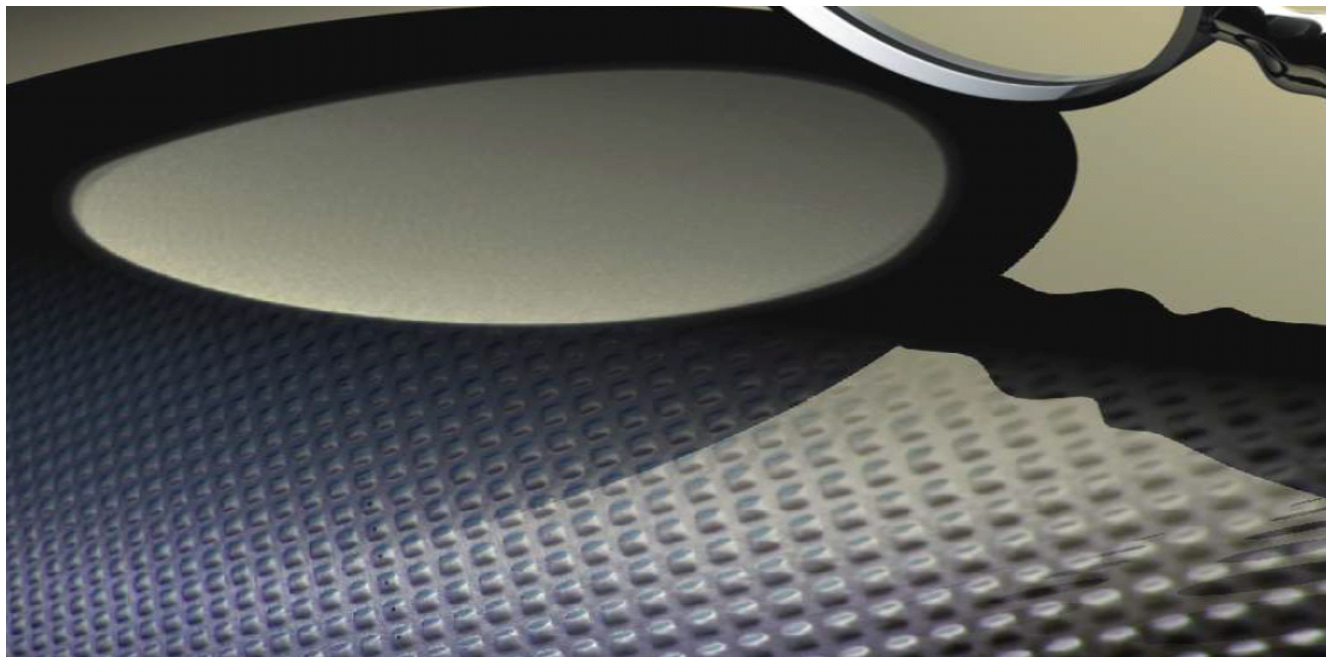




Overview & Scrutiny

Annual Report

2019/20



## Contents

Page	Title
3	Foreword by the Leader of the Council
4	Reviewing the Overview & Scrutiny committee structure – the Chief Executive’s perspective
5 - 6	The ‘Call in’ process
7 - 8	Community & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee
9 - 11	Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee
12 - 14	Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee
15 - 17	Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee
18 - 19	Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee
20 - 22	Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee
23 - 24	Appendix 1 – Committee Membership, topics covered and activity information
25	Appendix 2 – Overview & Scrutiny Officer Support

Date	Approved By	Version
	Constitution and Democratic Services Committee	<b>Draft</b>
	Flintshire County Council	<b>Final</b>

## FOREWORD BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL



At the 2019 Annual Meeting of Council, I gave an undertaking that our committee structure would be reviewed during the year. That review covered the number of committees, their memberships, the role of co-optees, and the functions and terms of reference of committees.

It was also important that the review answered the questions:

- What we need?
- How do we choose to organise ourselves for good governance?
- What we want?

The review was conducted by consensus, through several Group Leaders meetings at which we were supported by the statutory officers. By January, we had agreed on a number of options for the reduction from six to five Overview & Scrutiny Committees, and a reduction in the number of Members on Planning, Constitution & Democratic Services and the five Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

The recommendations from the review were considered and supported by Constitution & Democratic Services Committee at their January meeting and subsequently by Council in February. One of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees - Organisational Change- had been set up to scrutinise the Community Asset Transfer process and Alternative Delivery Models. Having achieved its aim, it was appropriate for it to be stepped down as part of the review.

It was agreed that from the 2020 Annual Meeting, we would have Community, Housing & Assets, Corporate Resources, Environment & Economy, Education, Youth & Culture and Social & Healthcare Overview & Scrutiny committees, each comprising 12 members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the group leaders and their deputies, and our officers for the work on the review. The new structure, and the number of Members on committees should contribute to the improved governance which the review sought to achieve.

