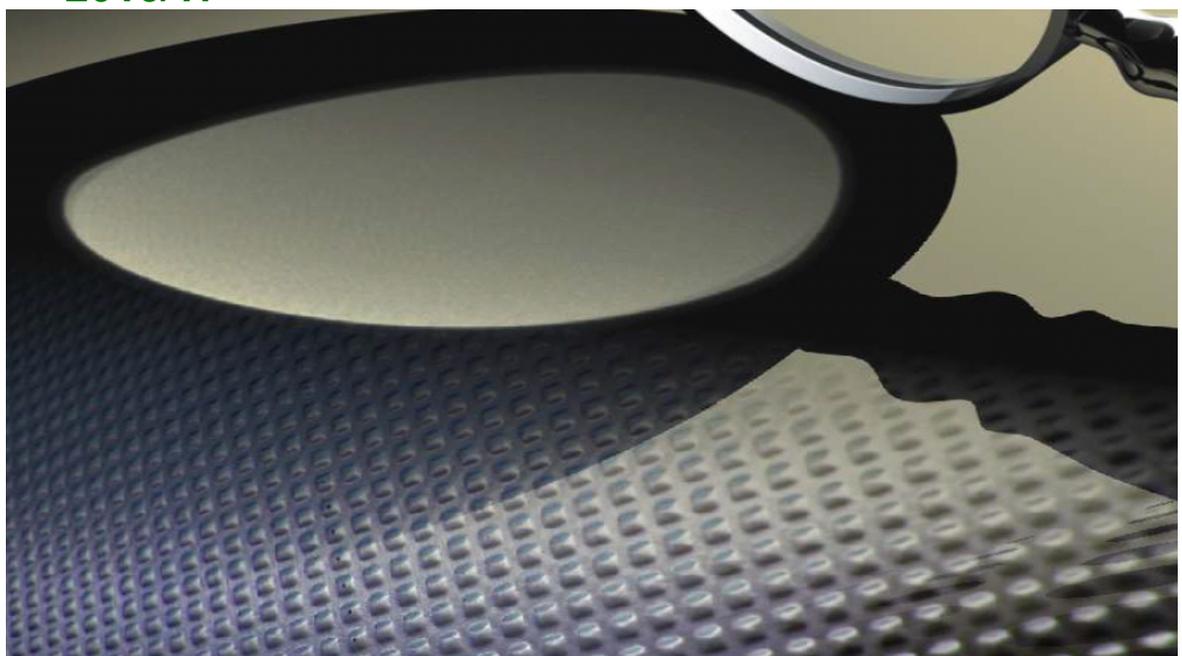




Overview & Scrutiny

Annual Report

2016/17



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PREFACE

The Constitution & Democratic Services Committee considered and approved the Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report at the meeting which was held on 25th October. It was suggested that it would be useful to remind Members how they can put an item onto an Overview & Scrutiny agenda.

In Flintshire, we operated a local protocol, whereby any Member of the Council could request that an Overview & Scrutiny Committee consider a specific item: this was in addition to the statutory rights of a member of an Overview & Scrutiny committee. The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 put the Flintshire good practice into statute as section 63 of the Measure.

Any Member can request that an item is considered by an Overview & Scrutiny Committee by putting the request in writing to the Democratic Services Manager. (robert.robins@flintshire.gov.uk) The request would then be referred to the appropriate committee at its next meeting, for consideration during the Forward Work Programme Item.

Foreword from the Constitution & Democratic Services Committee

The foreword to the 2016/17 Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report is a departure from the usual approach. This time, it is fitting that we pay tribute to our longest serving committee chair, Councillor Ron Hampson, who sadly passed away in August.

Ron had been a member of Flintshire since 1995, and during the 1990s served as vice-chair of the Development Committee. With the introduction of 'executive arrangements' following the Local Government Act 2000, he became involved in Overview & Scrutiny.

As the table below shows, he had held responsible positions within Overview & Scrutiny since its inception, and had also served on the Co-ordinating Committee and its predecessor, the Co-ordinating Body since 2000.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Position	Year
Best Value	Vice-chair	2000/01
Best Value	Vice-chair	2001/2
Policy & Corporate Management	Vice-chair	2002/3
Policy & Corporate Management	Vice-chair	2003/4
Policy & Corporate management	Chair	2004/5
Corporate Management	Chair	2005/6
Community & Housing	Vice-chair	2006/7
Community & Housing	Vice-chair	2007/8
Community & Housing	Chair	2008/9
Community & Housing	Chair	2009/10
Housing	Chair	2010/11
Housing	Chair	2011/12
Housing	Chair	2012/13
Housing	Chair	2013/14
Housing	Chair	2014/15
Community & Enterprise	Chair	2015/16
Community & Enterprise	Chair	2016/17

Ron is sadly missed as a Member of the Council and a leading scrutineer. He was, and will continue to be held in great affection by Councillor and officer colleagues alike.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY – A CABINET PERSPECTIVE



Within Flintshire, a fundamental part of the Council's culture is a belief in the need for an effective and efficient Overview & Scrutiny function as an integral part of good governance.

The Cabinet is held to account by the six Overview & Scrutiny committees which we have, but as importantly, the Members of those committees are providing their support to our executive arrangements as both critical and challenging friends.

The Council's Overview & Scrutiny committees are engaged in pre-decision scrutiny: commenting on reports and emerging policies before they are considered formally by the Cabinet is invaluable to us. That way, the Cabinet is able to benefit from the collective knowledge and wisdom of a wider cross-section of the Council's membership.

