Sir y Fflint Flintshire County Council

COUNTY COUNCIL	

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 25th May 2021
Report Subject	Council Plan 2021/22
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council Plan for 2017-23 was adopted with the purpose of setting out the key priorities of the Council for this electoral term. The Plan is subject to annual review.

The Plan for 2021/22 has been reviewed and refreshed for structure and content and continues to take into account continued recovery in addition to our longer-term strategic objectives.

The Council Plan is published as two documents. Part 1 sets out our intent. Part 2 sets out the risks, performance measures, targets and milestones against which achievement will be measured and evaluated.

The framework for next year's Council Plan is built around six themes:

- Economy
- Education and Skills
- Green Society and Environment
- Affordable and Accessible Housing
- Personal and Community Well-being
- Poverty

Each of these six themes is accompanied by a strategic statement. The statements lend themselves to Well-being objectives.

The six themes have been mapped against the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for reporting and accountability. The delivery of the Plan is the responsibility of the Cabinet.

The Council Plan Part 1 has been shared with the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for review and comments. There has been no significant change to Council Plan Part 1 following the consultation as the Committees were supportive.

Part 2 has been finalised for recommendation in the confidence that members were supportive of Part 1 as the super-structure of the Plan.

The published Plan will be available on the Council's website by the end of July.

RECOMMENDATIONS	
1	To adopt the Council Plan 2021/22 on the recommendation of Cabinet.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE COUNCIL PLAN 2021/22
1.01	It is a requirement of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for councils to carry out the following duties as part of reviewing performance: • To keep performance under review; • To consult on performance • To report on performance • To arrange a panel assessment of performance • To respond to a panel performance assessment report The monitoring of the Council Plan 2021/22 in part fulfils these requirements. The Council continues to deliver high performance against ambitious Council Plan's it has set out to achieve over these past years. 2019/20 the Council achieved 88% of the activities identified within the Council Plan; in 2018/19 we achieved 92%; in 2017/18 we achieved 83%. This demonstrates that the Council is performing at a high level consistently. The Council Plan continues the theme of recovery from the pandemic. The plan will have two reporting periods – at the mid-year point and at the end of the year. Mid-year will be reported during December and end of year will be reported during June 2022. The reporting arrangements for the Plan are set out below: <table><tr><td>Stage 1</td><td>Chief Officer Team</td><td>Exceptions reporting</td></tr><tr><td>Stage 2</td><td>Informal Cabinet</td><td>Full Council Plan overview</td></tr><tr><td>Stage 3</td><td>Overview & Scrutiny Committees</td><td>Allocated themes performance review</td></tr><tr><td>Stage 4</td><td>Cabinet</td><td>Full Council Plan overview</td></tr></table>
1.02	To reflect the requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2020 this year's Plan has continued to move towards a more rounded corporate plan. Changes include: - A refresh of six new themes

	- The introduction of clearly defined strategic statements which lend themselves to being Well-being objectives - Inclusion of ongoing recovery and longer term strategic objectives

1.03	The Council Plan for 2021/22 has a refreshed super-structure of six new themes and supporting priorities. These themes and their priorities have been aligned to the most relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee and are detailed in Appendix 3.
	
	The themes and respective priorities are as follows:
	
	Theme: Poverty
	Priorities:
	    - Income Poverty
	    - Child Poverty
	    - Food Poverty
	    - Fuel Poverty
	    - Digital Poverty
	
	Theme: Affordable and Accessible housing
	Priorities:
	    - Housing support and Homeless prevention
	    - Housing Needs and Housing Options
	    - Social Housing
	    - Private Rented Sector
	    - Empty Properties
	
	Theme: Green Society and Environment
	Priorities:
	    - Carbon Neutrality
	    - Fleet Strategy
	    - Green Environment
	    - Renewable Energy
	    - Active and Sustainable Travel Options
	    - Circular Economy
	
	Theme: Economy
	Priorities:
	    - Town Centre Regeneration
	    - Business
	    - Transport and digital infrastructure
	    - Local Development Plan (LDP) Targets
	    - Spending money for the benefit of Flintshire
	    - Reducing Worklessness
	
	Theme: Personal and Community Well-being
	Priorities:
	    - Independent Living
	    - Safeguarding
	    - Direct Provision to support people closer to home
	    - Local Dementia Strategy
	    - A well-connected, safe and clean local environment.

