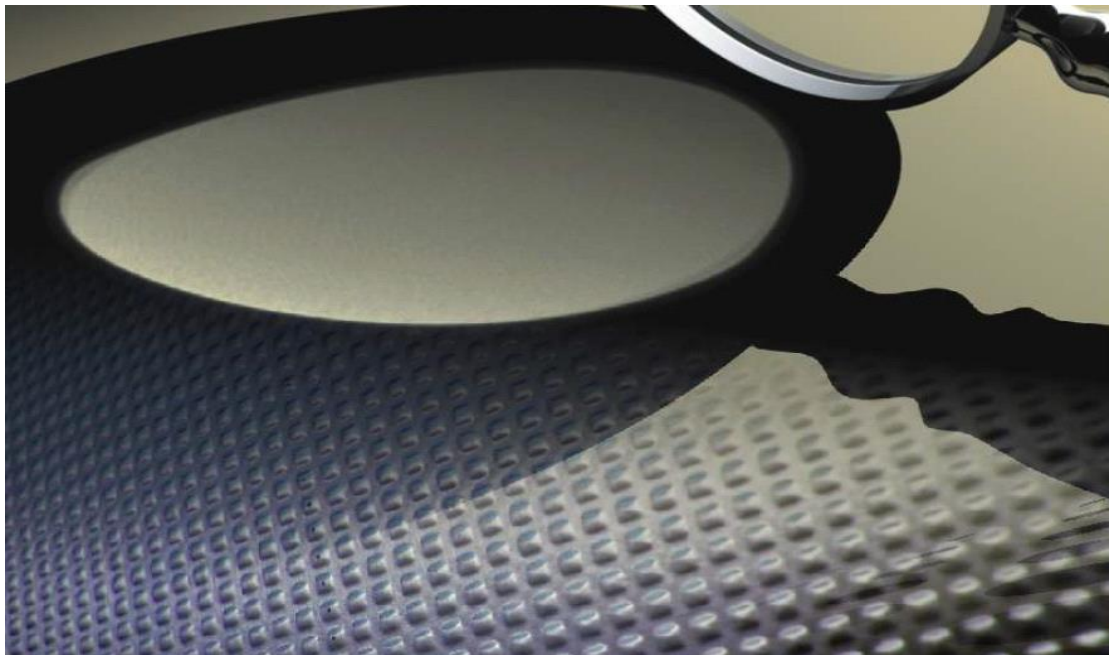




Overview & Scrutiny

Annual Report

2014/15



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## **Foreword**



As Chair of the Constitution Committee, my writing the foreword to the Overview & Scrutiny Annual report has become a regular, but not onerous task. This year, we have carried out a review of the Overview & Scrutiny committee structure, details of which have been included in the report.

In moving from one structure to another there are inevitable changes. For instance, the Community Profile & partnerships Overview & Scrutiny committee has gone, creating space for the new Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Given the extent of the changes which we as an organisation are going through and are facing with a significant budget challenge, the new committee has a significant task ahead.

This is my opportunity to pay tribute to the thirteen Overview & Scrutiny chairs and vice-chairs who have held office during the year for their hard work. It is, of course, wider than those few individuals. Overview & Scrutiny would not be flourishing here without the efforts made by all of the Members of the committee and the Cabinet Member and officer contributors, or our support staff.

**Councillor Robin Guest**  
Chair of the Constitution Committee

## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY – A CABINET PERSPECTIVE**



As the Leader of the Council, I was pleased to again be invited to make a contribution to the Overview & Scrutiny Annual report.

Overview & Scrutiny is an integral part of our Cabinet arrangements and so we all have a vested interest in our Overview & Scrutiny arrangements working effectively. The role of Overview & Scrutiny in commenting on reports and emerging policies before they are considered formally by the Cabinet is invaluable to us.

During the year, the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for verbal updates on the budget process, so during the autumn and winter the Chief executive and I made regular reports. The committee members indicated that they found this invaluable in broadening their understanding of the issues. We have also sought to ensure that there is as wide as possible involvement in the budget process for all members, which we have achieved through a series of workshops.

We have carried out a review of the Overview & Scrutiny structure, with a series of alternative models being prepared for Member consideration. A small working group made a final recommendation to the Constitution for the retention of a six committee model, but with redefined terms of reference.

Overview & Scrutiny is what we make it. I am proud to say that we have the confidence, in Flintshire, to support a structure which provides a significant challenge to the cabinet and decision makers. This is both healthy and beneficial.

I would like to thank everyone who is involved in Overview & Scrutiny here; the Committee Chairs and Members and the Cabinet Members and Officers who attend as contributors at the meetings, as well as the support staff. We couldn't make this work without you.

**Councillor Aaron Shotton,**  
Leader of the Council

## **OBSERVATIONS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE – COLIN EVERETT**



In local government and the public services we continue to face financial and service demand challenges on an unprecedented scale. The savings which we are having to make are huge and we are having to reform services, make hard choices over priorities, and introduce new ways of working to be more efficient and effective with reducing resources.

Overview and Scrutiny plays a major play in both testing out ideas and proposals for reform, and initiating them.

We have refreshed and refocused our Overview and Scrutiny Committee to support and influence the Council's organisational and service change programmes. With this enhanced role comes expectation. The Committees will need to work at pace, and share an appetite for change, with the Cabinet and the Chief Officer Team. There can be no respite from making big decisions over the next couple of years.

We have a robust Overview and Scrutiny function, one which offers both healthy challenge and support to the Cabinet in its decision making. There are ample examples where the decision-makers and the scrutineers have worked in unison over the past year.