During the last year of the life of the 2012-17 Council, we have seen the reviewed and refreshed Overview & Scrutiny committees in operation. They have shown that the time and effort which we put into the review has paid off. The structure which we now have in place will offer the new council a good starting point for its corporate governance.

In my capacity as Leader and portfolio holder for finance, my closest working relationship is with the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny committee. That committee meets on the Thursday before Cabinet and considers and comments on the monthly budget monitoring reports. If there are issues of concern, these are flagged up and brought to the attention of the Cabinet.

Traditionally, I conclude my 'Cabinet perspective' feature in the Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report by thanking everyone who is involved in Overview & Scrutiny here; whether they be the Committee Chairs and Members; the Cabinet Members and Chief and senior officers who attend as contributors at the meetings, as well as the support staff. I would like to express my continued thanks to all involved: we continue to place a lot of reliance on you all, in your respective roles, to make Overview & Scrutiny and thus our entire governance structure work effectively.

Councillor Aaron Shotton,
Leader of the Council

THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY -
COLIN EVERETT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE



From our 2017 induction programme, both new and returning Members will be aware that Overview & Scrutiny, as part of our executive arrangements, has been operating in Flintshire since 2002. There is a good track record of achievement, and it is clear that Overview & Scrutiny has made a difference to how we do things: the benefits to the organisation in having a robust and effective critical friend to provide challenge to the Cabinet has improved the quality of decision making.

The Annual Report for 2016-17 gives an indication of scrutiny activity in the last year; another year in which we faced unprecedented cuts. Members will already be aware from the workshops which we have held on our Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Budget that we will be facing similar huge challenges again this autumn.

The need for all of Flintshire's members, whether Members of the Cabinet, the six Overview & Scrutiny committee or the regulatory committees to play an active part in seeking to make the further budget reductions has never been more important.

I am confident that at the heart of all discussions will be our desire to protect the services and local community facilities which are critical to community life. Last year, local communities played their part in stepping forward to work with us in new venture such as Community Asset Transfers and Alternative Delivery Models.

The next year, the first year of a new council will be challenging. We must maintain our strength of purpose so that we can continue to modernise the Council and find better and more efficient ways of doing things whilst maintaining our position as a well governed, high performing and progressive Council.

Colin Everett,
Chief Executive

The use of Call in of a Cabinet decision and how the procedure works.

1. Background

Following a request from Members, the Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report for 2015/16 included a feature on the use of Call In. As there were two Calls in during 2016/17, and as the use of call in has been referred to during the Induction Programme, it was considered useful to include details in this annual report.

2. The Arrangements

The arrangements for calling in a decision are to be found in paragraph 16 of the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules contained within the Council's Constitution. The legal authority is derived from section 21 (3) of the Local Government Act 2000.

The ability to call in a Cabinet decision is a significant power for non-executive members. It is not something which should be considered unless there is no alternative: if the power is over-used, or used in such a way as to be thought of as frivolous, its significance or importance would be lost.

3. Decisions of the Cabinet

Following a meeting of the Cabinet, the record of the decisions which it made is published within two days. Copies are available at County Hall, and are sent to all Members of the County Council.

The decision record gives the date when it was published and specifies that the decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days after the publication of the decision, unless it is called in within those five working days after the publication of the decision

4. Calling in a Decision

If the Chief Officer (Governance) or Democratic Services Manager receives a request from the Chair of an Overview & Scrutiny committee or at least four members of the Council, (for the avoidance of doubt such a request should be on a call in notice form, giving the reason for the call-in, and signed by all parties) a call in meeting is arranged.

Either the Democratic Services Manager or one of the Overview & Scrutiny Facilitators notifies the decision takers (the relevant Cabinet members and Chief Officers) of the call-in, and then arranges a meeting of the appropriate committee within seven working days of the decision to call-in

5. The Call-in Meeting

By their nature, call-in meetings tend to be held at short notice (i.e. within seven working days of the call-in decision) and generally the only item of business to be transacted would be to deal with the call-in. However, from time to time it is expedient to consider a call in at a meeting which has already been convened.

There is a suggested procedure for dealing with a call in. This is intended to make the meeting as simple and transparent as possible.

The Chair asks the advising officer to briefly outline the call-in procedure for Members of the Committee, explaining the time constraints within the Constitution.

The initiators of the call-in (those who have signed the call in form) are then invited to explain and clarify their reasons for calling in the decision. This can be by means of a spokesman, or by several Members contributing.

The decision makers (the relevant Cabinet Members and Chief/senior officers) then have the opportunity to respond to the issues raised by the initiators and provide further information if they believe that it will assist the committee's understanding of the decision.

Once this had taken place, the Chair invites questions from Members, and the decision-makers and call-in initiators are invited to respond as appropriate. At the end of Members' questions, the Chair will ask the initiators and the decision makers to sum up their respective cases.

The advising officer then explains the Committee's options for decision, as detailed in the Constitution. The decision should include one of the four options given below.

Option 1

Satisfaction with the explanation(s) received. The decision can be implemented immediately.

Option 2

'No longer concerned', the explanations are accepted, but the decision is not endorsed by the committee. The decision can be implemented immediately.

Option 3

Still concerned about the issues: the decision is referred back to the Cabinet for reconsideration, giving the reasons why. The Cabinet must reconsider the decision at the earliest scheduled meeting, amending the decision or not, before adopting a final decision.

Option 4

Still concerned about the issues: the decision is to refer the matter to full Council. If it is apparent that the Committee is minded to take this approach, the advising officer will remind the Committee that 'executive functions' are solely within the remit of the Cabinet. The Council are able to consider the issue, but not change the decision: it can only recommend to Cabinet that the decision be reconsidered. If referred to full Council, the meeting must be held within 10 working days unless there is a scheduled meeting of the full Council at which the matter may be considered within the expiry of a further 5 working days.

