

Pecyn Dogfen Gyhoeddus

Gareth Owens LL.B Barrister/Bargyfreithiwr

Chief Officer (Governance)

Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu)



Swyddog Cyswllt:

Maureen Potter 01352 702322

maureen.potter@flintshire.gov.uk

At: Cyng David Evans (Cadeirydd)

Y Cynghorwyr: Mel Buckley, Chris Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, Ray Hughes, Richard Lloyd, Vicky Perfect, Dan Rose and Roy Wakelam + 3 Annibynnol

Dydd Mercher, 7 Medi 2022

Annwyl Gynghorydd,

RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD HYBRID
PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU'R AMGYLCHEDD A'R ECONOMI
DYDD MAWRTH, 13EG MEDI, 2022 10.00 AM

Yn gywir

Steven Goodrum

Rheolwr Gwasanaethau Democrataidd

Sylwch: Gellir mynychu'r cyfarfod hwn naill ai wyneb yn wyneb yn Siambr y Cyngor, Cyngor Sir y Fflint, Yr Wyddgrug, Sir y Fflint neu ar-lein.

Bydd y cyfarfod yn cael ei ffrydio'n fyw ar wefan y Cyngor. Bydd y ffrydio byw yn dod i ben pan fydd unrhyw eitemau cyfrinachol yn cael eu hystyried. Bydd recordiad o'r cyfarfod ar gael yn fuan ar ôl y cyfarfod ar <https://flintshire.publici.tv/core/portal/home>

Os oes gennych unrhyw ymholiadau, cysylltwch ag aelod o'r Tîm Gwasanaethau Democrataidd ar 01352 702345.

R H A G L E N

1 YMDDIHEURIADAU

Pwrpas I dderbyn unrhyw ymddiheuriadau.

2 DATGAN CYSYLLTIAD (GAN GYNNWYS DATGANIADAU CHWIPIO)

Pwrpas: I dderbyn unrhyw ddatganiad o gysylltiad a chynghori'r Aelodau yn unol a Hynny.

3 COFNODION (Tudalennau 5 - 16)

Pwrpas: I gadarnhau, fel cofnod cywir gofnodion y cyfarfod ar 5 Gorfennaf 2022.

4 RHAGLEN GWAITH I'R DYFODOL AC OLRHAIN CAMAU GWEITHREDU (Tudalennau 17 - 28)

Adroddiad Hwylusydd Trosolwg a Chraffu yr Amgylchedd a Gofal Cymdeithasol -

Ystyried Rhaglen Gwaith i'r Dyfodol y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu'r Amgylchedd a'r Economi a rhoi gwybod i'r Pwyllgor am y cynnydd yn erbyn camau gweithredu o gyfarfodydd blaenorol.

5 CYFLWYNIAD I FWRDD UCHELGAIS ECONOMAIDD GOGLEDD CYMRU AC ADRODDIAD CHWARTEROL (Tudalennau 29 - 74)

Adroddiad Prif Swyddog (Cynllunio, Amgylchedd ac Economi) - Aelod Cabinet Cynllunio, Iechyd y Cyhoedd a Gwarchod y Cyhoedd

Cyflwyniad i'r Bwrdd Uchelgais Economaidd a diweddariad chwarterol.

6 CANLYNIAD YR ARCHWILIAD HYFFORDDIANT STATUDOL (Tudalennau 75 - 94)

Adroddiad Prif Swyddog (Stryd a Chludiant) - Dirprwy Arweinydd y Cyngor a'r Aelod Cabinet Gwasanaethau Stryd a'r strategaeth cludiant rhanbarthol

Rhoi gwybod i Craffu am ganlyniad yr archwiliad mewnol hyfforddiant statudol a rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf ar y camau y cytunwyd arnynt.

7 Y WYBODAETH DDIWEDDARAF AM Y CLEFYD COED YNN (Tudalennau 95 - 102)

Adroddiad Prif Swyddog (Cynllunio, Amgylchedd ac Economi) - Aelod Cabinet Newid Hinsawdd a'r Economi

Rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Aelodau ynglŷn â sut aeth Cyngor Sir y Fflint i'r afael â'r clefyd coed ynn yn 2021/22 yn unol â'r Cynllun Gweithredu Clefyd Coed Ynn, yn ogystal â sôn am y cynnydd yn sgil archwiliad mewnol fis Gorffennaf 2021.