In refreshing our Overview and Scrutiny function we have both adopted ideas from the 'Characteristics of Effective Overview & Scrutiny' which was put together by scrutiny officers across Wales, working with the Centre for Public Scrutiny and the Wales Audit Office, and applied our own learning.

The new model, which was adopted by the County Council at the Annual Meeting retains six Overview and Scrutiny committees of fifteen members. This provides an opportunity for all of our Members who want to participate so to do. The Committees are being invited and challenged to make an even greater contribution, with less passive reports, and to forward plan more relevant agendas which chime with the challenges and issues we face.

The early signs of the experience of the new model is that there is appetite for it to work at a higher level. It will be down to all members and officers to make the model work well and for Overview and Scrutiny to help guide the Council through the challenges which lie ahead.

**Colin Everett**  
Chief Executive.

## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE REVIEW**

At the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2014, it was agreed that our Overview & Scrutiny Committee structure needed to be reviewed. We had been operating with six committees since the last review in 2010. The only change during that time had been the incorporation of the Co-ordinating Committee's remit into that of the Constitution Committee in 2012.

In the light of the Council's new operating model and Senior Management structure it had been recognised that there was a need for a change to ensure flexibility, simplify Cabinet Member and senior officer attendance and to balance the workload across all of our committees.

To provide the Officers with some design principles for carrying out the review, a series of statements and questions was put to Members. These were:-

- (1) Overview & Scrutiny must have the capacity to cover all of our internal services and external challenges
- (2) Overview & Scrutiny must have the capacity, ability and enthusiasm to take a full and active part in our Improvement Agenda.
- (3) We must ensure efficiency of attendance from Cabinet and Chief Officer Team (COT) Members at Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings.
- (4) All of the Committees should have broadly similar workloads.
- (5) Overview & Scrutiny must have a clearly defined and valued role in corporate governance and improvement.
- (6) Overview & Scrutiny must have the ability and capacity to provide well evidenced solutions to recognised problems.
- (7) Overview & Scrutiny must be Member led, whilst taking into account the needs of the organisation and the views of the public, our Partners and our Regulators.
- (8) Overview & Scrutiny must be credible to all of our Members, our public, Partners and Regulators.
- (9) Overview & Scrutiny must be able to balance small pictures – detailed scrutiny with big pictures – more imaginative overview.

- (10) Overview & Scrutiny must have flexibility, durability and appetite for change.
- (11) Should the Overview & Scrutiny structure focus be the Council's Improvement Priorities or the Operating Model?
- (12) Is six Committees for 15 Members the right number or should this be reduced or increased?
- (13) What will the Officers need to support change and help them to implement it?
- (14) What does the public need to comment on / influence change through consultation on policy and service reviews?

Following consideration of the Design Principles by the Political Group Leaders and the Chairs of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees, a report was submitted to the Constitution Committee at its October meeting. During discussion it was agreed that a number of options for Overview & Scrutiny Structural Models would be considered at the next meeting.

At the January meeting, six Models for a six Overview & Scrutiny Committee Structure were submitted, together with three further Models which provided for three, four and five Committees. As a result of discussions which took place at the meeting, it was agreed that a politically balanced Working Group of eight Members be appointed to give further consideration to the options prior to report back to the Committee.

The Working Group comprised Councillors Aaron Shotton, Bernie Attridge, Marion Bateman, Clive Carver, Robin Guest, Ron Hampson, Tim Newhouse and Mike Peers, supported by the Officers. They identified a preferred model and asked that the Officers draft Terms of Reference for the Committees within that new structure.

The Committees within the new structure are as follows:-

- Community & Enterprise;
- Corporate Resources;
- Education and Youth;
- Environment;
- Organisational Change;
- Social & Health Care.

Details of which Cabinet Members and Chief Officers will relate to which committee are shown on the on model on the following page. At its meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> April, the Constitution Committee approved the New Structure and its Terms of Reference for recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Council.

Committee	<b>Corporate</b>	<b>Education &amp; Youth</b>	<b>Social Care &amp; Health</b>	<b>Community &amp; Enterprise</b>	<b>Environment</b>	<b>Organisational Change</b>
Cabinet Members attending	Leader /Finance,  Corporate Management	Education	Social Services	Housing  Economic Development	Deputy/ Environment  Waste, PP and LS	Leader  Others as required
COT Members Attending (or others from the portfolio)	Chief Executive,  Chief Officer Governance  Chief Officer People & Resources	Chief Officer Education & Youth	Chief Officer Social Services	Chief Officer Community & Enterprise	Chief Officer Planning & Environment  Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation	Chief Executive  Chief Officer Organisational Change  Chief Officer Organisational Change



## **COMMUNITY PROFILE & PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**



**Chairman –  
Cllr Brian Dunn**



**Vice-Chair –  
Cllr Brian Lloyd**

### **Introduction**

This committee was set up in 2010, with a broad remit to scrutinise public service providers, especially those which did not have obvious links with one of the other functional overview & Scrutiny committees. In the consultation to the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, it was apparent that local authorities would be tasked with carrying out external scrutiny.

However, those external scrutiny powers under section 59 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, which had been anticipated when the committee was set up in 2010 have never been implemented. We have made representations to the Welsh Government minister to express our concerns at this. Because of the lack of the specific power, the committee has not been able to completely fulfil its original potential, which we have found disappointing. We have instead operated using the more general powers available to scrutiny committees under section 20 (2) e of the Local Government Act 2000. Thus we have had been a comprehensive and rewarding work programme which has provided Members with an insight into organisations which operate within Flintshire.

This will be the last time that the work of the Community Profile & Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee is reported on. As part of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee review, the committee will cease to be. That being so, this is a good opportunity to thank everyone who has been a Member of the committee or who has attended our meetings as a contributor for their commitment.

