

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

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

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

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

**APOLOGIES:**               Councillor Helen Brown.

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

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

**140. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

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

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

**RESOLVED:**

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

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

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

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

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

The recommendation in the report was supported.

**RESOLVED:**

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

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

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

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

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

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

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

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

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

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

**145. FLINTSHIRE LOCAL AREA ENERGY PLAN**

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

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

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

**RESOLVED:**

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

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

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

Defer to listen to the views of Flint Members.

**RESOLVED:**

That the item be deferred.

**147. REVIEW OF CAR PARKING POLICY**

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

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

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

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

**148. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2024/25 (MONTH 8)**

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

Councillor Johnson introduced the [report \(agenda item number 11\)](#) which provided the latest detailed overview of the budget monitoring position for the 2024/25 financial year for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account and presented the position, based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 8.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

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

**149. WELSH HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS (WHQS 2 2023) AND HOUSING DISREPAIR (HDR) UPDATE**

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

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

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

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

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

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

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

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

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

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

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

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

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

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

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

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

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

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

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

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

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

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

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

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

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

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

The recommendations in the report were supported.

**RESOLVED:**

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

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

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

The recommendation in the report was supported.

**RESOLVED:**

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

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

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

**157. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE**

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

(The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and ended at 11.50 a.m.)

.....

**Chair**