8 ADOLYGU AMSERLEN CYNLLUN Y CYNGOR 2022/23 (Tudalennau 103 - 110)

Adroddiad Prif Weithredwr - Arweinydd y Cyngor a'r Aelod Cabinet Addysg, y Gymraeg, Diwylliant a Hamdden

Adolygu amserlenni ar gyfer Cynllun y Cyngor 22/23 yn dilyn cais gan y Cyngor Sir ym mis Gorffennaf.

Sylwch, efallai y bydd egwyl o 10 munud os yw'r cyfarfod yn para'n hirach na dwy awr.

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn bwrpasol

Eitem ar gyfer y Rhaglen 3

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 July 2022

Minutes of the remote attendance meeting of the Environment and Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held on Tuesday, 5 July 2022

PRESENT: Councillor David Evans (Chair)

Councillors: Mike Allport, Ian Hodge, Richard Lloyd, Mike Peers, Vicky Perfect, Dan Rose, and Roy Wakelam.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Mel Buckley, Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation), and Head of Democratic Services

SUBSTITUTION: Councillor Rob Davies (for Councillor Roz Mansell)

CONTRIBUTORS:

Councillor Dave Hughes (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transport Strategy), Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy, Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy), Chief Officer (Governance) (for minute number 9), The Internal Audit Manager and Business Support Assistant (for minute number 10), The Regulatory Services Manager (for minute numbers 10 and 15) The Waste Strategy Manager (for minute numbers 10 and 15) The Community and Business Protection Manager and the Food Safety Team Leader (for minute number 11) The Enterprise and Regeneration Manager (for minute number 13) The Transport Manager and Transport Area Co-ordinator (for minute number 14)

IN ATTENDANCE: Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Democratic Services Officer

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

7. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2022 were approved, as moved and seconded by Councillors Richard Lloyd and Mike Allport

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

8. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING

In presenting the current Forward Work Programme report the Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator outlined the items scheduled for the September and October meetings. She also reported on the ongoing items on the Action Tracking report and highlighted those which were completed.

The Chair referred to an email he had sent to committee members asking for suggestions for inclusion on the Forward Work Programme. As a substantial number of suggestions had been received these had been circulated to the Chief Officers for consideration. He asked if members were happy with providing time for the officers to report back to committee in September on how these would be best dealt with.

Councillor Mike Peers suggested that including timescales for each item would be very useful. A detailed discussion followed on the items on the Forward Work Programme with Councillor Peers saying that some of the timescales were outside officer control. The Chief Officer (Planning Environment & Economy) said that it was important that the Forward Work Programme was put in place in September and that he would bear in mind the comments made by Councillor Peers regarding timescales.

The recommendations as set out in the report, were moved and seconded by Councillors Mike Allport and Mike Peers

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme be approved;
- (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 Committee notes the progress made in completing the outstanding

9. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE

In presenting the report the Chief Officer (Governance) explained that in October last year the Chief Officer structure was changed and that the Terms of Reference required amendment to align with those changes. He referred Members to the existing Terms of Reference which was attached as Appendix 1 with the changes which had been made shown on Appendix 2. Once the Terms of Reference had been approved it would then be presented to County Council.

Councillor Mike Peers referred to page 36, the item on violence against women, domestic abuse and violence against women and asked if this would be best suited with the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee or shared across two portfolios. In response the Chief Officer (Planning Environment & Economy) clarified that the reason for this was the team was managed by his portfolio and aligned with the community safety team. He took to the point and said

there would be flexibility where topics crossed over with invitations sent to other committees to join committee when these were being discussed.

The recommendation as set out in the report, was moved and seconded by Councillors Dan Rose and Roy Wakelam

RESOLVED:

That the Committee supported the proposed amendments to its terms of reference as set out in Appendix 2.

10. END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

In presenting the Annual Report the Internal Audit Manager confirmed it was based on the Council Plan for 2021/2022, which was approved at Full Council in June 2021. The Council priorities and performance targets against those priorities which related to Streetscene, Planning, Environment & Economy were outlined at 1.05 in the report. The Internal Audit Manager then provided information on the monitoring process involved throughout the year.

The Chief Officer (Planning Environment & Economy) provided information on the three red indicators which were:-

- support to local businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and provided more detail on this.
- Number of individuals entering employment, learning or volunteering
- Number of individuals receiving support

The Regulatory Services Manager then provided detailed information on the 5 red performance indicators for Streetscene and Transportation. These were: -

- Multi model transport hub in Garden City
- Installation of electric charging points
- Introduction of two electric recycling vehicles which had been part funded by Welsh Government (WG) but there had been a delay in receiving those vehicles.
- Percentage of waste reused, recycled and composted
- Bus quality partnerships – WG network review

In response to questions from Councillor Mike Peers, the Regulatory Services Manager confirmed that the WG recycling, compost and reuse performance target was 64% for last year with the Council achieving 60.5%. This was due to increase to 70% in 2024/25 with the Council fined £200 for every ton sent to landfill if that target was not met. She provided information on the increased levels of residual waste collected during the pandemic as people worked from home and disposed of recycling within their black bin as the HRC sites and other services were closed. Moving forward she explained that once information from the compositional analysis

survey was received it would enable engagement with residents to encourage more recycling especially with the use of the food waste service.