### **Information and comment items**

- Flintshire Credit Union and the North Wales Credit Union: Representatives of both the credit unions which operate in the county attended meetings and gave presentations on their work within our local communities. Members recognised the huge importance of the

facilities which both of the credit unions offered in protecting members of our society from unscrupulous or unethical money lending.

- Glyndwr University: David Skydmore provided an insight into the work carried out at the university's Northop campus.
- Coleg Cambria: Mr David Jones, OBE, the chief executive /principal of the college attended a joint meeting of this committee and the Lifelong learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee, as both committees had identified a need to engage with the college in their work programmes. The meeting dealt with education issues as well as links to economic development.
- Samaritans: this presentation came from a member suggestion and Mrs Rosemary Howell and Mr Dafydd Rees-Owen gave a fascinating insight into the work of the Samaritans in North Wales.
- Flintshire Community Endowment Fund: this was a follow up from a previous report. Cabinet approval had been given in November 2012 to the closing down and transfer of the existing moribund and ineffective education trust funds administered by the County Council to a newly established Flintshire Community Endowment Fund managed and administered by Community Foundation in Wales. The fund had been established in September 2013 and on transfer the value of the endowment was £178,998. Now controlled by specialist fund managers, the value of the assets as at the end of December 2014 stood at £184,682, a capital gain of 3.2% with a dividend income of £9,584: a total return of 8.5%
- Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC): Mrs Ann Woods, the chief officer of FLVC attended the last meeting of the committee to provide an update on the work of the council. Her predecessor in the role, Mr Kieran Duff had attended a number of previous meetings. With having an active part to play in providing support to the County Council's community Asset Transfer programme, it was very apparent to us that the working relationship between the county and the voluntary council was now more important than it had ever been.
- Following on from a presentation on the Clwyd Special Riding Centre, the committee accepted an invitation to visit the centre and see the facilities which are on offer.

### **Assurance Items**

The Chief Executive, as the lead officer for the Regional Emergency Planning Service, together with the Regional Emergency Planning Manager, Philip Harrison attended the September meeting to give a presentation on the new service. Previously, there had been a joint service hosted by Flintshire which covered both Flintshire and Denbighshire.

The new service is based on two operating hubs: for the north west of Wales based in Conwy and the north east, based at County Hall, Mold

The Chair of the North Wales Fire & Rescue authority, Councillor Meyrick Lloyd Davies and the Chief Fire Officer, Simon Smith attended our December meeting. One of the salient points of the presentation which they gave was on the public consultation being undertaken on the levels of service provided in 2015/16 and beyond.

### **Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee**

Sections 19 and 20 of the Police & Criminal Justice act 2006 came into effect in Wales on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009. This legislation requires every local authority to have a committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, and the discharge by the responsible authorities of the crime and disorder functions and to make reports or recommendations to the Council (if necessary) with respect to those functions.

As the Council's statutory 'crime & disorder' scrutiny committee, the committee was required to hold at least one meeting per year with a specific item on the agenda for 'crime & disorder' issues . In practice, this has meant having a meeting on an annual basis with the Community Safety partnership. This took place at the July 2014 meeting.

During the year, the committee began to receive Performance and Improvement Plan reports: a new item of work for the committee, but as this related to Community Safety issues, this was an area with which the committee was already familiar.

The committee also examined the implications for the Council of the Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

### **Councillor Brian Dunn**

Chair of the Community Profile & Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## **CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**



**Chair: May – March,  
Cllr Carolyn Thomas.**



**March to May,  
Cllr David Roney**



**Vice-chair:  
Cllr Peter Curtis**

### **Introduction**

In providing an overview of the work of the committee during 2014/15, we have grouped our activities under a number of sub-headings, which indicate our role in dealing with those issues.

### **Information and Comment**

To ensure that the Committee was kept fully informed during the Budget preparation and consultation Process, Cllr Carolyn Thomas suggested that it would be beneficial to have a verbal update at the start of each meeting. Such an approach meant that the information would be as timely as possible. The suggestion was readily adopted, and so at the start of each meeting from September to March, the Leader and the Chief Executive gave the committee a verbal update on issues such as the provisional settlement, the Big Budget Conversation, on-going preparation work and the holding of workshops.

A workshop to provide Members with an insight into the development of the new version of the People Strategy was held in December.

An item which was requested by committee members was on the Council's approach to Virement. Virement is where 'the transfer of an underspending on one budget head to finance additional spending on another budget head , in accordance with an Authority's Financial Regulations' is carried out.

With a need to ensure that our resources are used as effectively as possible, there has been a move away from traditional desk based approaches to work. The Authority has developed an Agile and Flexible Working Policy. Managers from the Revenues and Benefits and Housing services in the Community & Enterprise portfolio attended the committee to give an insight into working and productivity improvements since their respective teams had started to work flexibly.

## **Budget Consultation**

Budget workshops, open to all Members of the Council were held at the end of October, the beginning of November and in mid-January before the formal budget consultation meetings for all of the Overview & Scrutiny committees.

The committee led the Overview & Scrutiny response to the Cabinet's budget proposals for 2015/16, holding two budget consultation meetings. The second meeting provided details of the views from the other functional Overview & Scrutiny budget consultation meetings, as well as the Capital programme. All Members were invited to participate in this meeting

## **Monitoring**

On a monthly basis, the committee considers the budget monitoring reports, prior to them going to the Cabinet. During the year, the Chair introduced a new practice, wherein a formal note of the committee's concerns and comments is sent to the Leader/Cabinet Member for Finance, the Chief Executive and the section 151 officer immediately after the meeting, to enable those comments to be reported to the Cabinet.

