local Government Measure 2011 also prohibits a member from an executive group chairing the statutory democratic services committee (which we have incorporated into the Constitution and Democratic Services Committee). The previous chair is a member of an executive</p>

	group. Their replacement therefore needs to be from one of the groups without a seat on Cabinet or a member who is not in any group.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
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2.01	None as a result of this report.
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3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
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3.01	Group Leaders were consulted on the political balance calculation by email.
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4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
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4.01	None as a result of this report.
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5.00	APPENDICES
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5.01	Appendix A – Political Balance table December 2024.
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6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
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6.01	<p>None</p> <p>Contact Officer: Gareth Owens, Chief Officer Governance Telephone: 01352 702344 E-mail: gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk</p>
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7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
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7.01	None.
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Political Balance December 2024 Draft v.3

	Labour			Independent			Eagle			Flintshire Peoples' Voice			Liberal Democrat			Conservative			True Independents			Non Aligned (BA DR AT)			Total Councill	Cross check	
No.of councillors	29			13			6			5			3			1			7			3			67	67	
% of councillors	43.28%			19.40%			8.96%			7.46%			4.48%			1.49%			10.45%			4.48%			Total		
Notional entitlement	59.30			26.58			12.27			10.22			6.13			2.04			14.31			6.13			Seats		
Allocation of seats	59			27			12			10			6			2			15			6			137	137.00	
Community, Housing & Assets OSC	6	5.19	0.81	2	2.33	-0.33	1	1.07	-0.07	1	0.90	-0.10	0	0.54	-0.54	0	0.18	-0.18	1	1.25	-0.25	1	0.54	-0.46	12	12.00	AT
Corporate Resources OSC	5	5.19	-0.19	2	2.33	-0.33	1	1.07	-0.07	1	0.90	-0.10	1	0.54	0.46	0	0.18	-0.18	1	1.25	-0.25	1	0.54	-0.46	12	12.00	AT
Education, Youth & Culture OSC	5	5.19	-0.19	2	2.33	-0.33	1	1.07	-0.07	1	0.90	-0.10	1	0.54	0.46	0	0.18	-0.18	2	1.25	0.75	0	0.54	0.54	12	12.00	
Environment & Econon	5	5.19	-0.19	2	2.33	-0.33	1	1.07	-0.07	1	0.90	-0.10	1	0.54	0.46	0	0.18	-0.18	1	1.25	-0.25	1	0.54	-0.46	12	12.00	DR
Social & Healthcare OSC	6	5.19	0.81	3	2.33	0.67	1	1.07	-0.07	1	0.90	-0.10	0	0.54	-0.54	0	0.18	-0.18	1	1.25	-0.25	0	0.54	0.54	12	12.00	
Planning	7	7.36	-0.36	3	3.30	-0.30	2	1.52	0.48	0	1.27	1.27	1	0.76	0.24	1	0.25	0.75	2	1.78	0.22	1	0.76	-0.24	17	17.00	BA
Licensing	5	5.19	-0.19	3	2.33	0.67	1	1.07	-0.07	1	0.90	-0.10	0	0.54	-0.54	0	0.18	-0.18	1	1.25	-0.25	1	0.54	-0.46	12	12.00	DR
Governance & Audit	2	2.60	-0.60	1	1.16	-0.16	0	0.54	-0.54	0	0.45	0.45	1	0.27	0.73	0	0.09	-0.09	1	0.63	0.37	1	0.27	-0.73	6	6.00	BA
Climate Change	6	5.19	0.81	3	2.33	0.67	1	1.07	-0.07	1	0.90	-0.10	0	0.54	-0.54	0	0.18	-0.18	1	1.25	-0.25	0	0.54	0.54	12	12.00	
Constitution and Democratic	7	6.93	0.07	4	3.10	0.90	2	1.43	0.57	1	1.19	0.19	1	0.72	0.28	0	0.24	-0.24	1	1.67	-0.67	0	0.72	0.72	16	16.00	
Pensions	2	2.16	-0.16	1	0.97	0.03	0	0.45	-0.45	1	0.37	-0.63	0	0.22	-0.22	0	0.07	-0.07	1	0.52	0.48	0	0.22	0.22	5	5.00	
Joint Pensions	0	0.43	-0.43	0	0.19	-0.19	0	0.09	-0.09	1	0.07	-0.93	0	0.04	-0.04	0	0.01	-0.01	0	0.10	-0.10	0	0.04	0.04	1	1.00	
Fire Authority	2	2.60	-0.60	1	1.16	-0.16	1	0.54	0.46	0	0.45	0.45	0	0.27	-0.27	1	0.09	0.91	1	0.63	0.37	0	0.27	0.27	6	6.00	
CJC JOSOC	1	0.87		0	0.39		0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.15	0.149	0	0.09	-0.09	0	0.03	-0.03	1	0.21	0.79	0	0.09	0.09	2	2	
Total to Group	59	59.30		27	26.58		12	12.27		10	10.22		6	6.13		2	2.04		15	14.31		6	6.13		137	137	
Grievance	6	5.19	0.81	2	2.33	-0.33	1	1.07	0.07	1	0.90		1	0.54	-0.46	1	0.18	0.82	1	1.25	-0.25	1	0.54		12	12.00	
Grievance Appeals	6	5.19	0.81	2	2.33	-0.33	1	1.07	0.07	1	0.90		1	0.54	-0.46	1	0.18	0.82	1	1.25	-0.25	1	0.54		12	12.00	
Invest + Disc	6	5.19	0.81	2	2.33	-0.33	1	1.07	0.07	1	0.90		1	0.54	-0.46	1	0.18	0.82	1	1.25	-0.25	1	0.54		12	12.00	

If the allocations come to a total that is too high/low then the numbers along the bottom/on the right change colour

TABLE 2

	Labour	Eagle	Independent	FPV	Liberal Democrats	Conservative	True Independent	Non-Aligned
Scrutiny chairs	Add together and round down			Round Up	Round Up	Round Up	Round Up	OSC chairs are only allocated to groups
Collective notional	47/67 seats = 70.15% or 3.51 chairs			0.37	0.22	0.07	0.52	0.00
Actual	3			1	0	0	1	0

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Wednesday, 4 December 2024
Report Subject	Scrutiny Arrangements for the Corporate Joint Committee
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) has been established as a separate corporate body to undertake its four statutory functions across the whole of North Wales. Its work needs to be scrutinised.

Statutory guidance and existing practice points towards the six councils establishing a joint overview and scrutiny model so that there is a single, dedicated body which is immersed in the work of the CJC. This body will not displace local scrutiny of the CJC as a partner body, its work on the growth deal etc.