	Theme: Education and Skills
	Priorities:
	    - Educational Engagement and Achievement
	    - Digital Learning Opportunities
	    - Learning Environments
	    - Learning Community Networks
	    - Specialist Educational Provision
	    - Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)
	
	Each priority describes the outcome (Well-Being objectives) that we are aiming to achieve and the programme of work in-year to contribute towards the outcome (delivery objectives).
	
	The Council Plan Part 1 was shared with all Overview and Scrutiny Committees during January and February for consultation. Overview and Scrutiny Committees reviewed and commented on the themes, priorities and actions. All comments have been followed-up. There has been no significant change to Council Plan Part 1 following the consultation. Members were consulted on the final draft of Part 2 and have given valuable feedback on the detail of the Plan e.g. school learning recovery and future objectives e.g. on Green Council.

1.04	Part 2 sets out how these achievements can be monitored for progress and tracking. There are two types of measures used: qualitative milestones and quantitative, numerical measures which have specific targets attached. These numerical measures are classified under four headings: • Improvement • Maintenance • Managed Reduction • New Measure Improvement measures will include those where we have had a decline in trend and need to improve. Maintenance measures will include performance that has reached or exceeded national or local standards and where we need to hold our position. Managed reduction measures include performance where we have chosen to settle for a lower threshold.
1.05	Risks to be managed and mitigated throughout the year have been captured within Part 2. Some of these are existing risks from response and recovery and others are new as defined by our objectives. Risks are monitored through the regular reports to Overview and Scrutiny Committees. In addition they will be individually prioritised for inclusion into Overview and Scrutiny forward work programmes where needed.
1.06	The final Council Plan (both parts 1 and 2) will be available as a web-based document published on the website following adoption by County Council.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The Council Plan ambitions are reflected in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, Capital and Assets Strategy and the annual budget setting process.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Consultation has been carried out with Chief Officers, Cabinet members and the wider internal senior management network on the framework of the Plan. All Scrutiny committees have had the opportunity to engage in the development of the Plan and all feedback has been considered. A member briefing took place in April which has contributed to the review of the range of performance indicators available for reporting.

4.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	**Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact**

Long-term	Throughout the 2021/22 Council Plan development we will ensure the five ways of working are embedded within our ambitions and easily reported on.
Prevention	
Integration	
Collaboration	
Involvement	

Well-being Goals Impact

Prosperous Wales	Throughout the 2021/22 Council Plan development we will be ensuring we capture our contributions to the seven well-being goals within our ambitions.
Resilient Wales	
Healthier Wales	
More equal Wales	
Cohesive Wales	
Vibrant Wales	
Globally responsible Wales	

Council's Well-being Objectives

The refreshed well-being objectives are as follows:
- Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs
- Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities
- Limiting the impact of the Council's services on the natural environment and supporting the wider communities of Flintshire to reduce their own carbon footprint
- Enabling a sustainable economic recovery

- Supporting people in need to live as well as they can
- Enabling and Supporting Learning Communities

Risk Management

The risks to the statutory requirements of the Plan include: not publishing the plan within statutory timescales and, not adhering to the prerequisite content.

Both these risks are managed through adherence to well established procedures for publishing the Plan and ensuring that the content of the Plan reflects the statutory requirements.

An additional risk is that the Plan is not endorsed by Members; consultation with Members both individually and as part of the Scrutiny committees invites engagement.

5.00	**APPENDICES**
5.01	Appendix 1: Council Plan (Part 1) 2021-22 Appendix 2: Council Plan (Part 2) 2021-22 Appendix 3: Theme alignment to Overview and Scrutiny Committees

6.00	**LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**
6.01	1. Report of the Chief Executive to the Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and resultant minute, 20th January 2021. 2. Report of the Chief Executive to the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny committee, and resultant minute, 11th February 2021. 3. Report of the Chief Executive to the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and resultant minute, 28th January 2021. 4. Report of the Chief Executive to the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and resultant minute, 9th February 2021. 5. Report of the Chief Executive to the Social & Healthcare Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and resultant minute, 21st January 2021.

7.00	**CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS**
7.01	**Contact Officer:** Jay Davies, Strategic Performance Advisor **Telephone:** 01352 702744 **E-mail:** jay.davies@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	**Council Plan:** the document which sets out the annual priorities of the Council. It is a requirement of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill for councils to carry out a self-assessment to ensure it is: • Conducting robust self-assessments and reporting on the extent to which the council is meeting the performance requirements. • Setting out any actions to increase the extent to which the council is meeting the performance requirements. **Medium Term Financial Strategy:** a written strategy which gives a forecast of the financial resources which will be available to a Council for a given period, and sets out plans for how best to deploy those resources to meet its priorities, duties and obligations.