7. Reporting Back

After a call in meeting, there is always a report back to the next Cabinet explaining the decision which the Overview & Scrutiny Committee has made.

8. Call in during 2016/17

During the last municipal year there were two Cabinet decision called in. These were:

Call in of Cabinet decision 3255, School Modernisation – School standards and Reorganisation act 2015 – Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain. This was considered by Council on 10th May 2016. This was the first time that a call in decision has been considered by Council, rather than the decision being accepted as implementable or referred back to Cabinet. This call in was originally heard by the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee at a meeting on 28th April.

The Council raised no objection to the Cabinet's decision to close Ysgol Maes Edwin with effect from 31st August 2016.

On 8th March 2017, the Community & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the Call in of Cabinet decision no 3358, the Deeside plan. The signatories were keen to ensure the appropriate spread of investment across Flintshire and raised concerns around the consultation process in developing the Plan. The committee will then be asked for one of the options to be proposed and seconded. The proposal is then voted on. If it is approved, that is the committee's decision, if it falls, then a further proposal(s) will be sought until there is a majority vote in favour of one of the options.

This was an interesting debate which prompted a high number of questions from Members of the Committee who were also seeking an assurance that the Deeside Plan would not detract investment and benefits from Town Centres across Flintshire.

Following the debate, the Committee resolved to accept but not endorse the explanations.

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Chair
Cllr Ron Hampson



Vice-Chair
Cllr George Hardcastle

The Committee has continued to undertake pre-decision scrutiny and has been consulted on a number of initiatives, including, the Approval of Lending to New Homes to fund a Development of 62 Affordable New Homes on The Walks, Flint; Discretionary Rate Relief Policy; Hardship Rate Relief Policy; Buy Back of Council Right to Buy (RTB) Properties and Commuted Sums and Shared Equity Redemption Payments Policy.

In November 2016, the Committee also took part in a tour of the Custom House Lane development in Connah's Quay, following the meeting held in November 2016. Members were given the opportunity to walk around the newly built Council properties and were very pleased with the development and the consideration that had been given to providing high quality homes for Flintshire tenants.

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

Growth Vision and Strategy for the Economy of North Wales

In October 2016 the Committee considered a report which set out regional ambitions on infrastructure development, skills and employment and business growth. The Committee also received the 'Growth Track 360' prospectus on rail improvement across North Wales and the Mersey Dee area, which had been developed with various key partners.

The Committee supported the 'Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales' and the benefits to local industry but outlined the need for improved infrastructure and ensuring all areas of the County received investment to ensure all young people were able to access employment. The Committee also requested a short workshop to outline the key areas of work being undertaken by the Council to maintain the economic success of Flintshire. This area of scrutiny was relatively new to many Members of the Committee and therefore it was felt that a workshop would assist the Committee in ensuring greater understating of the regeneration functions.

Buy Back of Council Right to Buy (RTB) Properties

In December 2016, the Committee welcomed a report which set out the Council's approach to the strategic acquisition of properties that became available on the open market and proposed a new policy to include the option to purchase ex-Council properties sold under the Right to Buy Scheme. I was very pleased to be considering this report and the introduction of the new Policy was endorsed by the Committee, who has for some time had been discussing and debating on options to assist with the shortfall of available homes across the County.

Welfare Reform – Universal Credit Roll Out

The Committee have continued throughout the year to receive regular update reports on the impact of Welfare Reform to seek an assurance that the actions being taken by the Council help and support Flintshire tenants.

As Chair, I have been keen to ensure that we continue to receive the regular updates which has allowed the Committee to monitor the level of rent arrears and also to be kept up to date on information being provided to Flintshire tenants so that Members could assist in directing tenants to the most appropriate support available.

Councillor Ron Hampson

Chair of the Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Chair
Cllr Clive Carver



Vice-Chair
Cllr Arnold Woolley

Following on from the Overview & Scrutiny structural review, the Committee's remit has been expanded to incorporate partnership working and has also become the statutory crime & disorder scrutiny committee.

Budget Monitoring

This has always been one of the salient features of the Committee's work: at our monthly meetings, we consider the budget monitoring reports before they go to Cabinet the following week. When we make observations or recommendations they are formally reported to the Cabinet as part of the presentation of the report. We also refer items to one of the other Overview & Scrutiny Committee if we feel that an item within their remit, such as a service overspending, requires further investigation.

Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan

Given the importance of this issue, it was reported on at each meeting during the autumn, with a written report in May 2016 and verbal updates at other meetings. The use of verbal reports on such topics means that the Committee is provided with the most up to date information, which is invaluable.

Budget consultation

The approach to budget consultation has improved year on year, providing for greater Member engagement and transparency in the process.

In September the Council Fund Revenue Budget 2017/18 Stage One was brought to Committee

Stage 2 – 2017/18 Council Fund Budget was brought to the Special meeting of the Committee on the 30th November

In January the Budget meeting received reports on the Council Fund Budget Report 2017/18 – Part 3 Closing Strategy and Development of the 2017/18 to 2019/20 Capital Programme

Corporate Resources, as the lead Overview & Scrutiny Committee for finance and resources issues held 'All Member' meetings, which ensure that those Members who are not currently on an Overview & Scrutiny Committee are able to have meaningful participation in the budget consultation process.