As part of the budget monitoring remit, the committee also identifies areas of concerns which it invites the relevant overview & Scrutiny committee to investigate. Examples of such referrals have been School Maintenance and Classroom sizes.

Performance against the targets contained within the Improvement plan is reported on a biannual basis, with the Chief Officer Performance reports being reported on a similar basis. The Improvement Plan priorities within the remit of the committee are: Welfare reform; Organisational Change; Financial Strategy; Procurement Strategy; Asset strategy; Access to Council services and people Change & Development

## **Assurance**

The Annual Improvement report from the Wales Audit Office (WAO), the WAO Performance Audit Regulatory Programme and the Auditor General for Wales Certificate of compliance for the Audit of the Council's Improvement Plan are corner stones of 'assurance reporting' to Members. The WAO carries out analyses of the Council's performance and provides appropriate commentary on various aspects of it. These comments, together with responses made on behalf of the Council are considered by the committee and the WAO representative, Cabinet members and senior officers challenged on elements of what they have said.

Arising out of the Certificate of compliance, a small Task and Finish group comprising Councillors Carolyn Thomas, Richard Jones and Robin Guest, supported by appropriate officers was formed. The purpose of the group was to consider and

comment on the feedback provided to the council by the WAO on the improvement plan audit. This group met twice and then reported back to the committee.

The new Performance Appraisal Competency Based model was introduced and a detailed report was given by the Chief Officer (People & Resources). The aim was for all senior managers to have been appraised under the new system by the end of March 2015 and process. The need for all employees to receive regular and meaningful appraisals has long been a concern of the committee.

Following a committee request for more information on the Value for Money Programme update: the Chief Executive and the Corporate Finance Manager gave an extensive update on the functional Value for money programme.

### **Strategy/policy development**

As part of the policy development role, the committee was consulted on, and made comments on the following:

- Customer services policy
- Council tax reduction scheme
- Discretionary Housing Payment and Housing Benefit Overpayment policies.

### **Councillor David Roney**

Chair of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## **ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**



**Chair**  
**Cllr Hilary Isherwood**



**Vice-Chair**  
**Cllr David Evans**

Overview & Scrutiny is continually adapting and responding to meet the challenges of the difficult decisions faced by Flintshire County Council on funding priorities. The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee has played a proactive role in carrying out pre-scrutiny work in advance of key decisions being taken by the Cabinet. One of the challenges for scrutiny is ensuring that actions that arise at meetings are completed. In order to see how well we were doing we undertook an audit of the actions and how they were dealt with.

### **Workshops**

The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee hosted two Member workshops to give Members of the Committee an opportunity to scrutinise 4 draft policies prior to consideration at the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March. The policies/strategies considered were:-

- Waste Collection Policy
- Grass Cutting Policy
- Street lighting Policy
- Flintshire Parking Strategies

Representatives of Town and Community Councils were also invited. The Committee recognise the value of placing the citizen at the centre of policy decisions and positive feedback was received from Town and Community Councils.

### **Site Visits**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 8 Members of the Committee visited the new Biogen Waste Treatment Works at Waen, Rhualt. Members were given a tour of the Waen Anaerobic digestion plant system which recycles food waste collected by Flintshire, Denbighshire and Conwy County Councils, along with food waste from commercial sources. We were told that the plant is anticipated to generate a significant amount of renewable energy and also produces bio fertiliser to be used in the immediate vicinity of the plant. Members of

the committee were impressed with the facility which manages food waste and protects the environment.



We then made our way to Talacre and were met by officers from Flintshire County Council's economic development department. They gave us a tour of the new developments including the new car park, toilet block, improvements to the cycle path and work to safeguard the sand dunes. A passing cyclist stopped to talk to us and spoke very positively regarding the improvements made to the cycle path and it was good to hear first-hand how the work that had been undertaken was having a positive impact.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, Members of the Committee were joined by the Cabinet Member, Cllr Kevin Jones and local Members at the recently opened Household Recycling Centre on Prince William Avenue in Shotton. Harvey Mitchell, Streetscene Manager gave Members a tour of the facility, which offers the residents of Deeside a wide range of recycling and disposal opportunities. Several cars visited the site during the visit and we were given a demonstration of how black bag rubbish is screened for recyclable items which are then recovered. It was a good opportunity to see how the new centre was operating and to speak to the staff working at the facility.

**Councillor Hilary Isherwood**

Chair of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee



## **HOUSING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**



**Chairman –  
Cllr Ron Hampson**



**Vice-Chair –  
Cllr George Hardcastle**

The Committee has had another busy year scrutinising a number of topics. We continue to undertake pre-decision scrutiny and have been consulted on a number of initiatives, including, the Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme, Responsible Pet Ownership Policy and Supporting People Commissioning Plan.

Below is a summary of some of the topics the Committee have considered over the last 12 months.

### **Tenancy Agreement Consultation**

In September 2014 the Committee considered a report which provided an overview of the formal consultation process in relation to the Council's intention to introduce a revision to its tenancy conditions prior to its consideration by Cabinet.

Pursuant to section 62 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and paragraph 5.26 of the Statutory Guidance from the Local Government Measure 2011, a member of the public had requested to speak on the proposed revision to the Council's tenancy conditions. The member of the public was given the opportunity to address the Committee and outline his concerns on the proposed revisions and the length of the consultation period.

The Committee welcomed the involvement of a member of the public at the meeting and the work undertaken by officers in involving tenants in the consultation process. The Committee raised a questions around proposed charges for missed appointments and the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) waiting list which were all addressed by the officers and passed to Cabinet during its consideration of the report.

The Committee recommended to support the proposed revisions to the Council's tenancy conditions and final implementation stage.