This report contains draft terms of reference for the proposed joint overview and scrutiny body.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	That Council:
A	Agrees to establish the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) with the Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 1.
B	Agrees that the powers of local Scrutiny Committees provided for under The Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2022 shall be retained.
C	Agrees the political balance of Flintshire County Council's nominees to the joint overview and scrutiny committee will reflect the membership of Flintshire County Council rather than the membership of all North Wales councils in aggregate, where one seat shall be reserved to a councillor who is not a member of an executive group.
D	Agrees that the secretariat for the JOSC will be provided by the CJC in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE PROPOSED JOINT SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS
1.01	<p>The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (the CJC) was established on 1 April 2021 and subsequently gained its functions in June 2022. Currently these functions are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare, monitor, review and revise a regional Strategic Development Plan; • develop a Regional Transport Plan with policies for regional transport; • the power to do anything which is likely to promote economic wellbeing.
1.02	<p>It is a separate local authority body with its own functions and membership primarily drawn from the six North Wales Councils and the Eryri National Park Authority. It has statutory requirement to effectively adopt most of the generic governance arrangements of a Principal Authority including a Constitution, Governance and Audit Sub-Committee, Standards Sub-Committee and other legal requirements including Performance Reviews, Equalities and Biodiversity Policies and compliance with the Welsh language standards.</p>
1.03	<p>The need for Scrutiny of the CJC is enshrined in both the Regulations and the Statutory Guidance. An element of “scrutiny” is already in built within the form of the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee for example, but this has a specific process and performance role and is not a “Overview and Scrutiny” Committee. There is an expectation that the CJC will be subject to Scrutiny.</p>
1.04	<p>Overview and Scrutiny</p> <p>The requirement to establish Scrutiny Committees is an intrinsic part of the Executive system. However, there is no corresponding statutory requirement for a CJC to establish its own Scrutiny Sub-Committees to exercise similar functions. Indeed, the current statutory guidance (“the Guidance”) on CJC the envisages that this will be based on scrutiny by the constituent authorities:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">34. Overview and scrutiny arrangements</p> <p><i>34.1 Regulations on overview and scrutiny are proposed for spring 2022. It is envisioned that this will be based around scrutiny by the constituent councils of the CJC and not scrutiny by the CJC of its own work. This will be an important part of the democratic accountability of the CJC. As part of the council’s general approach to scrutiny any scrutiny arrangements should be undertaken in line with any published scrutiny guidance and the Democracy Handbook (when published).</i></p>

	<p><i>34.2 In considering the most effective and efficient approach to scrutiny, constituent councils and CJsCs should give thought to the benefits of a joint overview and scrutiny committee made up of the constituent councils. The clear aim and ambition however must be to create, facilitate and encourage a clear democratic link back to the constituent councils.</i></p> <p><i>34.3 As part of the regulations discussed in 34.1 it is proposed that CJC members and staff will have a duty to provide information to the scrutiny committee; attend committee meetings if requested to do so; and consider any report or recommendations made by a committee within the agreed arrangements, and which relate to the CJC.</i></p> <p>(Corporate Joint Committees: Statutory Guidance-WG 2022)</p>
1.05	<p>This is further supported by the “Statutory and Non-Statutory Guidance for Principal Councils in Wales – supporting provisions within the Local Government Act 2000, the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 “June 2023 which identifies scrutiny of CJC as being one of the possible functions of a JOSCS.</p> <p>“12.10 Some instances where a joint committee might be appropriate include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going monitoring of a joint service delivery mechanism; • On-going review of a joint statutory partnership or other collaborative arrangements such as a <u>corporate joint committee</u>; • Investigating a topic that may require a regional response (for example, waste management or sustainable development); • Sharing scrutiny resources to investigate a similar topic of high interest or high importance to more than one authority (although not necessarily requiring a joint / multi-authority response). “ <p>Criteria for establishing a JOSCS</p> <p>12.11 In deciding whether or not to establish a JOSCS, the following questions should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the topic involve the work of a strategic partner or partnership body whose services cover more than one local authority area? For example, a JOSCS may wish to focus upon the work of a transport provider, third sector organisation or a relevant social enterprise whose services cross authority boundaries; • Does the issue or service affect residents across more than one county area or concern a particular population’s needs? A JOSCS may wish to consider thematic topics such as climate change, fuel poverty, grass-fires or road safety; or it may wish to consider services connected to particular groups of interest such as young adults with physical disabilities, teenage mothers or vulnerable older people; • What form of JOSCS could reasonably be resourced? Undertaking effective joint scrutiny is dependent on participating councils

	<p>engaging in the building of relationships, and putting in place systems of working and administration. In order that JOSCs can provide significant added value, care must be taken to ensure that its objectives are proportionate to its resources.”</p>
	<p>The Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2022 impose a duty on the CJC to co-operate with a “relevant” Scrutiny Committee and respond to any reports or recommendations prepared by the Scrutiny Committee. A “Relevant Scrutiny Committee” may be a Committee of the Constituent Authorities, or a Joint Scrutiny Committee appointed by those authorities. This means that where a scrutiny committee exercises its powers to make <u>a report to the authority or it’s executive “on matters which affect the authority’s area or the inhabitants of that area</u> “and that relates to the functions of the CJC, certain requirements stem from this.</p>
1.06	<p>The CJC must co-operate with the Relevant Scrutiny Committee and give it such reasonable assistance as it requests including.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arranging for a member of the CJC to attend to answer questions • arranging for a member of staff of the CJC to attend to answer questions • providing information • providing documents (with provision for exempt information) • consider the report or recommendation, and • where the Scrutiny Committee formally publishes a report, the CJC must publish a statement setting out the steps it intends to take in light of the report or recommendation in exercising its functions within two months.
1.07	<p>It must be emphasised that this is not a “call in” which is separately provided for and relates to the power to stop and suspend implementation of an executive decision pending a review by Scrutiny. There may be different approaches to this in the authorities, but it is important to note that the process is one of reporting to its own authority about a matter where the CJC is involved, not the CJC per se.</p>
1.08	<p>Current Corporate Joint Committee Scrutiny across Wales</p> <p>Currently in relation to the other three Corporate Joint Committees in Wales joint scrutiny arrangements have been put in place. These are either JOSCS created and agreed with the constituent Councils or established by CJC as part of their governance arrangements. Some do pre-date the 2022 Regulations.</p>
1.09	<p>Regional vs Local Scrutiny</p> <p>The CJC is a regional body which needs to be subject to scrutiny as a whole and it doesn’t make sense for that work to be undertaken six times. Equally it has responsibility to work across the whole of North Wales. E.g. preparing the regional development plan. Again, it makes sense to scrutinise the impact and effect of such plans regionally.</p>