Crime & Disorder issues

Fulfilling our responsibilities as the Council's statutory crime & disorder committee under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and the Crime & Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, we held three meetings at which crime & disorder issues were considered. The first was the Community Safety Partnership Annual Report and review. In December the Police & Crime Commissioner for North Wales, Mr Arfon Jones gave a presentation following which he answered questions from Members. The third was held in March and linked into the second meeting with a presentation on Cyber Crime by Sergeant Peter Jones of the North Wales Cyber Crime Unit. These presentations were invaluable to the Committee's understanding of the issues.

External scrutiny

In November the North Wales Fire & Rescue Service and Authority attended Committee to provide a presentation on the public consultation document 'Affordable Fire and Rescue Services for North Wales'. This presentation provided detailed information to the counties which are part of the Fire & Rescue Authority, the services they provide, costs and outlined the four strategic objectives for 2017-18. Committee Members agreed that the four proposed strategic objectives within the consultation document be supported, with the proviso that there should be greater explanation on the thinking behind Objective 4 'Exploring how we can do more things for our communities'

Flintshire Public Services Board (PSB)

The Flintshire PSB is made up of senior leaders from a number of public and voluntary organisations. The Board has a membership made up of both statutory members (i.e. prescribed by law) and invited members as listed below. The statutory members are shown with an *:

- Flintshire County Council*
- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board*
- North Wales Fire and Rescue Service*
- Natural Resources Wales*
- North Wales Police
- North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- National Probation Service (Wales)
- Wales Community Rehabilitation Company
- Flintshire Local Voluntary Council
- Coleg Cambria
- Glyndwr University
- Public Health Wales
- Welsh Government

Members of the Committee were asked to support the role and responsibilities of the Flintshire Public Services Board, support the priorities for 2016/17 and the pilot work being undertaken around the CAMMS performance management system.

Councillor Clive Carver

Chair of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee

EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Chair
Cllr Ian Roberts



Vice-Chair
Mr. David Hytch

Following the review of the Overview & Scrutiny Terms of Reference, the Committee has continued to focus solely on Education & Youth Service issues. The Committee has received regular updates on the School Modernisation Strategy following its extensive consideration of proposals for John Summers High School, Ysgol Maes Edwin and Ysgol Llanfynydd and will continue to monitor transition arrangements following the closure of the schools.

The Committee has held a number of its Committee meetings outside of County Hall, with meetings being held at Ysgol Treffynnon, Coleg Cambria and Hawarden High School. The Committee were very pleased to be able to have a tour of both the newly built Ysgol Treffynnon, the Deeside Sixth at Coleg Cambria and to have a school meal at Hawarden High School prior to the start of the Committee meeting.

Below is a summary of the work undertaken by the Committee over the last 12 months:-

Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GwE)

In July 2016, the Committee received a presentation from Ashely Jones, Chief Officer, Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GwE) on the service for North Wales. The Committee welcomed the presentation as a number of concerns had been raised around school improvements for children who received school meals and how interventions by GwE were being managed. The Committee recommended to receive a further update on the development and delivery of GwE's two integrated core programmes - the Challenge and Support Programme and Development Programme.

In March 2017, the Committee received a report on the core programmes and invited the Senior Challenge and Support Advisor and Assistant Challenge and Support Adviser to the meeting to introduce the report. The Committee asked a number of challenging and robust questions around the progress being achieved in schools across Flintshire since the introduction of GwE and around the importance of maintaining continuity of Challenge Advisors in schools. The meeting was extremely positive in terms of scrutinising GwE to ensure the best outcomes for children across Flintshire.

The Committee will continue to scrutinise and receive regular update from GwE moving forward with specific focus around secondary education.

Person Centred Planning

In November 2016, the Committee considered a report on the process for Person Centred Planning and an update on the training being offered to prepare the schools and pupil referral units in Flintshire. The Committee were pleased to have Rachel Molyneux, Headteacher at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School and Christine Wineyard, Teacher in Charge of the Learning Centre (Pupil Referral Unit) in attendance to provide a detailed overview of how Person Centred Planning was applied in the classroom. The Committee found this to be extremely informative and expressed its support for the initiative.

The Committee resolved that Members continue to promote the use of Person Centred Planning through their links with schools and the portfolio pupil referral units.

School Meal Service

In December 2016 the Committee held its meeting at Hawarden High School. The Committee was due to consider a report on the School Meal Service and Members and Officers were given the opportunity to enjoy a school meal similar to those which the school children had been offered earlier in the day and thanked the catering staff for this opportunity.

Prior to the start of the meeting, three pupils from the School Council gave a short presentation on their views of the School Meal Service following a survey they had undertaken with other school children. This was very interesting and I wrote to the pupils, on behalf of the Committee, following the meeting to thank them for such an informative presentation.

Following consideration of the School Meal Service report, the Committee supported the creation of a Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) for Catering and Cleaning Services. Continued monitoring of this would now fall under the remit of the Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Skilled Education Workforce Shortage

In February 2017, the Committee considered a report on the availability of suitably skilled personnel to positions in schools and the challenges in recruiting to vacant posts.

The report was presented to the Committee following a request from Councillor David Mackie at a previous meeting. The report detailed feedback from a small number of schools across Flintshire which highlighted difficulties in the recruitment of specialist teachers in core subjects. During debate, a number of concerns were raised around the need for a measured approach to introducing curriculum changes, the costs associated with engaging temporary teaching staff and challenges in teacher retention.

The Committee asked the Facilitator to prepare a letter to Mrs. Kirsty Williams, Cabinet Secretary for Education at the Welsh Government, on behalf of the Committee, to request additional resources into schools in Wales in order to achieve the significant aims being set and to reflect the issues raised by the Committee. A response was received and the Committee will continue to monitor this challenge.