**Councillor Ian Roberts**  
Leader of the Council

**REVIEWING THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE – THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S PERSPECTIVE**



Following on from the Leader's undertaking that there would be a Committee Review during 2019, we conducted research and listened to the views of Members and officers. This enabled us to scope the review, which was conducted through meetings of the political group leaders, their deputies and the statutory officers.

The aim of the review was to improve the committee structure, which had not been reviewed for several years and address a number of other concerns – Flintshire had amongst the largest number of overview & scrutiny committees in Wales, and a greater number of Members on those committees. We needed to ensure that our Overview & Scrutiny committee structure was the right one for the Council in 2020/21 and beyond – bearing in mind that the last review of it had been conducted in 2014/15.

There was consensus that the number of Members on some committees should be reduced: in the case of the overview & scrutiny committees, from 15 to 12. It was also agreed to reduce the number of Overview & Scrutiny Committees from six to five.

In 2015, as a result of a previous review of Overview & Scrutiny committees, we had set up the Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny committee. The committee was a significant factor in the safe transfer of assets from the Council to the community and in developing our alternative delivery models. As the work which it had been set up to do had been successfully completed, it was appropriate for the committee to cease with effect from the 2020 Annual Meeting of Council.

Going forward, we will now have five Overview & Scrutiny committees which together will cover all of the Council's functions. These committees are:

- Community, Housing & Assets;
- Corporate Resources;
- Education, Youth & Culture,
- Environment & Economy and
- Social & Healthcare.

These committees will be integral to the Council's recovery from the emergency which started for us in mid-March, when we took the decision to stand down all of our committee meetings.

**Colin Everett,**  
Chief Executive

## **The “Call-in” Process**

### **1. 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.

### **2. Decisions of the Cabinet**

Following a meeting of the Cabinet, the record of the decisions 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 specifies that the decisions 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.

### **3. Calling in a Decision**

If the Chief Officer (Governance) or Democratic Services Manager receives a call in notice from the Chair of an Overview & Scrutiny Committee or at least four members of the Council, 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

### **4. The Call-in Meeting**

Call-in meetings are held at short notice (i.e. within seven working days of the call-in decision) and generally be the only item of business on the agenda. 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. This procedure is part of the agenda at each call in meeting, and the officer advising the committee will take members through it during the meeting.

### **5. The Call in decision**

At the end of a call in meeting, the committee must make a decision based on one of four options. Options 1 and 2 allow the decision to be implemented immediately Option 3 is to refer back to Cabinet for further consideration and Option 4 is to refer to Council. However,

executive functions' are solely within the remit of the Cabinet. Thus Council can consider the issue, but not change the decision: it can only recommend to Cabinet that the decision be reconsidered.

## **6. Call in during 19/20**

During the last municipal year, only one Cabinet decision was called in. This was the Fees & Charges (Record of decision number 3673). The call in was heard by the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The committee was satisfied with explanations given and thus the decision could be implemented immediately after the meeting

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## **COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**



**Chair**  
**Cllr Ian Dunbar**



**Vice-Chair**  
**Cllr Ray Hughes**

As outlined in the Community & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny 2018/19 Annual Report, the Committee had committed to receiving regular update reports on Housing Rent Income in order to monitor the impact Universal Credit was having on rent arrears and how the Council were working to mitigate this. We received reports and detailed presentations at our meetings held on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 and 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2020 following consideration of the Welfare Reform Update report which were presented at the same meetings. The Committee were pleased to see an improved collection position with an overall reduction in rent arrears and asked that their thanks be passed to all officers within the Revenue Team for the work being carried out to continue to support tenants and reduce the rent arrears. The Committee will continue to receive regular update reports on Welfare Reform and Housing Rent Income which are built into its Forward Work Programme.

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

### **Modular Building and Site Visits**

Following a request by the Committee, a detailed report, on progress being made to date on the use of Modern Methods of Construction in Flintshire was presented to our meeting in September 2019. A number of questions around the shortage of trades and apprenticeship opportunities were raised with the Committee seeking assurances that apprentices were being given the opportunity to enhance their skills.

The Committee also supported a suggestion that the Community Benefits being delivered as part of the SHARP programme be presented to a future meeting. This has been added to the Committee's Forward Work Programme, with representatives from Wates Group invited to attend and provide a presentation to the Committee.

Also, in welcoming the report, a number of Members commented on the apartment complex at the former doctor's surgery in Buckley, which had recently been completed using off site construction methods, and the development of apartments at St Andrews Church, Garden City and agreed with a suggestion for Members of the Committee to visit both sites. Site visits to both locations were arranged and held on 30<sup>th</sup> October and 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 with Members being given the opportunity to meet with officers, look around the apartments and be provided with information on construction methods.

### **Tourism Update**

In December 2019 the Committee considered a report which outlined the main areas of work undertaken by the Business Development Team in supporting the tourism sector. This was the first time the Committee had considered such a report and Members welcomed the progress made in supporting tourism across Flintshire.