	<p>Some of its work is geographically localised within the area of each constituent council and so should be open to local scrutiny. The regional growth deal is perhaps the readiest example of this because, as well as regional projects, it includes specific projects in each council that will have primarily local outcomes. It makes sense for those local outcomes to be scrutinised by the relevant council. Equally council may wish to examine the impact of regional strategies in their own locality.</p> <p>The JOSOC will therefore not displace the right of local scrutiny committees to look at the work of the CJC as it effects that council's area.</p>
1.10	<p>Outline of proposed JOSOC scrutiny roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the CJC (not "call in"); • To make reports or recommendations to CJC respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the CJC; • To make reports or recommendations to the CJC on matters which affect the CJC . <p>It's cycle of meetings would need to be agreed as would the support requirement and work programmes etc.</p>
1.11	<p>Membership</p> <p>It is proposed that the JOSOC would have 12 members who would not be executive members of the Constituent Councils. This results from an underlying requirement that there are an equal number of members from each of the Councils. In addition, members are appointed by each Council as far as practicable on the basis of their respective political balance, as opposed to the overall North Wales political make up of the membership. So, appointments from Conwy e.g. would be based on the political balance of Conwy and appointments from Flintshire would be based on their political balance etc.</p>
1.12	<p>The Constitution and Democratic Services Committee considered these proposals at its meeting on 6 November 2024. It was suggested, and agreed, that one of the 2 seats on the JOSOC should be reserved for a member who is not in a group which holds a seat on Cabinet (so called "executive groups"). As the CJC itself is made up exclusively of Leaders and Cabinet Members its views will presumably tend to reflect the views of the "administration" in each constituent council. It is widely recognised that scrutiny works best when it doesn't simply reflect the views of those with executive authority (though clearly those views cannot wholly be excluded), which this proposal would achieve.</p> <p>In the current circumstances of the Council, this would mean that one seat would be occupied by a councillor from the Eagle, Independent or Labour group and the other seat would be occupied by a councillor from the Liberal Democrat, Flintshire Peoples Voice or True Independent group or a councillor who is not in any group.</p>
1.13	<p>Growth Deal</p>

	<p>On the 17th December 2021 ,Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council, Flintshire County Council, Cyngor Gwynedd, Isle of Anglesey County Council, Wrexham County Borough Council (the “Constituent Councils”) ; together with Bangor and Wrexham Universities, Coleg Cambria and Group Llandrillo Menai entered into a Joint Working Agreement (“GA2) which established a Joint Committee responsible for overseeing and coordinating the discharge of the Councils’ obligations in relation to the North Wales Growth Deal and delivering the North Wales Growth Vision.</p>
1.14	<p>However, and this was anticipated in GA2 that the Growth Deal could potentially be transferred to the CJC, which is a matter specifically reserved to the Councils. The Constituent Councils resolved in their in principle decisions in 2021/22 to transfer the Growth Deal to the CJC. The overall strategic impetus to transfer stemmed from the correlation in membership between the NWEAB and the CJC and the membership of the CJC, the wish to avoid a multiplicity of regional bodies with similar functions, and the various legal and operational advantages and efficiencies of the CJC being its own corporate entity.</p>
1.15	<p>As part of GA2 a Scrutiny Protocol was adopted which provided a framework for scrutinising the work of the Economic Ambition Board (EAB). This provided for provision of regular reports and attendance by EAB officers at scrutiny. Because, unlike the CJC the EAB was subject to “call in” of its decisions there was also an agreed process to manage potential multiple call-in. In reality there has been no call-in of the EAB’s decisions. This arrangement was possible because of the narrow scope of the EAB’s functions which were limited to economic wellbeing and development and in practice involved one scrutiny committee from each Council. Scrutiny of the CJC with its range and developing range of functions needs to be considered in a different context. The proposed model of a JOSOC would in reality enable a more pro-active scrutiny approach and a closer relationship between the scrutiny function and the CJC. It should also be emphasised that the proposed model does not take away the statutory powers of the individual scrutiny committees of the constituent Councils, where appropriate, to call on the CJC to contribute and respond to a formal report or recommendations. This is reflected in the Standing Orders.</p>
1.16	<p>Standing Orders</p> <p>A proposed set of standing Orders have been prepared for the JOSOC and these would constitute the agreement to establish the JOSOC.</p>
1.17	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>The creation of the Corporate Joint Committee involves a change in terms of regional partnering from the current local authority joint committee arrangements. It can also be surmised that it’s role will see increased prominence and probably expansion of functions or tasks. It will also develop its own separate governance and management arrangements. There are therefore risks attached to assuming the current arrangements around the EAB can be transplanted into this new environment and achieve an appropriate level of challenge and scrutiny.</p>

	Scrutiny is there to provide assurance for the Constituent Authorities and the CJC itself that it is properly exercising its functions. Whichever body or bodies carry out this function they will need to have a level of understanding and information about the organisation they are scrutinising, it's work, risks and the inter-relationship with their own Councils.
1.18	The statutory guidance also needs to be borne in mind and the recommended JOSOC model. Whilst other regions have also taken the JOSOC route albeit with different models, there tends to a presumption in favour of the JOSOC.
1.19	A JOSOC would need to maintain a relationship with its constituent Councils and authorities. It would be acting as their representative body and should not be acting as a wholly stand-alone entity. It would be seen as part of its terms of reference as having a regional gatekeeping role in the future development of the CJC and its functions. This would be incorporated into its terms of reference. On specific local issues "home" scrutiny committees would still maintain the ability to scrutinise the CJC. However, it is a key area as the Guidance suggests for maintaining the democratic relationship with the home authorities. There is a risk nevertheless that this also overlooks the point that unlike traditional Joint Committees which are effectively regional Cabinets (within their terms of reference) the CJC is a separate corporation which needs to develop and maintain a relationship with its' partner Councils and organisations in a different way. Scrutiny is a key component of that arrangement and the CJC will be working closely with its Constituent Councils and other partners through other channels. That in itself highlights the need for Scrutiny to be undertaken from a position of knowledge and understanding of the organisation it is overseeing.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Neither option is a resource neutral arrangement. Officer time and capacity will need to support both the options. It can be anticipated that the JOSOC would meet about three times per annum. There would have to be liaison between the CJC staff and Scrutiny Teams to establish agenda items which would involve forward planning of scrutiny work. This would be the same for each model if we are to avoid a general up-date approach to scrutiny. The level of resource required to regularly attend all scrutiny meetings, research agenda items and work planning for each can be anticipated to be significant. A Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting remotely is unlikely to generate additional issues around members remuneration.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Constitution and Democratic Services Committee has been consulted as a prelude to setting the scrutiny arrangement at this meeting. It supported the proposals with the change to recommendation c as noted at paragraph 1.12 of the report.