### **Work of Housing Associations**

#### **Wales & West Housing Association**

In February 2015, following an invitation from the Committee, Mr Shayne Hembrow of Wales & West Housing Association attended the meeting and gave a detailed presentation on their work in Flintshire. He responded to a number of questions from Members, which focused on current housing development across Flintshire and the right to buy scheme. The Committee welcomed the joint working between the Council and Wales & West Housing Association.

### Pennaf Housing Association

In April 2015 the Committee held its meeting at the Old Court House in Flint. Prior to the meeting, Members were invited to take part in a tour of building which had been renovated through joint working between the Council and Pennaf Housing Association. During the meeting the Committee received a presentation from Mr Graham Worthington, Mr Deiniol Evans, Mr Andy Roberts and Mr Paul Moore of Pennaf Housing Association on their work in Flintshire.

Following the presentation, the Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions, which focused on extra care facilities and provision of housing for people over the age of 50. The Committee welcomed the joint working between the Council and Pennaf Housing Association.

### Introduction of Self-Financing for the Housing Revenue Account

In July 2014, the Committee considered the Welsh Government consultation documents around ending the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy system by voluntary agreement.

During 2014/15 the Committee received a number of written and verbal reports on progress with introducing self-financing for the Housing Revenue Account. During the meeting in October 2014, the Chair of the Flintshire Federation of Tenants & Residents attended the Committee meeting to provide feedback to Members on the consultation carried out with tenants who had welcomed the explanations given on such a complex issue.

The Committee have welcomed the opportunity to scrutinise proposals around the introduction of self-financing for the Housing Revenue Account which would benefit Council tenants.

### Welfare Reform

During 2014/15 the Committee continued to receive regular update reports on the impact of Welfare Reform and the actions taken locally to provide help and support to affected residents in Flintshire. The Committee have welcomed the early intervention steps being taken and will continue to receive update report to ensure the impact is continually monitored.

### **Councillor Ron Hampson**

Chair of the Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## **LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**



**Chairman –  
Councillor Ian Roberts**



**Vice-Chair –  
Mr. David Hytch**

The Committee has had another busy year. We have continued to hold a number of our Committee meetings outside of County Hall at a number of schools across Flintshire, including, Elfed High School, Trelawnyd Primary School, St. Richard Gwyn Catholic High School and Mold Alun High School. During each of the visits the Committee was given a short tour of the facilities prior to the start of the meetings. The Committee hoped to continue to hold a number of their future meetings at various venues across Flintshire as appropriate.

We also continue to undertake pre-decision scrutiny and have been consulted on a number of proposals, including, the School Modernisation Strategy and Medium Term Plan for Libraries.

Below is a summary of some of the topics considered by the Committee over the last 12 months.

### **School Modernisation Strategy and School Repairs and Maintenance Backlog**

#### **School Modernisation Strategy**

The Committee continues to receive regular update reports on the School Modernisation Strategy, having considered updates at the meetings held on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 and 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2015. During those meetings, the Committee raised questions around the post-16 Hub at Connah's Quay, surplus places, mobile classrooms, and future funding for the School Modernisation Strategy.

Consideration of the School Modernisation Strategy has resulted in the Committee requesting that it be consulted on all proposals prior to their adjudication by Cabinet. The Committee will continue to closely scrutinise the Strategy.

#### **School Repairs and Maintenance Backlog**

During consideration of the School Modernisation Strategy at its meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September, the Committee requested further information on the school repairs and maintenance backlog. The Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee had also highlighted concerns around the schools repairs and maintenance budget and had requested that we look into this matter.

The Committee considered the school repairs and maintenance backlog and budget as part of the School Modernisation Strategy report at its meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2015. I invited Councillor Richard Jones to attend the meeting and speak on issues around the school repairs and maintenance budget as a Member of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

### **Coleg Cambria**

In February, 2015, the Committee held a joint meeting with the Community, Profile & Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Mr. David Jones OBE, Principal/Chief Executive of Coleg Cambria accepted an invitation to attend the meeting and provide Members of both Committee's with a presentation on the work of Coleg Cambria.

Mr. Jones responded to the questions and concerns raised by Members and covered within his presentation information on tackling substance misuse and links between the Sixth Form Centre with requirements in the Deeside Enterprise Zone; issues which were raised by Members of the Committee prior to the meeting.

The Committee will continue to closely scrutinise developments at the 6<sup>th</sup> form Hub in Connah's Quay as part of the School Modernisation Strategy.

### **Medium Term Plan for Libraries**

In May 2015, the Committee considered outline proposals to develop a new hub library at Deeside Leisure Centre and re-locate Hawarden, Mancot and Queensferry Libraries. The proposals had been the subject of public consultation events held at Hawarden Library, Mancot Library and Deeside Leisure Centre. Detailed comments from the consultation exercise were provided to the Committee to assist with their consideration of the report.

The Committee asked a number of questions around the proposed location of the hub library and mobile library service. I felt that consideration of this item had prompted a good debate, and provided an example of effective scrutiny.

We recommended that the comments the Committee made during the meeting be commended to the Cabinet as its formal observations on the proposals for the development of the new hub library at Deeside Leisure Centre.

### **Councillor Ian Roberts**

Chair of the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## **SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**



**Chair**  
**Cllr Carol Ellis**



**Vice-Chair**  
**Cllr Andy Dunbobbin**

The Social and Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee has had another busy year and has scrutinised a wide range of topics as listed in Appendix 2 of the report.

The Committee supported the development of a Single Point of Access for Flintshire as part of a regional initiative supported by the Welsh Government. It is designed to enable citizens to easily access information and advice and enable them to make informed choices about Health, Social Care and wellbeing services based within their own community or area by contacting one central number.