In considering the report, the Committee made a number of suggestions for improvements in marketing of local events to encourage an increase in tourism to Flintshire. Comments and concerns were also raised around the negative impact of conditions and train delays at Bidston station and welcomed the assurance from the Cabinet Member that representations were being made on these matters.

### **Rough Sleepers Briefing Paper**

Following a request, the Committee considered a detailed report on priority actions being taken to tackle and prevent homelessness across Flintshire at our December, 2019 meeting. The report focussed on the 'People' theme of the Regional Homelessness Strategy and its priority of rough sleepers and acknowledged that rough sleeping was extending into communities in Flintshire, a concern for a number of Members of the Committee.

A number of questions around working relationships with partner agencies were asked and as part of this discussion, it was agreed that Social and Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee Members be invited to our meeting in June, 2020 to discuss an update report, to review the impact of the actions being taken and how the Homelessness Team worked jointly with Social Services. A joint meeting with the Social & Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee has been arranged to take place in June, 2020.

The Committee also asked that their thanks be passed to all the Homelessness team for the work being undertaken to meet the challenges for all people presenting as homeless.

### **Domestic Energy Programmes**

The Committee recently considered a report which outlined the approaches taken by the Domestic Energy Efficiency Programme Team to reduce fuel poverty and improve the quality of life for residents in Flintshire.

The Committee had not received an update on the Domestic Energy Programme for some time but we were pleased with the service provided with a number of Members giving examples of residents who had benefitted from the support of the Team.

The Committee recommended the report to Cabinet in order to highlight the positive action being taken by the Council.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued input throughout the year.

### **Councillor Ian Dunbar**

Chair of the Community & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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





**Chair**  
**Cllr Clive Carver**



**Vice-Chair**  
**Cllr Paul Johnson**

The Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee is aligned to the Serving Council and Supportive Council priority themes in the Council Plan. Below is a summary of some of the topics the committee have considered over the last 12 months.

### **Council Plan 2019/20**

At the May meeting we reviewed the priorities and sub-priorities within the draft Council Plan. It was agreed that two member workshops would be held at the end of May to consider the plan further and provide members with an opportunity to raise any concerns. In June we received a report setting out the main outcomes from the workshops. A number of suggestions had been included to improve the process for future member participation including better alignment between the Council Plan themes and overview & scrutiny forward work programmes.

### **Cross-Party Working Group on Local Government Finance**

The Cross-party working group on Local Government Finance was formed due to concerns about the 2019/20 budget settlement. There had been a significant council tax increase for 2018/19. In late 2018, it had become apparent that due to the Council's settlement from Welsh Government and the services which the council provides that there was a significant budget gap.

The Council's position prompted a cross-party group of Councillors to hire a bus and take the lobbying case direct to the Senedd: this was our delegation to the Welsh Government in February. The Minister for Housing & Local Government, Julie James AM met the delegation. As a result, we were invited to make proposals for the reform of local government finance. We accepted that challenge with alacrity, by forming the cross-party working group, involving all political groups advised by senior officers and external experts. The findings were shared with WLGA for effective case making.

### **Council Tax Collection Rates**

We received an update from Dave Barnes, Revenues Manager on the latest Council Tax collection rates, arrear levels and comparisons with other Welsh councils. We welcomed the

improving position in Council Tax collection rates in Flintshire. It was pleasing to note that Flintshire had recorded the highest in-year collection rate of 98.2%, which was above the Welsh average of 97.3% despite a 6.71% increase in Council Tax in 2018/19. We expressed our gratitude to the Revenues Manager and his team for achieving these excellent outcomes.

### **Community Safety Partnership Annual Report**

At our September meeting we welcomed our Chief Executive who introduced the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) annual report which provided an overview of activities over the past 12 months. The Community Safety Team Leader reported a reduction in victim-based crime in Flintshire over the past year with a reduction in anti-social behaviour seen across North Wales. He gave an overview of interaction with the Safer Communities Board on priority areas to address violence against women, vulnerable adults and young people, as well as protecting communities. We were pleased that a Community Cohesion Officer for Flintshire was to be appointed, supported by Welsh Government Funding with a focus on hate crime. Members saw this as a positive development which would help encourage communities to report incidents.

Inspector Gareth Cust of North Wales Police spoke about the various methods of reporting crime and raising awareness in schools of issues such as hate crime and County Lines. He also advised of a training programme with police officers in Flintshire to identify the impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences. Following concerns raised regarding the integrity of data, we were advised that analysts were reviewing the approach to recording incidents to incorporate all elements of domestic violence and provide an accurate picture. Inspector Cust also referred to significant changes in crime recording and compliance with regulation standards. We welcomed the comprehensive report and supported the achievements of the Community Safety Partnership.