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4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	<p>Principally the risks relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the loss of “ownership “ of the scrutiny function b) localised scrutiny of projects that need to be seen from a regional perspective <p>These are addressed within the proposals (and the body of the report) by retaining local scrutiny alongside the regional model.</p>

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – draft terms of reference for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC)

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Contact Officer: Gareth Owens, Chief Officer Governance Telephone: 01352 702344 E-mail: Gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) – Regulations were made by the Welsh Government on 17 March 2021 creating four Corporate Joint Committees in Wales, and the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) was established on 1 April 2021. The CJC must exercise functions relating to strategic development planning and regional transport planning and are also able to promote economic wellbeing.</p> <p>Economic Ambition Board (EAB) - The Board is a joint-committee and is the decision-making body, responsible for the leadership, vision, delivery and strategic direction of the Growth Deal.</p>

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DRAFT Terms of Reference

1. Statutory Provisions.
2. Name of Overview and Scrutiny Committee
3. Purpose of the Joint Scrutiny Committee
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10. Voting rights
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13. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair
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21. Confidentiality of Information
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23. JOSOC meeting procedures (including sub-committees)
24. Responding to the JOSOC recommendations
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26. Setting the agenda
27. Reference of matters to joint overview and scrutiny committee, etc
28. Training and Development
29. Expenses, Allowances and Salaries
30. Meeting Venue / time

Terms of Reference

1. Statutory Provisions.

- a) The joint overview and scrutiny committee (JOSC) has been established in accordance with the following legislation:-
- The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (Sec 58 – Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees)
 - The Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013.

The Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2022 b) The conduct of the JOSC and the arrangements for joint scrutiny shall be subject to the legislative provisions in a) above, and any regulations or guidance made in accordance with the legislation; and in the event of any conflict between the Act and/or Regulations and any joint arrangements, the requirements of the legislation will prevail.

2. Name of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

(a) The appointing Authorities (“Appointing Authorities”) are –

- Conwy County Borough Council;
Denbighshire County Council;
- Flintshire County Borough Council;
- Cyngor Gwynedd ;
Isle of Anglesey County Council;
- Wrexham County Borough Council;

(b) The title of the JOSC between the six Appointing Authorities shall be the “North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee” (*The JOSC for the purpose of this document*).

3. Purpose of the Joint Scrutiny Committee (JOSC)

- The overall aim of the JOSC is to scrutinise the overall effectiveness of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (the CJC).
- The core functions of the JOSC are:-
 - To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the CJC (not “call in”);
 - To make reports or recommendations to CJC respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the CJC, to include pre-decision scrutiny;
 - To make reports or recommendations to the CJC on matters which affect the

- It's cycle of meetings would need to be agreed as would the support requirement and work programmes etc.
- d) The remit of the JOSOC includes only the activities of the CJC as a partnership and excludes scrutiny of individual partner organisations (see also para 5).

4. Intended outcome(s) of the joint overview and scrutiny committee

- a) Ensuring that the JOSOC achieves the following benefits:-
- **Effective challenge** is provided to the CJC and that it is achieving the desired aims.
 - **the focus is on outcomes for people not organisations:** shifting the perspective from inputs to delivering results;
 - **the JOSOC acting as a unifying force:** helping the appointing authorities address regional decision-making across different political, organisational and geographical boundaries;
 - **Accountability:** providing timely review in relation to the CJC's functions.
 - **Efficiency:** maximise resources;
 - **Innovation:** identifying new insights and solutions.
- (b) The Joint Scrutiny Committee will prepare an annual report on achieving on its work and outputs which will be sent to the Appointing Authorities Head of Democratic Services by no later than 31 July in any given year.

6. Elected Member Membership (Councillors)

- a) There will be an equal number of Elected Members from each appointing authority and no executive members may be on the committee.
- b) The JOSOC will comprise twelve Elected Members; that is two non-executive Elected Members from each of the Constituent Councils .
- c) Each local authority will determine and nominate its Elected committee Members in accordance with its own arrangements. The term of office of the nominated Elected Members shall be a matter for each nominating local authority, subject to a minimum planned term of one municipal year.
- d) Each Elected Member will have a key role in reporting back to their Appointing Authority on the scrutiny undertaken and the outputs.

7. Quorum

- a) A quorum of one third of Elected Members of the JOSOC will be required to enable a meeting to proceed.
- b) A quorum of one third of Elected Members of any JOSOC sub-committee will be required to enable a meeting to proceed, comprising of at least one Elected Member from each of the appointing authorities.

9. Co-opted Members

a) The JOSC may invite additional members to serve on the JOSC or sub-committee as co-opted members subject to:-□

- the appointment being approved by a majority of all the members of the JOSC
- the person co-opted to serve on the JOSC, or on a sub-committee, not being entitled to vote at any meeting of the JOSC or sub-committee on any question which falls to be decided at that meeting.
- the person not being an elected member of a local authority, whether that authority is one of the appointing authorities or otherwise.
- the membership of a person co-opted to serve on the JOSC, or on a subcommittee of such a committee, being withdrawn by a majority vote at any time by the JOSC or sub-committee.
- the number of co-opted members on the JOSC not exceeding the number of elected members that sit on the JOSC.

10. Termination / suspension of membership

- a) If an Elected Member appointed to the JOSC ceases to be a member of the Appointing Authority, then that person also immediately ceases to be a member of the JOSC.
- b) If a person appointed as a member of a JOSC is suspended from being a member or a co-opted member of one of the Appointing Authorities, that person may not serve as a member of the JOSC for the duration of the suspension.
- c) If a co-opted member appointed to the JOSC ceases to be an employee/member of the organisation he/she was appointed from, then that person immediately ceases to be a member of the JOSC.

11. Voting rights

- a) All Elected Members may vote on any question that falls to be decided at that meeting
- b) Where there is an equality of votes at a meeting of a JOSC or sub-committee, the chair has a second or casting vote.
- c) A person co-opted to serve on the JOSC or on a sub-committee is not entitled to vote at any meeting of the JOSC or sub-committee on any question which falls to be decided at that meeting (also see Co-opted Members above).