Councillor Ian Roberts

Chair of the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Chair
Cllr Raymond Hughes



Vice-Chair
Cllr David Evans

The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee has had another busy year scrutinising a wide range of topics as listed in Appendix 1 of the report. We have continued to be proactive in carrying out pre-decision scrutiny work in advance of key decisions being taken by the Cabinet driven by the significant cuts to budgets across the authority and the ongoing difficult decisions on funding priorities.

At the May meeting, we received a report considering the future provision of Household Recycling Centre sites in Flintshire following publication of the Welsh Government review. The Committee challenged the findings of the review which had concluded that the optimum solution for Flintshire would be just three HRC sites, with each site offering good access and excellent recycling facilities. The Committee emphasised the need for more localised provision and the Cabinet Member for Waste agreed to consider other options, including an option put forward by Cllr David Evans, our Vice-Chair who proposed two additional 'super sites'. We received a further report at the July meeting updating the Committee on the progress made with the review and requested a full report on the preferred location and individual site layouts in the autumn.

In October we held a workshop on Waste and recycling to give all Members of the Council an opportunity to consider the options for Household Recycling Centres, the range and type of recycling, and how best to communicate with the public. We also were able to see one of the new collection vehicles that had been brought to County Hall and have a go at depositing recycling in the different compartments. The Wales Audit Office have recognised that the robust input from the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee prompted the Council to reconsider and amend its proposals to rationalise the style and location of household waste recycling centres in Flintshire.

At the November meeting we received an update on the progress made with the Renewable Energy Action Plan. The Plan has been developed to maximize the social, environmental and economic opportunities of low carbon and renewable energy generation on Council owned land. Following the meeting, the committee went on a site visit to the Standard Landfill Site to view Solar Photovoltaic (PV) installations. Members were told of the substantial savings to be gained from the connection to the Brookhill Site to provide electricity to the Alltami Depot and potentially to the proposed electric vehicle fleet. We were also advised of the opportunities to develop areas of biomass through grant funding. Members were pleased that the challenges with both projects had been overcome.

The Committee also continues to receive quarterly performance reports to monitor the Council Improvement plan enabling the committee to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring. One of the areas of concern raised by the Committee has been the lack of progress relating to the Mold Flood Defence Scheme and the possible impact of the changes to the Single Environment Grant from the Welsh Government.

As a Committee we have been reviewing the impact of service changes following the implementation of new operating models and reviews of team resources in line with the Council's organizational design principles and modernized service delivery. The committee were actively involved in the budget planning process with Member Workshops and drop-in sessions being held prior to consideration at our budget meeting in January. Some of the areas that have been considered included: - the 12 month review of the Council's Car Parking Strategy, the revised Highways and Car Park Inspection Policy, the final stage of the Review of Existing Speed Limit Orders on the Council's Highway Networks and proposed process improvements for any future changes to speed limit orders.

The Dog DNA Task & Finish group put forward proposals regarding a pilot dog DNA scheme and the introduction of Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Orders. All Members were invited to a Scrutiny workshop on the 5th of January 2017 to obtain Members' views prior to consideration at Scrutiny on the 11th of January. Whilst the Committee recognized the work of the Dog DNA Task and Finish Group, they did not recommend that the Authority proceeded with a Dog DNA Scheme in Flintshire at the present time. The committee welcomed the proposed implementation of Dog Control Public Space Protection Orders for specific offences on designated classifications of open space and recommended that Cabinet progress the implementation prior to October 2017.

Updates on progress with the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project have been provided and following Welsh Government approval of the final business case, operations were on target to start in 2018/19.

Councillor Raymond Hughes

Chair of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Chair
Cllr Brian Dunn



Vice-Chair
Cllr Chris Dolphin

Terms of reference and ways of working

The focus of the Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee is the need for fundamental changes to how the Authority carries out some of its functions. During the year, the work of the Committee has been concentrated on Community Asset Transfers (CAT) and the creation of Alternative Delivery Models (ADM). As well as meeting at County Hall, the Committee has held meetings at Holywell Leisure Centre, Deeside Leisure Centre and Cambrian Aquatics, the former Connah's Quay Swimming Pool.

Community Asset Transfers

The Council has engaged with communities to make budget efficiencies through community asset transfers. The CATs have ranged from local libraries to major facilities such as Connah's Quay Swimming Pool (which has become Cambrian Aquatics) and Holywell Leisure Centre.

Successful pieces of work include the following:

- The Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of Mancot library;
- The CAT of Mynydd Isa Community Centre and Library to Café Isa;
- The CAT of Hope Library to Castell Alun School and the Friends of Hope Community Library;
- The re-location of book stock and computers in Saltney to the youth and community centre.

Projects of this size have seen the Committee considering financial estimates, appraising the effectiveness of engagement and consultation with staff, information on the pension scheme and communications with town & community councils. As part of asset rationalisation, the library at Holywell has been moved into the Leisure Centre before transfer and so rental income is paid to the Leisure Centre. The Committee was also pleased to note the degree of collaboration with Holywell Town Council during this process. The Committee looks forward to continued work with the Leisure Centre trustees.

Throughout the process of the transfer of Connah's Quay Swimming Pool to Cambrian Aquatics, the Committee was keenly involved (this was the first major CAT). The committee received and commented on progress reports. There has been solid progress in the new operation with a recruitment programme for the staff required, links with primary schools being established, community targets set and been exceeded. Whilst it is recognised that overall there are still challenges ahead, the service is growing and has new vitality. The Committee held a meeting at Cambrian Aquatics, after which Members were shown round the facility.