### **Welsh Language Annual Monitoring Report**

We received the annual monitoring report which provided an overview of compliance with the Welsh Language Standards and areas for improvement. Whilst significant progress had been made in Education, Social Services and Theatr Clwyd in relation to Welsh culture and use of the Welsh language, areas of further improvement were identified in the report including understanding the skill levels of employees and building confidence to converse in Welsh. It was disappointing to see a significant drop in the number of employees attending Welsh language skills training from 139 in 2017/18 down to 64 in 2018/19. We were pleased to hear of the positive work being undertaken in schools, particularly the six English medium schools which had achieved the Bronze award of 'Cymraeg Campus'.

### **Pensions – Financial relationship of Flintshire County Council as an employer and the Clwyd Pension Fund**

We received a presentation on the Clwyd Pension fund and were pleased to hear that by carefully balancing risk against return, investment returns had increased significantly above the target level which had contributed to the significant reduction in the deficit position of the

Fund. This had resulted in a net reduction of 4% in employer contributions equating to a total saving of £2.646m to the Council budget for 2020/21.

We were satisfied with the degree of assurance and requested biannual progress updates going forward and thanked the officer team for their work in achieving a significantly improved position for the Clwyd Pension Fund.

### **Budget Monitoring**

We continue to consider the budget monitoring reports before they go to Cabinet. 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 committees if we feel that an item within their remit, such as a service overspending, requires further investigation.

### **Councillor Clive Carver**

Chair of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee



**Chair**  
**Cllr David Healey**



**Vice-Chair**  
**Mr. David Hytch**

The Committee were again pleased to take part in the Annual Joint Meeting with the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee, held in July 2019, which provides an opportunity for Members of both Committees to ensure the safeguarding of children within the education services provided. We were particularly pleased to welcome members of the Participation Group (Young Voices Speak Out) who gave a detailed presentation during the meeting and answered questions from Members who applauded their conduct and presentation skills.

The Committee has again had a busy year and below is a summary of some of the other topics the Committee has considered over the last 12 months:-

### **Discretionary Transport Policy Review – Outcome of Consultation**

In May 2019, the Committee considered the feedback from the consultation on the review of discretionary school and college transport policy and considered the options available. As part of considering the report, I was pleased to invite Mrs. Jane Cooper who spoke on behalf of the Secondary Headteachers Association and Mr. Steve Jackson, speaking on behalf of Coleg Cambria to the meeting to outline their views on the outcome of the consultation to the Committee.

The main concern arising from proposed changes to the Discretionary Transport Policy was the possible reduction in students engaging in the education system if charges for transport were applied, which was outlined by a number of Members of the Committee. The Committee also asked a number of questions around the cost of transport for those entitled to benefits and the possibility of introducing concessions for sibling groups due to concerns around the financial impact to families. Following a thorough debate the Committee recommended the following to Cabinet:-

- That the Committee support Option 3, as outlined within the report;
- That free Post 16 transport to those entitled to benefits be retained; and
- That Cabinet consider concessions for sibling groups in Post 16 education.

### **Social Media & Internet Safety**

The Committee had sought assurances that children and young people in Flintshire schools were receiving the appropriate support to develop their skills in relation to the use of social media and internet safety. In response to this, a report was submitted and considered by the Committee at its meeting in May 2019.

In response to concerns raised around the inappropriate use of social media and cyber bullying, the Committee stood to pledge that they would not themselves engage in social

media in ways which denigrate other individuals. The Committee welcomed the initiatives in schools to engage with parents and share good practice to keep young people safe on-line and agreed that we would continue to receive regular reports on social media and internet safety given the increasing use of social media in all aspects of daily life. As part of the recommendations, Members of the Committee undertook to set an example to young people, in the way in which they engaged in social media themselves and supported moves to invite all Councillors to make such a commitment.

In line with the recommendations made by the Committee, I submitted a Notice of Motion to County Council in June 2019 to inform all Members of the pledge taken by Members of the Education & Youth Committee and to request that all Members of the Council take a similar pledge so that Flintshire County Council, as a whole, could be seen to be leading the way in setting an example itself with regard to the shameful activity of cyber bullying. I was pleased that this Notice of Motion was fully supported.

### **Estyn Inspection of Flintshire's Education Services**

In September 2019 we received a report which outlined the outcome of the Estyn Inspection of the Flintshire County Council Education Services. As a Committee, we congratulated the Chief Officer and her team for a positive inspection and were pleased to hear of a case study from Flintshire being used on the Estyn website to show effective practices in the early learning development.

The Committee did raise concerns around the lack of funding being provided from Governments to schools and were concerned that Estyn has not highlighted this as part of their inspection. This led to the Committee passing a recommendation 'That the Committee deplores Estyn's failure to highlight the lack of funding that blights education in Flintshire'.

During the following Committee meeting in November, 2019, the Committee considered the draft Post Inspection Action Plan. The outcomes of the inspection were added to the Committees Forward Work Programme to ensure that actions were monitored and scrutinised going forward.

