

COMMUNITY & HOUSING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
15 JANUARY 2025

Minutes of the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held as a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, 15 January 2025

PRESENT: **Councillor Tina Claydon (Vice-Chair in the Chair)**
Councillors: Pam Banks, Sean Bibby, Gillian Brockley, Geoff Collett, Rob Davies, Rosetta Dolphin, Kevin Rush, Dale Selvester and Ant Turton

SUBSTITUTION: Councillor Ian Roberts (for Ted Palmer)

APOLOGY: Councillor Marion Bateman

CONTRIBUTORS: Councillor Helen Brown (Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities); Councillor Paul Johnson (Cabinet Member for Finance & Social Value); Councillor Richard Jones (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transformation & Assets); Chief Officer (Housing and Communities); Service Manager – Housing & Assets and Service Manager – Housing Welfare and Communities

Service Manager – Planning Strategy and Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer for Minute Number 53

Strategic Performance Advisor for Minute Number 55

Strategic Housing & Program Delivery Manager; Service Manager - Housing & Prevention Services and Business Manager for Minute Number 56

IN ATTENDANCE: Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Democratic Services Officer

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

None.

50. MINUTES ([Link to recording](#))

Councillor Sean Bibby highlighted an error on page 6 of the minutes, that 'Nant Y Gro' be amended to read 'Nant Y Coed'.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the amendment listed above, the [minutes](#) from the 11th December 2024 meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

51. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME ([Link to recording](#))

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

She suggested one change, which was to bring forward the Council Fund Budget 2025/26 report to the next meeting of the Committee scheduled for February.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme be noted;
- (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 Committee notes the progress made in completing the outstanding actions.

52. WELSH HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS (WHQS 2 2023) & HOUSING DISREPAIR (HDR) UPDATE [\(Link to recording\)](#)

The Chief Officer (Housing and Communities) and Service Manager – Housing & Assets jointly presented a [report \(agenda item number 5\)](#) to provide an update regarding the new Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS 2 2023), the voids lettable standard and the Council's obligations relating to delivery of the new standards.

It was agreed that a copy of the communication to tenants around the process of reporting disrepairs and the risks to the tenants in appointing a solicitor on a 'no fee/no win basis' be circulated to all Members for information and also added to the Council's Social Media page.

The recommendations and comments made by the Committee would be reported to Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

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

53. PROVISION OF TRANSIT SITE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE GYPSY ROMA TRAVELLER COMMUNITY IN FLINTSHIRE [\(Link to recording\)](#)

The Chief Officer (Housing and Communities) and Service Manager – Planning Strategy jointly presented a [report \(agenda item number 6\)](#) which provided an update on the delivery of an appropriate transit site in Flintshire and framed some of the challenges and considerations required to meet the statutory requirements now and in the future.

The recommendation and comments made by the Committee would be reported to Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee acknowledges that the adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) includes provision for a small-scale transit site in Flintshire.

54. FOOD POVERTY UPDATE ([Link to recording](#))

The Service Manager – Housing Welfare and Communities introduced a [report \(agenda item number 7\)](#) to provide an update on the current and planned work in response to the food poverty priority area. The report also highlighted the positive roll Flintshire had played in developing partnerships, supporting other organisations, and facilitating action.

In response to a request from Councillor Brockley for a list of Warm Welcome Hubs and Community Hubs across the County, the Service Manager agreed to circulate the link to the Council's website where this information was shown and updated to the Committee Members following the meeting.

The recommendations and comments made by the Committee would be reported to Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

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

55. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER ([Link to recording](#))

The Strategic Performance Advisor and Chief Officer (Housing and Communities) presented a [report \(agenda item number 8\)](#) which outlined the process of identifying and assessing risks, evaluating their potential consequence, and mitigating them to ensure priorities were achieved. The aim was to minimise the severity of their consequence and likelihood of occurring where possible.

It was agreed that the following feedback from the Committee be passed to the Performance Team:-

- That only risks relevant to the Committee be presented in future reports; and
- That Risk - RCF09 - Housing Revenue Account Capital Investment – be reported to both the Housing & Communities and Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committees in future reports.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council's Corporate Risk Register report, in particular risk RHC09 – Resources to Meet Homelessness Obligations, be noted; and

- (b) That the Committee is assured of the arrangements in place to manage risk RHC09 – Resources to Meet Homelessness Obligations.

56. COUNCIL PLAN (2023-2028) MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2024/2025 ([Link to recording](#))

The Chief Officer (Housing & Communities) presented a [report \(agenda item number 9\)](#) which presented a summary of performance of progress against the Council Plan priorities identified for 2024/25 at the mid-year (Quarter 2) position. This report was an exception-based report and concentrates on those areas of performance which were not currently achieving their target,

RESOLVED:

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

57. VOID MANAGEMENT ([Link to recording](#))

The Service Manager – Housing & Assets presented the key figures and key activities against the void action plan, as outlined in the [briefing note \(agenda item number 10\)](#).

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

58. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

None.

(The meeting started at 10am and ended at 12.11 p.m.)

.....
Chair

Meetings of the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee are webcast and can be viewed by visiting the webcast library at <http://flintshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>