12. Sub Committees of the JOSC

- a) The JOSC can establish sub-committees in order to operate in a more streamlined and flexible manner to undertake its statutory functions.
- b) Any sub-committees appointed by the JOSC will comprise at least four Elected Members, together with any co-opted members as agreed when establishing the sub-committee. The number of co-opted members on the sub-committee must not exceed the number of elected members that sit.
- c) A sub-committee is to comprise an equal number of Elected Members of each of the appointing authorities

- d) Any report or recommendations made by a sub-committee of the JOSC is subject to approval by a resolution of the JOSC.
- e) Any sub-committee can only exercise the functions conferred upon it by the JOSC.

13. Political Balance

- a) Each Appointing Authority must ensure that, as far as practicable, the members of the JOSC reflect the balance of political groups for the time being prevailing among the members of the Appointing Authority.

14. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

- a) A JOSC must appoint a chair of the committee from within its Elected Member membership.
- b) A JOSC may appoint a vice-chair and this must be from within its Elected Member membership.
- c) The Chair will be appointed from within its Elected Member membership on a rotational annual basis and the allocation of the vice-chair (if appointed) will be given to the member of the Authority which is next scheduled to hold the position of Chair.
- d) Any sub-committee must appoint a chair, and may appoint a vice chair, from amongst its Elected Member membership.

15. Access to meetings and documentation etc.

- a) The JOSC, or a sub-committee, is to be treated as a committee or sub-committee of a principal council for the purposes of Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972 (access to meetings and documents of certain authorities, committees and subcommittees).

16. Meetings of the JOSC

- a) Meetings will initially be held on a quarterly basis with a schedule of meeting dates circulated and agreed at the start of each financial year. Extra meetings may be called where 50% of the Elected Members identify the need.

17. Work programme (Forward Plan)

- a) In consultation with the CJC The JOSC should agree a forward plan to identify what issues the JOSC intends to focus upon during the course of the year.
- b) The forward plan should provide a clear rationale as to the purpose of considering a particular topic, and to the methods by which it will be investigated.
- c) The JOSC must have regard to The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and guidance, which places a requirement to engage with the public.
- d) The JOSC must consult the CJC on the proposed Forward Plan

18. Access to information rules

- a) Meetings of the JOSC will be subject to the same access to information rules as other public meetings of the councils.
- b) The Chair will adhere to the access to information rules of his/her respective Authority.

19. Rules of Procedure

- a) Members of the JOSC and the public must have regard for the Chair who will have the authority to determine on any rules of procedure during meetings of the JOSC.
- b) The Chair will adhere to the rules of procedure of his/her respective Authority.

20. Declarations of Interest

- a) All Elected Members shall observe the Code of Conduct in force for their respective Authorities, whilst co-opted members shall observe the Code of Conduct of the Authority of the Chair of the JOSC at the time the co-opted member was appointed.
- b) Members of the JOSC must declare any interest during meetings of the JOSC (and withdraw from the meeting if necessary) in accordance with the paragraph above.

21. Confidentiality of Information

- a) In accordance with Members' respective Authority's Code of Conduct, members (Elected Members and Co-opted Members) of the JOSC must not disclose any information considered 'exempt' in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.
- b) The Proper Officer for the JOSC shall be ??

22. Administrative arrangements

- a) The secretariat function will be provided by the CJC ? same Authority as the Chair for the period he/she is appointed for. The function includes:
 - Arranging regular meetings of the JOSC - meetings are held within appropriate timescales following meetings of the CJC and it's Sub Committees
 - Preparing agendas and commissioning papers for meetings - Agendas and commissioning papers are prepared and distributed in a timely manner.
 - Inviting participants
 - Managing attendance
 - Provision of meeting venues
 - Minute taking
 - Preparing evidence for Scrutiny
 - In alignment with the nominated Chair, the supporting Officer is from the same authority, which would allow for a shared resource approach

23. JOSC meeting procedures (including sub-committees)

- a) Main agenda items will be identified at the previous meeting in line with the agreed work programme. At this point potential witnesses and broad themes should be considered.
- b) Prior to the meeting all JOSC Members should be engaged in raising and discussing possible questions by email. The JOSC Chair will facilitate this process.
- c) A pre-meeting for all JOSC Members will be held for 30 minutes immediately before each JOSC meeting. The purpose is to ensure that members are fully prepared for the JOSC meeting and that the questioning strategy is clear.
- d) During the meeting, the JOSC Chair will be responsible for ensuring that questioning is effective and that the JOSC achieves its objective.
- e) Those invited to attend for a particular agenda item shall not be expected to remain at the meeting.
- f) At the close of the meeting, witnesses will be asked to leave to enable JOSC Members to discuss their conclusions and any recommendations arising from the meeting. These conclusions and recommendations will be reported to the PSB and relevant Cabinet Member(s) in the form of a Chairs' Letter. This part of the meeting should review the effectiveness of the meeting and identify ways that future meetings could be improved

24. Responding to the JOSC recommendations

- a) The JOSC will agree outcomes of its meetings and detail the conclusions and any recommendations arising from a JOSC meeting.
- b) Where recommendations have been made to the CJC a written response would be expected within two months, indicating whether the recommendation is to be accepted and what action (if any) will be taken in response.

25. Evidence Gathering

- a) The JOSC is entitled to gather evidence in connection with any review or inquiry it undertakes as part of their agreed work plan.
- b) The JOSC shall adopt methods of gathering evidence to inform its deliberations. These include, but are not limited to, task and finish groups, holding enquiries, undertaking site visits, conducting public surveys, holding public meetings, commissioning research, hearing from witnesses and appointing advisors and assessors. The knowledge of Members is also a valuable source of evidence and should be considered as part of each inquiry.

26. Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations- Regulation 8 and 9

- a) Without prejudice to the right of any relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee of an Appointing Authority under Regulation 8 the JOSC when it intends to make a report or recommendations to an Appointing Authority/ies or the executive of an Appointing Authority/ies on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area and the report or recommendations relate to the exercise of a function of the CJC :

- The CJC must co-operate with the JOSC and give it such reasonable assistance as it requests in connection with the exercise of its functions.
 - Assistance provided under paragraph (2) may include—
 - arranging for a member of the CJC to attend and answer questions at a meeting of the committee;
 - arranging for a member of the staff of the CJC to attend and answer questions at a meeting of the committee;
 - providing information.
 - providing copies of documents in the possession or under the control of the CJC
- b) Where the JOSC formally publishes a report or recommendation in accordance with Section 21B(2) of the Local Government Act 2000 or regulation 13(2) of the Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013 the CJC must:
- consider the report or recommendation, and
 - before the end of the period of 2 months beginning with the day the report by the committee is published publish a statement setting out the steps it intends to take in light of the report or recommendation in exercising its functions.