### **Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 – 30.01.20**

In January 2020, the Committee considered an update on the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018. The Committee were informed that the implementation had been moved to September 2021 to enable Welsh Government (WG) to work through all the comments received during the consultation process. This was welcomed, following previous letters being written to WG, on behalf of the Committee outlining the concerns around the resource implications of the Act for both the Local Authority and schools

The Committee, following a debate, recommended that a letter requesting clarification on how the Act would be cost neutral and the term 'universal provision' be sent to WG and that the Committee receives a further report following implementation.

I would like to thank officers and all staff of schools across Flintshire for their hard work and determination to deliver continued improvements to the service area within the Committees terms of reference.

**Councillor David Healey**  
Chair of the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny

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## ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



**Chair**  
**Cllr Patrick Heesom**



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

The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee is aligned to the GREEN Council priority theme in the Council plan. The report below focuses on the relevant priority themes considered by the Committee. Below is a summary of some of the topics the committee have considered over the last 12 months.

We held our May meeting at Wepre Park and received a presentation highlighting the partnership working that continues to help maintain and develop Wepre Park to meet the needs of increasing visitor numbers. Members welcomed the future plans for improving access, car parking and play areas. The committee commended the contributions of volunteer and community groups to the success of Wepre Park.

For our October meeting we returned to the Greenfield Valley Heritage Park. The Chair of Greenfield Valley Trust welcomed the new positive relationship that had developed between Flintshire and the Trust and praised the team for their hard work over the last months. The Committee very delighted with the progress made and the innovative ways being used to develop and promote the Park.

### **Review of Streetscene Standards**

We considered the Streetscene service standards which had been updated following review. These standards are reported as part of the performance monitoring process under the Safe and Clean Council theme. Some of the questions raised by Members included why some standards had been removed, the use of chemicals for graffiti removal, missed bin collections and targets for street cleansing agreed with Town and Community Councils and fly tipping. Following discussions, the committee recommended to Cabinet that the revised standards be adopted.

### **Bus Lanes – limitations on use**

We received a report outlining the proposals for limitations on vehicles authorised to utilise bus lanes between Queensferry and Shotton and dedicated bus only access routes within the Deeside Industrial Park. Concerns were raised regarding possible disruption while work was carried out. In response, the Chief Officer, streetscene and Transportation gave assurances that every effort would be made to limit disruptions and that staff would be available to talk to the business community and local residents to minimise impact. The committee

recommended the report to cabinet and welcomed the fact that the Welsh Government Transport Funding grant was being utilised in Flintshire.

### **Winter Maintenance Policy Review**

The above policy is reviewed every two years. We were advised that the weather forecast provider had been changed to Metdesk by Welsh Government and that improved communication with schools had been progressed to ensure they have forecasts to inform decisions regarding school closures. Members spoke highly of the adverse weather services provided in Flintshire. As Chairman I agreed that the winter maintenance teams are highly regarded and welcomed the opportunity to review the policy based on lessons learnt.

### **Waste Strategy Review Consultation**

The Committee were delighted to hear that Flintshire was performing well on recycling, being the third best in Wales. This is significant as Wales is reported to be the third best in the world. A 6 week consultation on recycling was proposed to consider recycling targets and performance, the need to review targets, and review of the current Waste Strategy. The Committee did not support 3-4 weekly collections but emphasised the need to encourage people to recycle more. We were advised that work was ongoing with regard to communal pick up areas, including having cameras installed in some areas. The Chief Officer welcomed the suggestion that consultation events need to be held at a range of times to enable residents to attend.

At the October meeting we received a report on the outcome of the public consultation process with over 8,000 responses received. A change in black bag collection frequency was not currently supported but 32% of residents had indicated that they were unsure whether they could manage in the event of such a change. The proposals for increased enforcement had been widely supported which the committee welcomed and in particular the three-staged approach which allowed for informing and educating in the first instance with formal action taken only in the event of continued non-compliance. Members commended the extensive consultation exercise, the outcome on black bin collection frequency and the focus on education and thanked members of the public for engaging with the consultation process.

### **Ash Dieback Action Plan**

As a committee we were very concerned to hear that Ash Dieback was endemic across Flintshire and was likely to wipe out the majority of the 24,000 ash trees with significant environmental impact. It was pleasing to hear that a robust plan was in place and a dedicated Tree Officer who was involved in communicating with the public and those affected where infected trees would need to be removed, e.g. roadsides, schools and other public locations.

### **Budget proposals**

At the December meeting we received a report on the financial forecast for 2020/21 together with efficiencies and cost pressures across the Streetscene and Transportation and Planning and Environment portfolios. Members had previously attended a workshop where proposed efficiencies had been shared. We were advised that difficulty of finding further efficiencies

had prompted a change in the way of working to generate income within the Streetcene and Transportation portfolio. Assurances were given that core services would be protected as far as possible. The committee endorsed the portfolio pressures, investments and efficiency options.