Alternative Delivery Models

Social Care - Learning Disability Day Care and Work Opportunities - A light touch procurement process was designed, involving a range of stakeholders in the process. It was anticipated implementation will be on time with a start date of April 2017. The Committee noted progress made and commented on the planned procurement process and stakeholder engagement.

The re-location of library services to a new library at Deeside Leisure Centre funded by Welsh Government grant aid is another example of 'alternate delivery'. This replaced the former libraries which were at Hawarden, Mancot and Queensferry. The new library has benefitted from longer opening hours (outside 'staffed hours' library users are able to use the self-service facility).

Bailey Hill – Heritage Lottery Fund Developments

The Committee learnt that this is a significant project to improve the heritage environment of the Motte & Bailey Castle at Bailey Hill in Mold in partnership with Mold Town Council and the Friends of Bailey Hill Group. A successful stage 1 development application for £0.044m was completed in July 2016 and following extensive works at the site the stage 2 application is envisaged to be submitted at the start of 2018. This work is ongoing with match funding key to its success and will protect this local heritage site for future generations of Mold.

Councillor Brian Dunn

Chair of the Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee

SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Chair
Cllr Carol Ellis



Vice-Chair
Cllr Andy Dunbobbin

The Committee has had another busy year and has scrutinised a wide range of topics. Performance monitoring continues to be an integral part of our work and we are pleased that we have welcomed representatives from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, The Ambulance Service and the Flintshire Local Voluntary Council to our Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings. Here is a flavour of some of the topics considered over the last 12 months. A full list of topics is contained within Appendix 1 of the report.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICES IN FLINTSHIRE

We were delighted to hear that Rhian Evans, a Team Manager in Mental Health Services, had been recognised for showcasing extraordinary leadership by winning the "Leadership in the Public Sector" award, sponsored by Academi Wales at the Leading Wales Awards, in association with Cardiff Metropolitan University. Rhian developed and managed the transition of Double Click from being run by Flintshire to becoming an independent Social Enterprise that provides employment for people managing mental health issues. The Committee have taken an active role in the transition and were delighted to hear that the judges had praised Rhian for being an 'incredible example of talent and leadership that has made a real contribution to the Welsh economy'.

Officers gave an update on the three main strands of the Mental Health Support Services - the Intensive Support Team, Community Living and Medium Support Team and the Occupation and Employment Team. They demonstrated how the three areas support the recovery of individuals with mental health problems to help them build meaningful lives for themselves and feel valued. Members of the Committee were pleased to hear that in 2015/16 individual support goals had been fully or partly met for the vast majority of people supported by the service.

Comments, Compliments and Complaints

We received an update on the number of complaints received by Adult and Children's Social Services, the services complained about, and the outcomes and lessons learned. As Chair I requested that information be provided to the Committee on the number of service users within Adult and Children's Social Services to determine the ratio of complaints received in relation to the number of service users. The Committee welcomed the report

and suggested that compliments should be given a higher profile in future reports. The Complaints Officer agreed to provide an additional appendix to future reports to provide more information about the compliments received. All complaints are reviewed to bring together information about the overall quality of services to identify any trends and actions required including any lessons learned to avoid similar issues arising again. This approach provides Members with an assurance that the quality of service provided to Flintshire residents remains good.

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

At the June meeting, we had invited representatives from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board Trust and The Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust to provide us with updates. Geoff Lang, Executive Director of Strategy for BCUHB reported that there was work ongoing in relation to the special measures reported and a number of new appointments had been made at a senior level at the Trust. The Committee was introduced to Mr Rob Smith the Area Director (East) to give an update on local health services provision for Flintshire residents. He emphasised the need to focus on the development of community health services and referred to the partnership work taking place in Flintshire. He also referred to the need to ensure that people were not admitted to hospital unnecessarily or stayed longer than necessary and advised that the problems of capacity and demand on hospital services. He said there was a need for high quality care and greater access to GP services and commented on the general improvement in primary care. Karl Hughes provided an update from the Welsh Ambulance Services perspective concerning special measures. He reported that 3 new vehicles had been purchased recently. We were advised that the emphasis is on quality and consistency of care for people when they require it.

Flintshire Local Voluntary Council

The Committee welcomed Mrs Anne Woods, Chief Officer, Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC) who gave us an update on the social care activity currently being undertaken by Flintshire's third sector. She outlined the vital role of the voluntary and community sector in promoting health and wellbeing. She emphasised how Flintshire Local Voluntary Council were active partners in local partnerships including the Public Service Board and the Community Safety Partnership and how FLVC supported the learning and development of voluntary services and volunteers across Flintshire. The Committee welcomed the work undertaken by the third sector on behalf of Flintshire residents and agreed to review the social care activity within the third sector in Flintshire on an annual basis.

Dementia Services

Luke Pickering-Jones, Planning and Development Officer explained the work taking place to help people live well with Dementia across Flintshire. He also emphasised the importance of supporting family members caring for loved ones with Dementia. We received an overview of the work being undertaken by colleagues in Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to improve the timeliness of diagnosis in Flintshire Memory Clinics, the improvements to in-patient care in Community Hospitals for people with dementia and the development of specialist pathways to services for people with different forms of dementia. We heard about the many community initiatives across Flintshire that are supporting those with

Dementia to stay safe and independent within their local communities and maintaining important social contacts and relationships. The creation of dementia friendly communities has proved positive by engaging with local residents and businesses.