27. Setting the agenda

- a) Individual agenda items, other than standing items, are to be determined in the first instance by the Work Programme which is to be established and agreed by the JOSC. The decision to consider additional items or defer planned items will be a matter for the discretion of the Chair.
- b) Any matter that is referred to the JOSC or a sub-committee by any member of the JOSC or a sub-committee will be included on the agenda for, and discussed at, a meeting of the JOSC or the relevant sub-committee. See “Reference of matters to joint overview and scrutiny committee, etc” below

28 . Reference of matters to joint overview and scrutiny committee, etc

- a) Any member of the JOSC can refer to the committee any matter which is relevant to its functions.
- b) Any member of a sub-committee of the JOSC can refer to the committee any matter which is relevant to its functions.
- c) Any member of any of the appointing authorities can refer to the JOSC any local government matter which is relevant to the functions of the JSOC.
- d) Any referral as per a) to c) above will be included on the agenda for, and discussed at, a meeting of that committee or sub-committee.

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- e) Where the JOSC makes a report or recommendations in relation to a matter referred to it by that member, it must provide the member with a copy of the report or recommendations.

29. Training and Development

- a) Training will be provided to members of the JOSC as and when required / appropriate.

30. Expenses, Allowances and Salaries

- a) The JOSC will not be responsible for or pay any expenses or allowances.
- b) The remuneration of Chair of the JOSC (or a Sub-Committee of the JOSC) is prescribed by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales and is a matter for the constituent local authorities to decide whether such a post will be paid.
- c) All Elected Members and Co-opted Members will need to apply to their respective Authority or Organisation for any payment of expenses etc.

31 Meeting Venue / time

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 4 th December 2024
Report Subject	Climate Change Committee Terms of Reference
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following an internal audit of Climate change, sustainability and Environment, Sustainability & Governance (ESG), an action was agreed to review the Climate Change Committee's Terms of Reference to ensure it addresses the risks identified within Member oversight and challenge of the programme.

The revised Terms of Reference were presented at the Climate Change Committee in September and were supported by the committee members.

It was also taken to the Constitution & Democratic Services Committee in November and was agreed by the committee members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the Council adopts the changes being recommended.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE REPORT
1.01	<p>As part of the agreed Internal Audit Plan, an internal audit of the Council's climate change, environmental sustainability and Environment, Sustainability & Governance (ESG) was undertaken.</p> <p>The purpose of the audit was to assess a number of risks related to the management of climate change, environmental sustainability and ESG within the Council. The audit provided some level of assurance, and also identified a number of areas where key controls were not generally adequate or effective.</p>
1.02	Within the audit, there was an identified area for further improvement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of Member oversight and challenge – The governance and reporting framework in place is not sufficiently robust - there is a risk of lack of clarity as to the role of Climate Change Committee in relation to the programme oversight and delivery. <p>The management action agreed to address this risk finding was for the Committee's Terms of Reference to be reviewed.</p>
1.03	<p>Having reviewed the Terms of Reference (Appendix 1), there is good reference to the need for the Climate Change Committee to have oversight and challenge of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan as its primary function.</p> <p>Within 9.16.5 Role and Function there are two primary objectives listed.</p> <p>The first of these primary objectives details the need to <i>'assist and advise the Council on how to become a net zero carbon emitter by 2030'</i>. By way of reiteration, this wording has been extended upon to emphasise the need for the Committee's oversight of the programme progress and action plan delivery.</p>
1.04	<p>The second primary objective draws the Committee outward to <i>'consult with, and raise awareness amongst the public, business and suppliers around carbon reduction'</i>.</p> <p>This primary objective is outward focussed and must be balanced against objective 1 to ensure that the Committee is providing the level of internal Member oversight and challenge, as has been identified as the risk by Internal Audit.</p>
1.05	<p>A third primary objective is suggested to be included <i>'to work to ensure collective cross-portfolio responsibility on climate change, including advising and assisting other committees across the Council'</i>. This objective is intended to influence Members of the Committee who also sit on other Council Committees to champion and ensure climate change impacts are considered within those Committee functions also. This addition would reinforce the Member oversight and challenge risk identified by internal audit.</p>
1.06	<p>A fourth primary objective is suggested to be moved from 'roles and functions to achieve objectives' into 'Primary objectives' <i>9.16.5.4 to consider economic, environmental and social challenges and risks arising from climate change for the Council, and others</i>. Again, this is an outward focus and would need to be balanced against objective 1 to ensure sufficient scrutiny and oversight is given to the Council's own activities and performance.</p>
1.07	<p>9.16.5.6 includes reference to the Committee continuing to develop, for approval by the Cabinet, the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan</p> <p>9.16.5.10 references the requirement to advise Cabinet on a number of aspects all related specifically to the Council's own carbon footprint.</p>

1.08	<p>The draft Terms of Reference in Appendix 1 provides adequate assurance of the responsibilities of the Committee in overseeing and challenging the Climate Change Programme.</p> <p>It is the role of the Committee members to ensure they are meeting these role and function requirements so as to provide a robust governance and reporting framework for the programme.</p>
1.09	<p>Following acceptance of the changes at the Climate Change Committee in September, the revised Terms of Reference were presented to the Constitution & Democratic Services Committee in November.</p> <p>Only one minor amendment was made by the Constitution & Democratic Services Committee to the draft: substituting 'achieve' in place of 'ensure' in paragraph 9.15.5.3.</p>
1.10	<p>It has been identified that the number of the redrafted Terms of Reference is not consistent with that of the Constitution. This will be addressed when the revised Constitution is formatted for publication.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	<p>Advice sought from Committee services and Governance to ensure format and wording is consistent throughout the Constitution.</p> <p>Recommendations made by Climate Change Committee at the 6th September 2024 meeting.</p> <p>Acceptance of the changes by the Constitution and Democratic Services Committee at the 6th November 2024 meeting.</p>

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	<p>The recommendations will ensure that the Council addresses the risks identified in the internal audit report.</p> <p>Actions undertaken intend to minimise the risk of failure in the Council's ability to meet its carbon reduction ambitions.</p>

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Draft Terms of Reference Climate Change Committee

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6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None.