### **The Council's response to the challenges of Climate Change**

We received a report on climate change outlining the challenges faced by the public sector in general and in particular here in Flintshire. The role of planning in reducing carbon emissions was emphasised and we were advised that the Local Development Plan would contain a suite of policies designed to address climate change. Members also advocated a proactive press and communication campaign to promote the Council's approach to climate change. Other concerns raised included flood risk, reducing the use of plastic materials, more emphasis on local procurement of goods and services and collaborative working with neighbouring authorities. We were advised on the impact of climate change across all service areas in the Authority and the corporate work being carried out. Members took advice on and discussed the Wales National Infrastructure Consultation papers. At the request of the Committee, 2 member workshops were held in February and March which were well attended. We considered our role as Councillors in assisting the Council in achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 and what should the council do next to reduce its carbon footprint, whilst recognising that a range of initiatives have already been put in place. Members put forward a range of suggestions for further consideration within future action plans for carbon reduction across Flintshire.

### **Flintshire Integrated Transport Strategy**

We received a report to update the Committee on the work being carried out to develop the Flintshire Integrated Transport Strategy. The Strategy aims to provide long term sustainable transport solutions through the successful integration of all modes of transport, whilst maintaining and promoting a sustainable, affordable and environmentally friendly public transport service across Flintshire.

Officers advised that The Transport Strategy for Wales which is currently being updated, will enable the North Wales Joint Local Transport Plan to be progressed. The Strategy, which includes all national transport interventions funded by Welsh Government, is scheduled to be revised by the end of 2020. The report demonstrated that the Council had made good progress with an estimated 85% of the defined intervals having been completed or currently in the process of being delivered.

We were advised that the Demand Responsive Transport Service had been launched in rural areas where commercial services are not available. The Committee welcomed the service which will provide residents with valuable links to transport services along Flintshire's Core Network and will operate using one of Flintshire's distinctive, 16 seater wheelchair accessible vehicles.

### **Cllr Patrick Heesom**

Chair of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## **ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**



**Chair**  
**Cllr Dave Mackie**



**Vice-Chair**  
**Cllr Sean Bibby**

Members will be aware that during the 2019 Annual Council meeting the Leader of the Council gave an undertaking that the committee structure would be reviewed. A review was carried out and its outcome reported to County Council in February, 2020 with the decision made that there would be a reduction in the number of Overview & Scrutiny Committees by disaggregating the remit of the Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee. This came into force following the Annual Council Meeting on 9 September, 2020.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Members who have sat on the Organisational Change OSC. The Committee was instrumental in overseeing the transition to Alternative Delivery Models (ADMs) and Community Asset Transfers (CAT) and whilst Members learnt new skills in this area, asked many questions and made important recommendations to ensure that the ADMs and CAT would benefit the Council and importantly the wider community, successfully fulfilling its original objectives.

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

### **Holywell Leisure Centre – Community Asset Transfer**

In May 2019, the Committee held its meeting at Holywell Leisure Centre. This allowed for the Committee to have a short tour of the venue before holding its meeting. The Committee found the tour very informative and welcomed the work being done to ensure services continued and were expanded for the community.

The Committee, during the meeting, also considered a report which allowed Members to review the progress of Holywell Leisure Centre Community Asset Transfer since its establishment in April 2017. The report was supported and on behalf of the Committee, I thanked the Trustees and management team for the progress and achievements gained and the ongoing success of Holywell Leisure Centre.

Future update reports will now be submitted to the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee which will be built into its Forward Work Programme.

### **The Council's Closed Circuit Television Service and Shared Service with Wrexham**

In May 2019, the Committee considered a report which outlined proposals for joint working with Wrexham County Borough Council on the merging of Flintshire County Council's CCTV monitoring service with that of Wrexham. The Committee asked a number of questions around cost implications and staff implications/negotiations with an agreement that a further report be provided on staffing negotiations when appropriate.

Whilst supporting the merging of the CCTV monitoring function with Wrexham, the Committee recommended that officers consider opening discussions with the Police and Crime Commissioner for a higher contributions to future CCTV costs, given the value of CCTV services to North Wales Police.

### **Connah's Quay Swimming Pool: Cambrian Aquatics Strategic Business Plan 2018/21**

In July 2019, the Committee held a special meeting at Connah's Quay Swimming Pool. This allowed the Committee to see first-hand the work which had been done to ensure services continued and were expanded for the community.

Following the tour of the facility, the Committee received a detailed presentation from the four Directors which included details around community and social benefits together with year 3 objectives. The Committee congratulated the Board on its achievements, especially around the increase in participants for the 'learn to swim'.

Future update reports will now be submitted to the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee which will be built into its Forward Work Programme.

### **Flintshire Micro-Care ADM Project**

In December 2019, the Committee considered a report on the implementation of the Micro-care Alternative Delivery Model in Flintshire and welcomed the Planning & Development Officer for Micro-Care to the meeting who provided an overview of the Micro-Care project.

The Committee welcomed the establishment of a pilot Micro-care enterprise project and a number of questions were raised around the increased demand on social care services. In response to the questions, we welcomed the flexibility of the project to provide support through various options to individuals under the age of 65.