The Committee emphasised the importance of the work carried out by volunteers and the significance of church and chapel communities in forming strong community hubs. Members welcomed the continued success of the Dementia Café initiatives across Flintshire.

Rota Visits

Members of the Committee also undertake Rota Visits which gives an opportunity to visit 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 2016/17

Community & Enterprise

Councillor Ron Hampson (Chair)

Councillor David Cox
Councillor Paul Cunningham
Councillor Peter Curtis
Councillor Ron Davies
Councillor Rosetta Dolphin
Councillor Ian Dunbar
Councillor Jim Falshaw (*from July to December*)
Councillor Alison Halford (*from May to July*)
Councillor George Hardcastle, (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Ray Hughes
Councillor Hilary Isherwood (*from July*)
Councillor Sara Parker
Councillor Mike Reece
Councillor Gareth Roberts
Councillor David Roney

Corporate Resources

Councillor Clive Carver (Chair)

Councillor Marion Bateman
Councillor Paul Cunningham
Councillor Peter Curtis
Councillor Andy Dunbobbin
Councillor Robin Guest
Councillor Ron Hampson
Councillor Ray Hughes
Councillor Richard Jones
Councillor Brian Lloyd
Councillor Vicky Perfect,
Councillor Paul Shotton
Councillor Ian Smith
Councillor Nigel Steele-Mortimer
Councillor Arnold Woolley (Vice Chair)

Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Ian Roberts (Chair)

Councillor Marion Bateman
Councillor Paul Cunningham
Councillor Peter Curtis
Councillor Adele Davies-Cooke
Councillor Andy Dunbobbin
Councillor David Healey
Councillor Colin Legg
Councillor Phil Lightfoot
Councillor Dave Mackie
Councillor Nancy Matthews
Councillor Vicky Perfect
Councillor Nigel Steele-Mortimer
Councillor Carolyn Thomas
Councillor David Williams

Co-opted Members:

Janine Beggan
David Hytch (Vice Chair)
Rebecca Stark
Bernard Stuart
Rev. John Thelwell
Lynn Bartlett

Environment

Councillor Raymond Hughes (Chair)

Councillor Haydn Bateman
Councillor Glenys Diskin
Councillor Chris Dolphin
Councillor Ian Dunbar
Councillor David Evans (Vice Chair)
Councillor Veronica Gay,
Councillor Alison Halford
Councillor Cindy Hinds
Councillor Colin Legg
Councillor Brian Lloyd
Councillor Richard Lloyd
Councillor Nancy Matthews (*from May to November*)
Councillor Ann Minshull
Councillor Sara Parker (*from November to May*)
Councillor Paul Shotton

<p><u>Organisational Change</u></p> <p>Councillor Brian Dunn (Chair) Councillor Clive Carver Councillor Glenys Diskin Councillor Chris Dolphin (Vice Chair) Councillor Ian Dunbar <i>(from May to November)</i> Councillor Andy Dunbobbin Councillor Robin Guest Councillor Ron Hampson Councillor Brian Lloyd Councillor Dave Mackie Councillor Mike Reece Councillor Tony Sharps Councillor Paul Shotton Councillor Nigel Steele-Mortimer Councillor Carolyn Thomas Councillor David Wisinger <i>(from November to May)</i></p>	<p><u>Social & Health Care</u></p> <p>Councillor Carol Ellis (Chair) Councillor Paul Cunningham <i>(from July)</i> Councillor Adele Davies-Cooke Councillor Andy Dunbobbin (Vice-Chair) Councillor Veronica Gay Councillor David Healey Councillor Cindy Hinds Councillor Ray Hughes <i>(from June)</i> Councillor Hilary Isherwood <i>(from May to June)</i> Councillor Brian Lloyd <i>(from May to June)</i> Councillor Mike Lowe Councillor David Mackie Councillor Hilary McGuill Councillor Mike Reece Councillor Ian Smith Councillor Carolyn Thomas <i>(from May to July)</i> Councillor David Wisinger Councillor Matt Wright <i>(from June)</i></p>
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Workshops and Seminars

8 July 2016 - Member Briefing Session - Welfare Reform and Universal Credit

12 & 13 September 2016- Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessments Training

11th October 2016 - All Member workshop on Improvements to the Waste Recycling Service and update on Household Recycling Centres

16th December 2016 – All Member workshop on Digital Strategy

5th January 2017 – All Member workshop on Public Spaces Protection Orders, Dog Control, Dog Fouling and DNA

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8th June 2016
13th July, 2016
19th October 2016
23rd November 2016

15th December 2016
23rd January 2017
1st February 2017
8th March 2017 (Call in)

Growth Vision and Strategy for the Economy of North Wales
Quarterly Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports
Council Tax Base Setting for 2017-18
Regeneration Programmes

Buy Back of Council Right to Buy (RTB) Properties
 Sheltered Housing Review
 Draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2017/18 & Capital Programme 2017/18
 Housing Rent Arrears
 Commuted Sums and Shared Equity Redemption Payments Policy
 Update on the Implementation of SARTH
 New Homes Business Plan 2016-21
 Deeside Plan (call in)

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12th May, 2016	10th November 2016
16th June, 2016	30th November, 2016 (Special meeting)
14th July, 2016	8th December 2018
15th September, 2016	12th January 2017
28th September, 2016	9th February 2017
13th October 2016	9th March 2017