7.00	OFFICER CONTACT DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Steven Goodrum, Democratic Service Manager Telephone: 01352 702320 E-mail: steven.goodrum@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Carbon emissions: Used interchangeably with greenhouse gas emissions; meaning emissions of carbon dioxide, methane etc from human and natural activities and sources. Wider greenhouse gas emissions are collectively calculated into a ‘carbon dioxide equivalent’ displayed as CO₂e.</p> <p>Carbon Footprint: A measurement of the council’s carbon emissions during a defined period of time, given as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e)</p> <p>Decarbonisation – Reduction of carbon emissions that result from an activity, material or product</p> <p>Greenhouse Gas/ Carbon emissions: Emissions of carbon dioxide, methane etc from human and natural activities and sources. Wider greenhouse gas emissions are collectively calculated into a ‘carbon dioxide equivalent’ displayed as CO₂e.</p> <p>Methodology: How the collected raw data used for carbon emission calculations is managed and rated in terms of its reliability. This is governed by Welsh Government.</p> <p>Net Zero Carbon: Emissions of greenhouse gases are balanced by the removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere such as by trees, peatland and carbon capture and storage technologies.</p>

9.16 THE CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE

Composition

9.16.1 Membership

The Climate Change Committee is composed of 12 Members.
The Climate Change Committee is subject to the rules of political balance in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

9.16.2 Term of Office

It is important that members of the Committee are able to build up expertise and so there should be continuity of membership for a whole council term in so far as is possible.

9.16.3 Quorum

A meeting of the Climate Change Committee shall only be quorate when at least one third of the committee's members are attending the meeting.

9.16.4 Chairing the Committee

9.16.4.1 The Full Council will appoint the Chair of the Climate Change Committee at the Annual Meeting. The Climate Change Committee will elect its own vice chair.

9.16.4.2 The Chair and Vice Chair will serve from the first meeting after the Annual Meeting of Council (or the first meeting at which they were elected if later) until the end of the municipal year or until the member ceases to be a member of the committee or ceases to be a councillor (for whatever reason).

9.16.5 Role and Function

The primary objectives of the Climate Change Committee are to:

9.16.5.1 assist and advise the Council on how to become a net zero carbon emitter by December 2030 by overseeing the delivery of the Climate Change strategy and action plan;

9.16.5.2 consult with, and raise awareness amongst, the public, business and suppliers on steps that can be taken to reduce carbon emissions;

9.16.5.3 work to achieve collective cross-portfolio responsibility on climate change, including advising and assisting other committees across the Council;

9.16.5.4 To consider the economic, environmental and social challenges/risks arising from climate change for businesses, residents, suppliers and the Council;

It will have the following roles and functions to help the Council achieve those objectives:

9.16.5.5 To gather information on and model annual Council greenhouse gas emissions;

~~9.16.5.4 To consider the economic, environmental and social challenges/risks arising from climate change for businesses, residents, suppliers and the Council;~~

9.16.5.6 Reviewing, leading on and commenting on the Council Plan's Green Theme priorities and complementary priorities within other themes of the Council Plan;

9.16.5.7 To continue to develop, for approval by the Cabinet, the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan with the aim of reducing the Council's net greenhouse gas emissions, the implementation of which it will continue to oversee;

9.16.5.8 To promote and support the use of renewable energy opportunities across the Council's estate and wider communities;

9.16.5.9 To support and promote Welsh Government's strategy to create a sustainable, circular economy in Flintshire;

9.16.5.10 To encourage local businesses in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient.

9.16.5.11 To advise the Cabinet on:

9.16.5.12 steps it can take to limit the impact of the Council's services on the natural environment and supporting the wider communities of Flintshire to reduce their own carbon footprint;

9.16.5.13 the use, good management and protection of the Council's green spaces to deliver multiple benefits to the environment and its residents and visitors;

9.16.5.14 how to reduce the environmental impact of the Council's fleet by maximising the use of sustainable forms of transport;

9.16.5.15 how to ensure that the Council's retained housing stock meets the Welsh Housing Quality Standard developing plans for the de-carbonisation of council homes;

9.16.5.16 how to ensure that the Council's non-residential buildings and land supports and contributes to the Council's net zero carbon agenda and supports the aims and objectives within the Council's Climate Change Strategy

9.16.5.17 To review and make recommendations on procurement policy and practice to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our suppliers;

9.16.5.18 To recommend to Council a policy for sustainable and long term energy usage in its capital projects;

9.16.5.19 To advise any other Committee on matters within the remit which might affect achievement of the aims within the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

9.16.6 Scope and Resources

9.16.6.1 The Climate Change Committee cannot make decisions which affect the Council's Budget or Policy Framework, but it may make recommendations to Cabinet for investment as part of the cycle for preparing the Medium Term Financial Strategy and/or Capital Programme

9.16.7 Work Programme

9.16.7.1 The Committee will prepare a forward work programme which will be reviewed and approved at each Committee meeting.

9.16.8 Rules of Procedure and Debate

9.16.8.1 The Council Procedure Rules at Section 4.10 of the Model Welsh Constitution will apply to the meetings of the Climate Change Committee Members.

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Notice of Motion – submitted by Councillor Alasdair Ibbotson

Making Schools Accessible to All

Flintshire County Council Notes:

1. that the current school transport eligibility policy leaves some learners unable to access their school, and leaves some communities divided;
2. the public questions tabled to Flintshire County Council on this issue;
3. the cabinet member's response to those questions;
4. that this matter has also been raised at the education, youth and culture overview and scrutiny committee;
5. the financial constraints that the council operates under, and
6. the petition calling on the council to adopt a fairer policy.

Flintshire County Council Believes:

1. that it is reasonable for the council to review its policies from time to time, and that it is appropriate to review this policy;
2. that the current policy, while well intentioned, is not necessarily the optimal position for the council to take, and
3. that the council should, in principle, offer as wide an eligibility criteria as possible.

Flintshire County Council Resolves:

1. to commission a review of the existing policy by the education, youth and culture overview and scrutiny committee;
2. that that review shall consider the options of (a) leaving the policy unchanged, (b) moving to a policy of eligibility based on potentially overlapping geographic areas, taking into account which high schools serve as hubs for which primary schools and ending the division of communities, (c) a policy retains the existing rules as a core group entitled to free transport, and as a second group entitles learners who have no safe route to any high school to a free school transport place to any school, where this does not require additional transport to be commissioned, with excess places after the core group have been awarded places offered to the second group on a first come, first served basis, and (d) any other option that the committee may wish;
3. that as part of this exercise, the public should be invited to submit their views;
4. that the committee should rank the options in the above paragraph in order of preference and report back to Cabinet, and
5. that this report should be received no later than the 30th June 2025.