### **Alternative Delivery Model Update (Social Care - Learning Disability Day and Work Opportunities)**

In March 2020, the Committee were pleased to welcome the Centre Manager and Senior Operational Manager of Hft to the meeting to provide an update on the new day centre Hwb Cyfle and the partnership working arrangement with Hft.

We were also extremely pleased to welcome a service user to the meeting who shared his experiences and achievements with the Committee. This allowed us to see first-hand the positive impact the service had on individuals and we commended officers and Hft Managers on its success.

### **Councillor Dave Mackie**

Chair of the Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny

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



**Chair**  
**Cllr Hilary McGuill**



**Vice-Chair**  
**Cllr Gladys Healey**

The Social & Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee is aligned to the CARING Council priority theme in the Council Plan. The Committee continues to undertake effective scrutiny of health and social care and actively works to ensure the work programme is aligned to the corporate priorities and improvement objectives of the Council. As a Committee our aim is ensure scrutiny is meaningful and focused on outcomes. Below is a summary of some of the topics the committee have considered.

### **North East Wales Community Equipment Service**

We held our January meeting at the North East Wales Community Equipment Service in Hawarden. We were given a tour of the facility which provides a community equipment services for North East Wales which is run by Flintshire on behalf of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and Wrexham County Borough Council. The service delivers and installs over 30,000 items of equipment a year and re-uses 90% of the equipment is returned. We were impressed with the green, modern and efficient ways of working adopted by the service. As a Committee we value this essential service which helps people of all ages with disabilities cope independently and helps people to return home from hospital safely.

### **Third Sector Update**

The Committee receives an annual review of the social care activities undertaken. We were given an update on the thriving voluntary/third sector and the range of services which provide invaluable support across a range of services funded by Social Services. A recent review had been undertaken to ensure that services commissioned through the third sector continued to meet the needs of the people of Flintshire. We welcomed the approach taken to co-produce new and innovative services going forward.

As a Committee we sent a letter of thanks to the Flintshire Local Voluntary Service in appreciation of the valuable services provided by the social care third sector.

### **Integrated Autism Service**

At the July meeting we reserved a report to update us on the progress of the local implementation of the Integrated Autism Service (IAS). We were able to hear first-hand from a service user of the support and benefits she had received from the service and the difference it had made to her life. She also spoke of her aspirations for the future and where she felt further improvements could be made to the Service. Concerns were expressed regarding the amount of resources allocated to the North Wales Integrated Autism Service which may not be sufficient to meet the demands on the Service. The committee was content



that good progress had been made and thanked the service user for sharing her experiences with them.

### **Progress for Providers Update**

We received a report on this innovative accreditation programme working in partnership with care homes and home care providers to drive forward the implementation of person centered care practices based on a self-assessment toolkit developed by Flintshire. The tool kit clearly sets out Flintshire's expectations around the delivery of individualised care and supports responsible individuals and managers within homes by providing a range of person centered tools which help staff teams change the way they support people and how they engage with family and friends. The 3 levels of accreditation Bronze, Silver and Gold help demonstrate publicly how providers are making continued progress to truly person centred care. As a committee we expressed our congratulations to all involved in developing the scheme and to the care homes who had gained Bronze, Silver or Gold accreditation. We look forward to receiving updates in the future.

### **Innovation to Reduce Reliance on Out Of County Placements**

The Committee have always recognised the financial challenges faced with supporting out of County Placements. The Senior Manager Children and Workforce advised that without investment in innovation and new approaches to service delivery the number of children requiring residential and Independent Fostering Agency placements would continue to grow at an unsustainable rate with untenable financial consequences. We received a presentation on the Mockingbird model, which is an innovative method of foster care using the Mockingbird Family model that provides respite care, peer support, regular joint planning and training and social activities.

Members welcomed the innovative Mockingbird model and expressed thanks to the Chief Officer and his team for their work to reduce reliance on out of county placements.

### **SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

We received our annual update on this vitally important area of work outlining the joint Adults and Children's safeguarding provision within our County. The report provided key statistical and performance related information about children and adults at risk for which the Authority had significant safeguarding and corporate safeguarding responsibilities. The report also highlighted the variety of work covered by the Safeguarding Unit and the activity undertaken and summarised some of the key learning from Child and Adult Practice reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews. We were pleased to hear that the Safeguarding Unit had had two successful Care Inspectorate Wales thematic inspections. The Committee welcomed the continuing development and improvement in service provision to meet additional demands.

#### **Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB)**

A special meeting was held in February 2020 where we welcomed the Chair of the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB), Mark Polin, the Interim Chief Executive Simon Dean and representatives. The meeting was arranged to give assurances over contractual arrangements with the Countess of Chester Hospital and service continuity, to respond to the

outcome of the Notice of Motion considered by County Council on 28<sup>th</sup> January and to consider questions submitted by Members.