### **Integrated Health and Social Care Action Plan – to support individuals with Dementia**

In September we were informed about the strategic approach being taken by Social Services in Flintshire in partnership with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to deliver integrated Health and Social Care Services to people living with Dementia, their families and carers. Members of the Committee welcomed the joint approach and shared philosophy. Concerns were raised about future provision of services in view of the reductions in workforce and resources and it was accepted that this posed a risk. In April 2015 Members of the committee received 'Dementia Friends' training from the Alzheimer's Society as part of Flintshire County Council's efforts to make Flintshire County Council Dementia friendly.

As a Committee we continue to express concern with regard to joint strategic working between Health and Social Care providers and to emphasise the need for Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to ensure partnership working is given a higher priority.

## **Direct Payments**

The Committee have maintained a keen interest in the use of direct Payments working in partnership with Penderels Trust. We invited representatives of Penderels Trust and a Service User to come along to our October meeting to give us an update. We heard how Flintshire County Council were considered an exemplar in the field of direct payments and citizen support. Direct payments provide an opportunity for people who have been assessed as needing care or support, to arrange and buy their care themselves giving them a greater choice and control over the support they require to meet their bespoke needs

Members had raised concerns about training, recruitment, risks and safeguards and Disclosure and Barring Service checks in relation to personal assistants. We heard first hand from a service user about her extremely positive experiences of operating the direct payments and how having control over her own care arrangements was working extremely well. The Committee also heard how the new requirements within the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) 2013 Act would further influence the delivery of Direct Payments in the future.

## **Rota Visits**

Members of the Committee continue to undertake Rota Visits to social care establishments and are focused on the wellbeing of service users.

## **Councillor Carol Ellis**

Chair of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## Appendix 1

### Membership of Overview & Scrutiny Committees 2014/15

<u>Community Profile &amp; Partnerships</u>	<u>Corporate Resources</u>
<p><b>Councillor Brian Dunn (Chair)</b>  Councillor Chris Dolphin  Councillor Ian Dunbar  Councillor Robin Guest  Councillor Ron Hampson  Councillor Dennis Hutchinson (<i>from June 2014 to October 2014</i>)  Councillor Joe Johnson  <b>Councillor Brian Lloyd (Vice-Chair)</b>  Councillor David Mackie  Councillor David Roney (<i>from November 2014 to February 2015</i>)  Councillor Tony Sharps  Councillor Paul Shotton  Councillor Ian Smith  Councillor Nigel Steele-Mortimer  Councillor Owen Thomas (<i>from April 2015</i>)  Councillor David Williams</p>	<p><b>Councillor Carolyn Thomas (Chair from May 2014 to February 2015)</b>  <b>Councillor David Roney (Chair from March 2015)</b>  Councillor Marion Bateman  Councillor Clive Carver  Councillor Paul Cunningham  <b>Councillor Peter Curtis (Vice-Chair)</b>  Councillor Ian Dunbar  Councillor Andy Dunbobbin  Councillor Robin Guest  Councillor Ron Hampson  Councillor Joe Johnson  Councillor Richard Jones  Councillor Richard Lloyd (<i>from May 2014 to February 2015</i>)  Councillor Tim Newhouse (<i>from May 2014 to June 2014 – re-appointed to Committee in March 2015</i>)  Councillor Paul Shotton  Councillor Nigel Steele-Mortimer (<i>from March 2015</i>)  Councillor Arnold Woolley Dip.IM, MCMI</p>
<u>Environment</u>	<u>Housing</u>
<p><b>Councillor Hilary Isherwood (Chair)</b>  Councillor Alex Aldridge (<i>from May 2014 to June 2014</i>)  Councillor Haydn Bateman  Councillor Peter Curtis  Councillor Chris Dolphin  Councillor Ian Dunbar  <b>Councillor David Evans (Vice-Chair)</b>  Councillor Veronica Gay  Councillor Cindy Hinds  Councillor Ray Hughes  Councillor Joe Johnson (<i>from July 2014</i>)  Councillor Colin Legg  Councillor Brian Lloyd (<i>from March 2015</i>)  Councillor Nancy Matthews  Councillor Ann Minshull  Councillor Paul Shotton  Councillor Carolyn Thomas (<i>from May 2014 to March 2015</i>)</p>	<p><b>Councillor Ron Hampson (Chair)</b>  Councillor Amanda Bragg  Councillor David Cox  Councillor Paul Cunningham (<i>from June 2014</i>)  Councillor Peter Curtis  Councillor Ron Davies  Councillor Glenys Diskin (<i>from May 2014 to June 2014</i>)  Councillor Rosetta Dolphin  Councillor Jim Falshaw  <b>Councillor George Hardcastle (Vice-Chair)</b>  Councillor Ray Hughes  Councillor Hilary Isherwood  Councillor Brian Lloyd  Councillor Mike Reece  Councillor Gareth Roberts  Councillor Sharon Williams</p>