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Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Gina Maddison

North Wales Police and the events wc 29th July

I had hoped to bring this NOM in respect of North Wales Police to the September meeting, but illness prevented it. However, in some ways, it does seem appropriate as we approach Christmas, when many of us think on those we have lost, who have spent Christmas with us in the past. The empty place at the table on Christmas Day. Christmas Day, a time of loneliness and isolation for many. And also as we approach the New Year, and reflect on the events of the year that has passed.

Referencing the events of 29th July 2024 in Southport, I know that the hearts and thoughts of all present are always with the families of:

Alice da Silva Aguiar, aged 9. One of her schoolteachers, who has recently given birth, has called her daughter Alice, in remembrance.

Elsie Dot Stancome, aged 7. So nicknamed "Because Mummy says I'm just a little dot."

Bebe King, aged 6. Described by her family as full of light, joy and love.

Dropping the children, the grandchildren, the nieces and nephews, the children of friends and neighbours, off at the summer playscheme, the dance class, is something we have all done, in the confident expectation that they would have a safe and enjoyable time. Never dreaming that tragedy would burst in.

I visited a Food and Fun session at a local school that week, to find a police car outside the school. A police officer told me, "We're driving round to check them all."

In the terrible week of rioting that followed, some 110 police officers and police dogs and horses were injured. We have all seen the awful scenes in which they were attacked, as items such as fireworks, bricks and bins were hurled at them. Particularly heartbreaking for me, a former children's librarian, was the burning down of a children's library in Liverpool.

Over 40,000 officer shifts were worked during this week, and 6,600 public order officers deployed on one day alone. All leave and rest days were cancelled, and additional hours worked.

Merseyside Police sent out a call to Cheshire, Greater Manchester, North Wales and Lancashire Police for assistance.

This NOM is to thank North Wales Police who answered the call, to provide mutual aid and support. Their presence also enabled a peaceful week in North Wales, amidst rumours of planned riots.

I would be grateful if you can all support me in this notion, that we ask our CEO and our Leader, at the turn of the year, to write a formal letter of thanks to NWP, on behalf of officers and members, for their actions during this terrible time.

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Questions deferred from County Council meeting held on 24th October, 2024

(1) Submitted by Councillor Sam Swash

Question to the Leader of the Council

Will the Leader of the Council commit publicly that his administration will not close and libraries or leisure centres during his term as Leader?

(2) Submitted by Councillor David Coggins Cogan

Question to the Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation

How much did the Council spend on acquiring the vehicles previously supplied by Go Fleet; and why has that cost not been revealed to Members before?

(3) Submitted by Councillor David Coggins Cogan

Question to the Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation:

On 16th July this year, during the Environment and Economy scrutiny debate on reduced black bin collections, you said 'It's proven to be very, very unpopular with the residents. We're here to fight against this for the residents of Flintshire...'. Are you going to honour that pledge to fight for residents by announcing the abandonment of three-weekly bin collections?

(4) Submitted by Councillor David Coggins Cogan

Question to the Cabinet Member for the Economy, Environment, and Climate:

Can the Cabinet Member confirm the amount of money sent to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee since its inception in April 2021

(5) Submitted by Councillor Sam Swash

Question to the Leader of the Council

At the last meeting of Full Council, the Leader of the Council made the claim that this Council is "staring down the barrel" of bankruptcy. Does the Leader of the Council still hold this belief, and if so, does he have a plan to stop it?

(6) Submitted by Councillor Alasdair Ibbotson

Question to the Cabinet Member for Streetscene & Transportation

On July 23rd this year, the now Cabinet Member for Streetscene & Transportation, posting on his Facebook page in relation to the decision to reduce bin collections, stated: "Cabinet have today decided to ride roughshod over the democratic process. Flintshire Welsh Labour are clearly not listening to residents or indeed their own communities." In light of that, will the Cabinet Member for Streetscene & Transportation commit to listening to residents and communities and reverse the decision to reduce bin collections, a decision which now sits within his own portfolio?

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Questions received since the County Council meeting held on 24th October, 2024

Submitted by Councillor David Coggins-Cogan

Questions to the Leader of the Council

(7) The recent Special Meeting on the issue of the County's libraries, leisure, and play facilities was debated because an opposition party brought it before Full Council. Seemingly, the Labour, Independent, and Eagle Cabinet had no intention of discussing this matter before Full Council. With that in mind, do you think it was courteous or wise to deliberately withhold the four-day closure from Members?

(8) Since an uninvited guest managed to join a Council meeting, Zoom invitations have been guarded and those who are attending virtually are always verified and introduced to the meeting. Recently, for instance, the Monitoring Officer announced and introduced the officers from Audit Wales to OSC meetings as courtesy to the officers and Members. At the Special Meeting to discuss Aura, the successful employee-owned not-for-profit company, two lawyers were attending the meeting were not introduced or even mentioned until their presence was directly questioned. Was it courteous or wise to withhold their identities from Members?

Question to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Leisure

(9) Which organisation has been conducting the health and safety checks of the facilities formerly under the control of Aura, the successful employee-owned not-for-profit company, and confirm is this is the same organisation since 2017?

Submitted by Councillor Andrew Parkhurst

Flintshire Libraries and Leisure

Would the Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure please advise:

(10) how much income was lost by not collecting Direct Debit payments in November, and

(11) whether she is now in a position to let Members have a copy of the Flintshire Libraries and Leisure Business Plan?

Potholes

Would the Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation please advise:

(12) how much the JCB Pot-Hole Pro machine cost?

(13) how many hours per day is it, on average, in operation?

(14) how many potholes it has repaired since it was acquired in April?

(15) whether any North Wales Senedd members were given the opportunity to join the photoshoot alongside Chief Officer Katie Wilby and yourself that appeared in Deeside.com on 28th October other than Labour's Carolyn Thomas?

Threatened Legal Action by Thurrock Council

Would the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services please advise:

(16) on what date did Flintshire County Council first become aware of the possibility of a legal claim from Thurrock Council bearing in mind it has been confirmed that “Thurrock have been corresponding with APSE for some time”?

(17) what would the financial cost be to Flintshire County Council (FCC) in the worst case scenario?

(18) why is APSE, in which FCC has part ownership, not incorporated with limited liability?

(19) in view of the potential for unlimited liability why has the financial exposure and risk not been previously declared to members?

(20) in what other organisations does FCC have part or whole ownership without a limitation on its liability?

(21) if an article had not appeared in Deeside.com would members have been advised of the potential for this financial loss?