Community Endowment Fund - Annual Report
 Improvement Plan 2016/17 Monitoring Reports
 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17- 2018/19 and the Council Fund Revenue Budget 2017/18
 Use of Agency Workers
 Monthly Revenue Budget Monitoring Reports
 Council Fund Revenue Budget 2017/18
 Project Closure on Review of Corporate Administration
 Establishment Structure in Governance
 Review of Corporate Administrative Functions
 Performance Report 2015/16 and Improvement Plan 2015/16 Year-End Progress
 Performance Appraisal
 Community Safety Partnership Annual Review
 Annual Improvement Report of the Auditor General for Wales
 Council Fund Revenue Budget 2017/18 Stages One, Two & Three (Closing Strategy)
 Flintshire Public Services Board
 Quarterly Workforce Information Report - Quarter 1 2016/17
 North Wales Fire & Rescue Authority
 Procurement Strategy
 Police & Crime Commissioner for North Wales (Presentation)
 People Strategy 2016-2019
 Digital Strategy
 Development of the 2017/18 to 2019/20 Capital Programme
 Corporate Safeguarding
 Welsh Language Standards
 North Wales Police - Cyber Crime Presentation
 Customer Service Strategy
 Council's Well-Being Objectives
 Wales Audit Office Report on Financial Resilience: Savings Planning: Council Response

EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9th June, 2016
7th July, 2016
30th July, 2016
13th October 2016
17th November 2016

15th December 2016
19th January 2017
2nd February 2017
16th March 2017

Learner Outcomes
Skills for Life and Progression
Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GWE)
Education & Youth Portfolio Budget 2017/18
Learning from the School Performance Monitoring Group
Improvement Plan 2015/16 Year-End Progress
Performance Report 2015/16
School Modernisation Update
School Balances
Quarterly Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports 2016/17
Person Centred Planning
Welsh Advisory Service
14-19 Progression
School Meals Service
Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
Additional Learning Needs Bill
Skilled Education Workforce Shortage
Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GWE)
Self-Evaluation of Education Services

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11th May, 2016
15th June, 2016
19th July, 2016
14th September, 2016

2nd November 2016
7th December 2016
11th January 2017
8th March 2017

The Improvement Plan 2016/17
Planning Enforcement
Environmental Enforcement
Review of Waste Collection Policy
Progress Report on the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
12 Month Review of the Council's Car Parking Strategy
Update on North Wales Waste Project
Council Fund Revenue Budget 2017/18
Review of the Household Recycling Centre Provision
Performance Reporting 2015/16
Improvement Plan 2015/16 Year-End Progress

Highways and Car Park Inspection Policy
 The Final Stage of the Review of Existing Speed Limit Orders on the Council's Highway Network and Proposed Process Improvements for any future Changes to Speed Limit Orders
 Rights of Way Service Review
 Renewable Energy Action Plan Update
 Quarterly Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports 2016/17
 Pilot Dog DNA Scheme and the Introduction of Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Orders
 Trading Standards Collaborative Projects

ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11th May, 2016 15th June, 2016 19th July, 2016 14th September, 2016	2 nd November 2016 7th December 2016 11 th January 2017 8 th March 2017
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Council Fund Revenue Budget 2017/18 (For Organisational Change)
 Plans for Property, Estates and Facilities Management Services
 Plans for Leisure, Libraries, and Cultural Services
 Performance Reporting 2015/16
 Improvement Plan 2015/16 Year-End Progress
 Holywell Leisure Centre Community Asset Transfer
 Alternative Delivery Models (Social Care, Day Care And Work Opportunities)
 Community Resilience
 Museums and Archives
 Quarterly Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports
 Alternative Delivery Models - Leisure and Libraries Business Plan Progress
 Alternative Delivery Models - Facilities Management, Business Plan Progress
 Community Asset Transfer – Progress Review of External Funding
 An Alternative Delivery Model for Childcare Provision
 Play Areas, Play Schemes and Strategic Play Forum Update
 Welsh Public Library Standards : Review of Performance 2015/16
 Bailey Hill - Heritage Lottery Fund Developments
 Welsh Public Library Standards 6 Framework 2017-20: Summary of the Framework
 Connah's Quay Swimming Pool: Cambrian Aquatics Business Plan 2016/18

SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19th May, 2016 9th June, 2016 27th June 2016 21st July 2016 15th September 2016	20th October 2016 24th November 2016 13th December, 2016 26th January 2017 2nd March 2017
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The Improvement Plan 2016/17 (Social & Health Care)
 Rota Visits

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board And Welsh Ambulance Service
 Progress Report on the Development of the North Wales Safeguarding Boards April 2016
 Mental Health Support Services and Substance Misuse Services in Flintshire
 Council Fund Revenue Budget 2017/18
 Annual Council Reporting Framework
 Comments, Compliments and Complaints
 Corporate Parenting and Fostering Strategy Update
 Children's Service Update to Include Repeat Referrals in Child Services
 Improvement Plan 2015/16 Year-End Progress
 Performance Reporting 2015/16
 Flintshire Local Voluntary Council
 North Wales Regional Partnership Board
 Quarterly Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports 2016/17
 Dementia Services
 Team around the Family
 Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (Presentation)
 The Function and Purpose of Flintshire Community Mental Health Teams
 North Wales Population Needs Assessment Update Report
 The Function and Process of Delayed Transfer of Care from a Hospital Setting
 Double Click
 Social Services Annual Report
 Children's Services Quality Assurance Report

Key:

C & E	=	Community & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee
CR	=	Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee
E & Y	=	Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee
E	=	Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee
OC	=	Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee
S&HC	=	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 – Democratic Services Manager
(principally supporting the 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 Shotton – Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator
(principally supporting the Community & Enterprise and Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committees).
- ❖ Janet Kelly – Overview & Scrutiny Support Officer
(supporting the Overview & Scrutiny Team and 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