

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
14TH JANUARY 2025

Minutes of the meeting of Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held as a hybrid meeting on Tuesday 14th January 2025.

PRESENT: **Councillor David Evans (Chair)**
Councillors: Mel Buckley, David Coggins Cogan, Richard Lloyd, Dave Mackie, Roz Mansell, Vicky Perfect, Mike Peers, David Richardson, Dan Rose and Roy Wakelam.

SUBSTITUTE: Councillor Sean Bibby for Councillor Ray Hughes.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Allan Marshall as an observer.

APOLOGIES: None.

CONTRIBUTORS: Councillor Glyn Banks (Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation), Councillor Paul Johnson (Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value), Councillor Chris Dolphin (Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate, Councillor Chris Bithell (Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection), Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy), Strategic Performance Advisor, Regulatory Services Manager, Community and Business Protection Manager, Streetscene Service Manager and Highway Network Manager.

IN ATTENDANCE: Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator and Team Leader – Democratic Services.

57. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Peers declared a personal interest in agenda item number 8 (Flintshire Local Area Energy Plan) and agenda item number 10 (Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 and the Introduction of Special Procedures' Licensing).

58. **MINUTES**
([link to recording](#))

The [minutes](#) of the meeting held on 10th December 2024 were submitted and confirmed as a correct record.

RESOLVED:

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

59. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING
(link to recording)

The Environment and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator presented the [report \(agenda item number 4\)](#) to consider the current Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking progress.

In response to a suggestion from Councillor Peers, the Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) said a workshop on the 20mph exception scheme could be held with a formal report being submitted to Overview and Scrutiny with the outcome of the workshop.

On items to be added, Councillor Peers said a number of items had been on the list for a long time and asked if dates when they were added could be included. Councillor Richardson suggested an item on Streetscene Standards. The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) said a report would be submitted and it was aimed for March. An additional item was agreed to be added on the Domestic Energy Efficiency Project.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme be approved, including the suggestions above;
- (b) That the Facilitator, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee be authorised to vary the Forward Work Programme between meetings as the need arises; and
- (c) That the progress made in completing the outstanding actions be noted.

60. COUNCIL PLAN (2023-28) MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2024/25
(link to recording)

Katie Wilby and Andrew Farrow introduced the [report \(agenda item number 5\)](#) which was an exception-based report and concentrated on those areas of performance which were not currently achieving their target, relevant to the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Following suggestions it was agreed that a Member Visit to Parc Adfer would be arranged and that Communities for Work would be added as an item on the Forward Work Programme.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the levels of progress and confidence in the achievement of priorities as detailed within the Council Plan 223/28 for delivery within 2024/25 be supported;
- (b) That the overall performance against Council Plan 2024/25 performance indicators/measures be supported; and
- (c) That the Committee be assured by explanations given for those areas of underperformance.

61. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER
(link to recording)

The Strategic Performance Advisor introduced the [report \(agenda item number 6\)](#) and explained that the Corporate Risk Register had been developed and was owned by the Chief Officer Team with a suggestion that the report would also be owned by Cabinet.

It was agreed that Carbon Literacy Training should be available for all Members and further information would be provided to ensure Members were aware of opportunities available.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council's Corporate Risk Register report be reviewed, in particular risk RPE11 – Net Zero Carbon Goal and RST07 – Increase in Residual Waste; and
- (b) That the Committee be assured of the arrangements in place to manage the risks RPE11 – Net Zero Carbon Goal and RST07 – Increase in Residual Waste.

62. GRASS CUTTING AND WEED CONTROL PERFORMANCE REVIEW
(link to recording)

The Highway Network Manager introduced the [report \(agenda item number 7\)](#) and explained the report provided an overview of performance of grass cutting operations for the 2024 season following the introduction of the revised policy. The report also provided further details on the preparations for the 2025 season following the review of performance for this year.

Following discussions, it was agreed that: it would be helpful to differentiate between complaints in relation to aesthetic or safety reasons going forward; better communication channels to be explored; and Members to talk to their area co-ordinators.

A Workshop would be arranged for Members to raise awareness in relation to wild flowers etc.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

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

63. FLINTSHIRE LOCAL AREA ENERGY PLAN

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

The Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) introduced the [report \(agenda item number 8\)](#) and said a Members' briefing had been held on 16th December which provided an opportunity to increase understanding of and considered the details in the Local Area Energy Plan (LEAP). Since the endorsement of the North Wales Energy Strategy and Action Plan and commencement of the LEAP in early 2023, the LEAP for Flintshire had now been finalised.

It was agreed that Suggestion that a review of the LEAP should be undertaken sooner than 2030.

A future report would be submitted on the Coal Authority Mine Water Heat Opportunities when available.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Flintshire Local Energy Plan Main Report and Technical Report be noted, understanding that the LAEP actions assigned to Flintshire County council are subject to securing and maintaining necessary funding; and
- (b) that the content of The Coal Authority report 'Flintshire County Council: Mine Water Heat Opportunities in conjunction with the Local Area Energy Plan.

64. FLINTSHIRE COUNCIL CARBON FOOTPRINT REPORT 2023-24

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

The Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) introduced the [report \(agenda item number 9\)](#) which concluded with considerations to review targets and internal reporting of procurement emissions, investigate impacts of leisure facilities coming back under Council control, and introduce methodology to better understand land sequestration.

The recommendation in the report was supported.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report, and the progress made in the past year to improve data collection for the Council's carbon footprint, be supported.

65. PUBLIC HEALTH (WALES) ACT 2017 AND THE INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL PROCEDURES' LICENSING

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

The Community and Business Protection Manager introduced the [report \(agenda item number 10\)](#) and explained that Section 76 of Part 4 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 allowed local authorities that had issued a Special Procedures Licence or an Approved Premises Certificate to charge a fee. The amount of fee to be charged by a local authority was to be determined having had regard to the costs incurred or expected to be incurred by the authority. The national fees concerning the new licensing scheme had been calculated across Wales based on the principles of cost recovery. Those fees should cover the costs to Flintshire County Council of administering the scheme including officer time for the requisite inspections.

It was agreed that home-based businesses premises and vehicles would be included in the policy.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

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

66. REVIEW OF THE CAR PARKING POLICY

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

The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) introduced the [report \(agenda item number 11\)](#) and explained that the policy needed to be revised to reflect a number of changes since 2015 and to ensure that the Council's parking objectives were consistent with and contributed to the overall aims of the national and regional transport strategies and any legislative changes. The report also proposed that car parking changes be introduced for Wepre Park car park

It was agreed that the Chief Officer would include comments made by the Committee in the report going to Cabinet.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed Car Parking Management Policy be supported; and
- (b) That the introduction of car parking charges at Wepre Park be endorsed.

67. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

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

(The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and ended at 1.55 p.m.)

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Chair