

COMMUNITY & HOUSING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
9 OCTOBER 2024

Minutes of the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held as a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, 9 October 2024

PRESENT: **Councillor Tina Claydon (Vice-Chair in the Chair)**
Councillors: Pam Banks, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Geoff Collett, Rob Davies, Rosetta Dolphin, David Evans, Ted Palmer and Kevin Rush, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones, Paul Cunningham and Rob Davies.

OBSERVERS: Councillors: Bernie Attridge, Dave Hughes and Christine Jones

APOLOGIES: None

CONTRIBUTORS: Councillor Sean Bibby (Cabinet Member for Housing);
Councillor Paul Johnson (Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value); Chief Officer (Housing and Communities);
Housing & Prevention Service Manager; Service Manager -
Housing & Assets and Service Manager (Housing Welfare and Communities)

IN ATTENDANCE: Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Democratic Services Officer

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

Councillor Ted Palmer declared a personal interest as a council tenant.

26. MINUTES

The minutes were approved.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2024 be approved as a correct record.

27. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING

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

The Facilitator advised that Food Poverty update would be moved to the January meeting, and also the Garage Site review would be moved to the December meeting to free up time for the November meeting.

Councillor Helen Brown referred to her request made at the last meeting, for a report on options on the re-designation of Sheltered Housing properties, which had been included on the FWP as part of the Sheltered Housing Review Update

report scheduled for June 2025, and asked if this information could be presented at an earlier date.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme be noted;
- (b) That the Facilitator, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, be authorised to vary the Forward Work Programme between meetings, as the need arises; and
- (c) That the progress made in completing the outstanding actions be noted.

28. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF HOMELESSNESS

The Housing & Prevention Service Manager introduced the [report \(agenda item 5\)](#) on the Independent Review of Flintshire Homelessness Services which detailed work that was underway in response to service capacity to meet growing demand.

Councillor Helen Brown suggested that a letter of thanks be sent, on behalf of the Committee, to the Housing & Prevention Service to thank them for their continued work within the Service and the positive findings of the support they provide, as outlined within the report.

When considered, the Committee did not support the third recommendation, as outlined within the report. Recommendations one and two were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee note the findings and recommendations from Neil Morland & Co. and support the report progressing through the Committee cycle with regular updates to be shared with Members in terms of progress against recommendations; and
- (b) That the Committee note the principle of cost avoidance and spend to save efficiencies to fund additional staffing capacity within the Housing & Prevention Service through diversifying the homeless accommodation portfolio, to maximise opportunity for successfully reducing spend on homeless accommodation.

29. VOID MANAGEMENT

The Service Manager - Housing & Assets presented the key figures and key activities against the void action plan, as outlined in the [briefing note \(agenda item 6\)](#).

It was suggested that Members of the Committee be invited to see a void property prior to works being carried out a void property once work had been completed.

Following comments made by Councillor Ted Palmer, the Service Manager suggested that the new void properties, properties ready for allocation and total fields be moved to the top of the briefing note.

In response to a question from Councillor Bernie Attridge on how much additional funding had been transferred from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to Voids, the Service Manager agreed to provide this information following the meeting.

In response to a request from Councillor Kevin Rush, the Service Manager suggested bringing information on the Voids Lettable Standards and disrepair costs to the Committee at a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

30. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

None.

(The meeting started at 10am and ended at 11.57am)

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Chair

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