<p><b><u>Lifelong Learning</u></b></p> <p><b>Councillor Ian Roberts (Chair)</b>  Councillor Marion Bateman  Councillor Amanda Bragg  Councillor Adele Davies-Cooke  Councillor Ian Dunbar  Councillor Ron Hampson  Councillor Stella Jones (<i>from May 2014 to February 2015</i>)  Councillor Colin Legg  Councillor Phil Lightfoot  Councillor Mike Lowe (<i>from June 2014</i>)  Councillor David Mackie  Councillor Nancy Matthews  Councillor Vicky Perfect (<i>from September 2014</i>)  Councillor Paul Shotton  Councillor Nigel Steele-Mortimer  Councillor Carolyn Thomas (<i>from June 2014</i>)  Councillor David Williams (<i>from May 2014 to June 2014</i>)</p> <p><b><u>Co-opted Members</u></b>  Janine Beggan (<i>from June 2014</i>)  <b>David Hytch (Vice-Chair)</b>  Rita Price  Rebecca Stark  Rev. John Thelwell  Stephanie Williams (<i>from May 2014 to June 2014</i>)</p>	<p><b><u>Social &amp; Health Care</u></b></p> <p><b>Councillor Carol Ellis (Chair)</b>  Councillor Marion Bateman (<i>from May 2014 to October 2014</i>)  Councillor Amanda Bragg (<i>from October 2014</i>)  Councillor Peter Curtis  Councillor Adele Davies-Cooke  <b>Councillor Andy Dunbobbins (Vice-Chair)</b>  Councillor Veronica Gay  Councillor Cindy Hinds  Councillor Hilary Isherwood  Councillor Stella Jones (<i>from May 2014 to February 2015</i>)  Councillor Mike Lowe  Councillor Brian Lloyd  Councillor David Mackie  Councillor Hilary McGuill  Councillor Ian Smith  Councillor David Wisinger</p>
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<b>Appendix 2</b> <b>Topics covered and activity information</b>	
Joint Community Profile & Partnerships and Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015</b>	
Coleg Cambria (Presentation)	
<b>COMMUNITY PROFILE &amp; PARTNERSHIPS met 8 times May 2014 and May 2015</b>	
9 <sup>th</sup> June, 2014 24 <sup>th</sup> July, 2014 8 <sup>th</sup> September, 2014 13 <sup>th</sup> October, 2014	17 <sup>th</sup> November, 2014 18 <sup>th</sup> December, 2014 9 <sup>th</sup> March, 2015 13 <sup>th</sup> April, 2015
Flintshire Credit Union Improvement Plan 2014/15 Community Safety Partnership Annual Report 2013/14 (Statutory Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee meeting) Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring Report LSB and Strategic Partnership Performance - End of Year 2013/14 Review Regional Emergency Planning Service County Forum North Wales Credit Union	North Wales Fire & Rescue Service Presentation Glyndwr University Presentation Samaritans Presentation Implications of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act 2014 Strategic Partnership Performance Mid-Year Review Quarterly Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports Flintshire Community Endowment Fund (Presentation) Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (Presentation)
<b>Corporate Resources met 12 times between July 2014 and April 2015</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> July, 2014 (appointment of chair) 30 <sup>th</sup> July, 2014 11 <sup>th</sup> September, 2014 9 <sup>th</sup> October, 2014 13 <sup>th</sup> November, 2014 11 <sup>th</sup> December, 2014	15 <sup>th</sup> January, 2015 22 <sup>nd</sup> January, 2015 30 <sup>th</sup> January, 2015 12 <sup>th</sup> February, 2015 12 <sup>th</sup> March, 2015 16 <sup>th</sup> April, 2015
Annual Improvement Report from Wales Audit Office WAO Performance Audit Regulatory Programme 2014-15 Improvement Plan 2014/15	Budget Consultation Process Feedback on Agile & Flexible Working Corporate Resources Mid-Year Chief Officer Performance Reports Customer Service Policy

<p>Workforce Information Report Quarterly Revenue Budget Monitoring Reports Functional Value for Money (VFM) Programme update</p> <p>Year End Service Performance Report Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring Report Revenue Budget Monitoring 2013/14 (outturn) and capital Programme 2013/14 (outturn) Auditor General for Wales: Certificate of Compliance for the Audit of Flintshire County Council's 2014-15 Improvement Plan Quarterly Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports</p>	<p>Council Tax Reduction Scheme People Strategy Workshop Report back from the Performance Task &amp; Finish Group</p> <p>Update on the Development of the People Strategy 2015 - 18 Performance Appraisal Competency Based Model Budget Virement Process Discretionary Housing Payment Policy Housing Benefit Overpayments Policy</p>
<b>Environment met 9 times between June 2014 and April 2015</b>	
<p>11<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 3rd December 2014</p>	<p>26<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2015</p>
<p>Presentation by Natural Resources Wales Mersey Dee Alliance Improvement Plan 2014/15 Energy Switching Scheme Update Year End Service Performance Report Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring Report Feedback from Workshop on Changing Times: Helping Flintshire's Town Centres adapt to a Changing World Prioritisation of Highway Improvement Schemes and Traffic Regulation Order Variations Proposed High Level Staffing Structures - Planning and Environment Revised Staffing Structure - Streetscene and Transportation West Flintshire Community Enterprises (Presentation)</p>	<p>12 Month Progress Report following the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement measures Quarterly Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports Heritage Buildings Mersey Dee Alliance Mid-Year Chief Officer Performance Reports Quarterly Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports Budget Consultation Process 2014/15 Waste Collections Policy Grass Cutting Policy Streetlighting Policy Flintshire Parking Strategies Flintshire County Council's Car Parking Strategy The Council's Bus Subsidy, Review of the Demand Responsive Travel Arrangements and the Introduction of an Integrated Transportation Unit</p>