We were given assurances that contractual arrangements were not anticipated to be an issue in the future and meetings with the Countess of Chester and a contract was due to be signed by the end of March. A range of questions put forward by Members were addressed by BCUHB which can be viewed in the minutes of the meeting on the Flintshire website. The Committee look forward to continuing to welcome BCUHB representatives to future meetings which Members value immensely.

**Rota Visits**

Members of the Committee undertook Rota Visits between May and March which gave an opportunity to visit social care establishments with a focus on the wellbeing of service users. Establishments visited included Arosa, Woodlee, Marleyfield, Llys Gwenffrwd and Hafod.

**Councillor Hilary McGuill**

Chair of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee



North East Wales Community Equipment Service visit

**Appendix 1**  
**Membership of Overview & Scrutiny Committees 2019/20**

<u>Community &amp; Enterprise</u>	<u>Corporate Resources</u>
<p><b>Councillor Ian Dunbar (Chair)</b>                      Councillor Sian Braun                      Councillor Helen Brown                      Councillor Dave Cox                      Councillor Jean Davies</p>	<p><b>Councillor Clive Carver (Chair)</b>                      Councillor Bernie Attridge                      Councillor Haydn Bateman                      Councillor Geoff Collett                      Councillor Bob Connah</p>

<p>Councillor Ron Davies  Councillor Rosetta Dolphin,  Councillor Mared Eastwood,  Councillor Ray Hughes (<b>Vice Chair</b>)  Councillor Dennis Hutchinson  Councillor Brian Lloyd  Councillor Ted Palmer,  Councillor Mike Reece  Councillor Paul Shotton  Councillor David Wisinger</p>	<p>Councillor Paul Cunningham  Councillor Mared Eastwood  Councillor Patrick Heesom  Councillor Paul Johnson (<b>Vice Chair</b>)  Councillor Richard Jones  Councillor Michelle Perfect  Councillor Vicky Perfect,  Councillor Aaron Shotton  Councillor Andy Williams  Councillor Arnold Woolley</p>
<p><b><u>Education &amp; Youth Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</u></b></p> <p><b>Councillor David Healey (Chair)</b>  Councillor Janet Axworthy  Councillor Sian Braun  Councillor Geoff Collett  Councillor Paul Cunningham  Councillor Andy Dunbobbin  Councillor Patrick Heesom  Councillor Dave Hughes  Councillor Kevin Hughes  Councillor Tudor Jones  Councillor Dave Mackie  Councillor Ian Smith  Councillor Martin White  Councillor David Williams</p> <p><b>Co-opted Members:</b>  Lynne Bartlett  <b>David Hytch (Vice Chair)</b>  Rita Price (May to November)  Rebecca Stark  Wendy White</p>	<p><b><u>Environment</u></b></p> <p><b>Councillor Patrick Heesom (Chair)</b>  Councillor Mike Allport  Councillor Sean Bibby  Councillor Chris Dolphin  Councillor Andy Dunbobbin  <b>Councillor David Evans (Vice Chair)</b>  Councillor Veronica Gay,  Councillor George Hardcastle  Councillor Cindy Hinds  Councillor Ray Hughes  Councillor Dennis Hutchinson  Councillor Joe Johnson  Councillor Vicky Perfect  Councillor Paul Shotton  Councillor Owen Thomas</p>

<u>Organisational Change</u>	<u>Social &amp; Health Care</u>
<p><b>Councillor Dave Mackie (Chair)</b>  Councillor Janet Axworthy  Councillor Marion Bateman  <b>Councillor Sean Bibby (Vice Chair)</b>  Councillor Geoff Collett  Councillor Andy Dunbobbin  Councillor Carol Ellis  Councillor Paul Johnson  Councillor Tudor Jones  Councillor Brian Lloyd  Councillor Mike Reece  Councillor Ralph Small  Councillor Martin White  Councillor Andy Williams  Councillor David Wisinger</p>	<p><b>Councillor Hilary McGuill Chair)</b>  Councillor Mike Allport  Councillor Paul Cunningham  Councillor Jean Davies  Councillor Rob Davies  Councillor Andy Dunbobbin  Councillor Carol Ellis  <b>Councillor Gladys Healey (Vice-Chair)</b>  Councillor Cindy Hinds  Councillor Mike Lowe  Councillor David Mackie  Councillor Ian Smith  Councillor Martin White  Councillor David Williams  Councillor David Wisinger</p>

<b>Key:</b>	
<b>C &amp; E</b>	= Community & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee
<b>CR</b>	= Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee
<b>E &amp; Y</b>	= Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee
<b>E</b>	= Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee
<b>OC</b>	= Organisational Change 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 – Head of Democratic Services  
(supporting the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committees).
- ❖ Margaret Parry-Jones – Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator  
(principally supporting the Environment, Social & Health Care and alternating of Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committees)
- ❖ Ceri Shotton – Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator  
(principally supporting the Community & Enterprise, Education & Youth and alternating of Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committees).
- ❖ Janet Kelly – Democratic Services Support Officer  
(supporting the Overview & Scrutiny Team)

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