<b>Housing met 10 times between May 2014 and April 2015</b>	
21 <sup>st</sup> May, 2014 10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2014 7 <sup>th</sup> July, 2014 10 <sup>th</sup> September, 2014 15 <sup>th</sup> October, 2014	26 <sup>th</sup> November, 2014 14 <sup>th</sup> January, 2015 24 <sup>th</sup> February, 2015 24 <sup>th</sup> March, 2015 24 <sup>th</sup> April, 2015
Domestic Abuse Responsible Pet Ownership Policy Update on the Housing Asset Management Service Improvement Plan 2014/15 Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring Report Year End Service Performance Report Flintshire's Local Housing Strategy - a Report on progress Housing Revenue Account Subsidy (HRAS) System Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (including Flint) Tenancy Agreement Consultation Improvement Plan Monitoring Report Welfare Reform Update WHQS Delivery Programme Update Introduction of Self Financing for the Housing Revenue Account Use of Commuted Sums Service Charges/Assisted Gardening Service	North East Wales Homes – update Housing Act Wales 2014 Budget Consultation for 2015/16- Housing Revenue Account Quarterly Performance Reporting Housing Mid-Year Chief Officer Performance Reports Update on implementation of SARTH Anti-Social Behaviour Policy Work of Wales and West Housing Association Housing Act 2014 (Wales) – Homelessness and Power to Disregard the Test of Intentionality Supporting People Commissioning Plan Update on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Subsidy Vibrant and Viable Places Welsh Government Consultation on the future of the Right to Buy and Right to Acquire Work of Pennaf Housing Association (PRESENTATION) Flintshire's Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP)
<b>Lifelong Learning met 11 times between June 2014 and May 2015</b>	
19 <sup>th</sup> June, 2014 24 <sup>th</sup> July, 2014 25 <sup>th</sup> September, 2014 23 <sup>rd</sup> October, 2014 4 <sup>th</sup> December, 2014 15 <sup>th</sup> January, 2015	23 <sup>rd</sup> January, 2015 26 <sup>th</sup> February, 2015 26 <sup>th</sup> March, 2015 30 <sup>th</sup> April, 2015 11 <sup>th</sup> May, 2015
Post 16 Commissioning and Planning Cycle Education Improvement & Modernisation Strategy Recommendation from the Leisure Finance Task & Finish Group	Lifelong Learning Mid-Year Chief Officer Performance Reports Quarterly Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports School Modernisation Strategy Public Library Standards

<p>Year End Service Performance Report  Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring Report  Inclusion Service Review  Update on School Modernisation  Governance in Schools  Apprenticeship and Training opportunities  Improvement Plan Monitoring report  Learning from the School Standards  Monitoring Group (SSMG)  Collaborative Working between Schools and Federations</p> <p>Health &amp; Safety in Schools  Play Development: Summer Playschemes  Self-Evaluation of Education Services  School Balances</p>	<p>Statement of Special Needs – Progress Report on Performance  Budget Consultation Process 2015/16  Review of School Service Level Agreements  Leisure Services Assets – Scoping Report  Learner Outcomes  School Transport Policy  Education for All  National Model for School Improvement  Improvement plan Monitoring Report</p> <p>Medium Term Plan for Libraries – Proposal to develop new Hub Library at Deeside Leisure Centre and Re-locate Hawarden, Mancot and Queensferry Libraries</p>
<b>Social &amp; Health Care met 11 times between June 2014 and April 2015</b>	
<p>12<sup>th</sup> June, 2014  3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2014  4<sup>th</sup> September, 2014  9<sup>th</sup> October, 2014  13<sup>th</sup> November, 2014  18<sup>th</sup> December, 2014</p>	<p>26<sup>th</sup> January, 2015  29<sup>th</sup> January, 2015  5<sup>th</sup> March, 2015  9<sup>th</sup> April, 2015  16<sup>th</sup> April, 2015</p>
<p>Presentation by the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board  Improvement Plan 2014/15  Year End Service Performance Report  Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring Report  Emergency Duty Team  Integrated Health and Social Care Action Plan to support individuals with Dementia  Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board update  Improvement Plan Monitoring Report  Rota Visits  Flintshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2014-2017  Direct Payments/Penderels Trust  Regional Safeguarding Children's Board Proposal  Adult Safeguarding  Single Point of Access</p>	<p>Safeguarding and Care Planning of looked after children and care leavers who exhibit vulnerable and risky behaviour  CSSIW Annual Report  North Wales Adults Safeguarding Board  Mid-Year Chief Officer Performance Report  Quarterly Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports  Budget Consultation Process 2015/16  Social Services Intermediate Care Fund (ICF)  Reablement/Independent Living in Flintshire  Key Partnership Projects with Health and the Third Sector  Social Services Wellbeing Act Update and Response to Code of Practice  Collaborative Projects Update  Presentation by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board</p>

<b>Key:</b>		
<b>CP &amp; P</b>	=	Community Profile & Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee
<b>CR</b>	=	Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee
<b>E</b>	=	Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee
<b>H</b>	=	Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee
<b>LL</b>	=	Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee
<b>S&amp;HC</b>	=	Social and Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY OFFICER SUPPORT**

The support which Overview & Scrutiny enjoys from officers across the Council is essential to ensure its smooth and effective running.

### **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUPPORT**

The Scrutiny Team are:-

- ❖ Robert Robins – Member Engagement Manager  
(principally supporting the Community Profile & Partnerships and the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny committees in 2014/15) Now supporting Corporate Resources and Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committees.
- ❖ Margaret Parry-Jones – Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator  
(principally supporting the Environment and Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committees)
- ❖ Ceri Owen – Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator  
(principally supporting the Housing and the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committees in 2014/15) Now supporting Community & Enterprise and Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committees.
- ❖ Janet Kelly – Overview & Scrutiny Support Officer  
(principally supporting task & finish groups)

The team are an independent resource supporting the scrutiny function and its Members:

Advising on the strategic direction and development of the scrutiny function;

- Co-ordinating the work programmes for the six Overview & Scrutiny Committees;
- Advising, supporting and assisting in the development of scrutiny members;
- Undertaking research and information analysis to help inform reviews;
- Producing reports and presentations on behalf of members;
- Offering independent advice and guidance in relation to policy development and performance management;

- Acting as a key contact point to members, officers, external organisations and the public in relation to scrutiny matters; and
- Facilitating task & finish groups.