In response to a question from the Chair on waste recycling and targeting the worst areas, the Regulatory Services Manager confirmed they were looking at RFID studies, putting chips on bins to make the service more efficient but the data was not available yet. This could provide information on how residents recycle but she added that most residents do recycle.

In response to a question from Councillor Richard Lloyd concerning the Council's website and the 'check your bin day' page, the Regulatory Services Manager confirmed that they were aware of the problem. The page had been disabled with IT were currently working on this and it was hoped it would be up and running soon. Residents were advised to call the Streetscene Contact Centre or refer to their collections calendar.

In response to a question from the Chair on the circa economy information on page 69, the Regulatory Services Manager provided information on the unsuccessful bid for the repair and reuse scheme at the HRC sites. This bid had been re-submitted for further circa economy funding which was being considered by Welsh Government (WG). It was hoped that this would be successful.

The recommendations as set out in the report, were moved and seconded by Councillors Mike Peers seconded by Councillor Dan Rose

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee supported the levels of progress and confidence in the achievement of priorities within the 2021/22 Council Plan.
- (b) That the Committee supported the overall performance against 2021/22 Council Plan performance indicators.
- (c) That the Committee was assured by explanations given for those areas of underperformance.

11. FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2022-23 FOR FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

In presenting the report the Chief Officer (Planning Environment & Economy) said that this was a return to business as usual. The authority was very fortunate to have retained such an experienced team of officers and had also recruited other officers who had provided support across the council.

The Community and Business Protection Manager and the Food Safety Team Leader commenced the presentation which included slides on the following: -

- **Food Service Plan for 2022 – 2023**
- **Background**
 - Food Service Plan covers Food Safety, Food Standards and Animal Feed
 - The Plan is an annual requirement of The Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities

- Food Law Code of Practice and Feed Law Code of Practice with associated Practice Guidance governs what we do, when we do it and how we do it
 - Service also covers Communicable Disease and elements of other Trading Standards legislation
- **Food Recovery Plan**
 - **Minimum requirement of the Recovery Plan**
 - **Review of 2021-2022**
 - Achieved all programmed inspections in line with the Recovery Plan for Safety and Standards
 - New businesses – inspected 91.4% of all new businesses for Hygiene and 88.6% for Standards
 - Broadly Compliant figure improved to 98.5%
 - Moved ahead of the recovery plan in relation to Category B and C Food Hygiene and Category A-C Food Standards interventions
 - Feed interventions in farms not met – 32 out of 50 premises interventions completed
 - Significant auditing of shellfish documentation from the Dee Estuary to improve compliance and traceability in the shellfish industry
 - **Commitments for 2022 – 2023**
 - All Category A, B and C (High Risk) Food Hygiene inspections
 - All Category D non-broadly compliant Food Hygiene inspections
 - All Category A (High Risk) Food Standards inspections and all Category B premises that are also due their Food Hygiene inspection
 - 90% of all new businesses to be inspected for both Hygiene and Standards
 - Feed – 72 Farms interventions and 40 High Risk premises across the range of Feed business types
 - **Summary**

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection was pleased that this was being shared with committee. The work undertaken by the team during the pandemic was outstanding, with track and trace unable to function without them. He referred members to page 117 which listed the 1,452-food premises within Flintshire, all of which required one inspection per year. The annual report provided reassurance that the farm to fork process was still working thanks to the ongoing work of the team and it was a tribute to them that issues very rarely come to light.

The Chief Officer (Planning Environment & Economy) confirmed this report would be presented to Cabinet next week with the Committees views that it should be adopted.

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved and seconded by Councillors Mike Allport and Ian Hodge

RESOLVED:

To recommend the Food Service Plan 2022-23 to Cabinet.

12. NORTH WALES REGIONAL ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

In presenting the report the Chief Officer (Planning Environment & Economy) sought the committee's comments on the North Wales Regional Economic Framework (NWREF) with a view to it being endorsed by Cabinet next week. He provided an overview of Ambition North Wales as regards funding, delivery across the region and explained the Regional Economic Framework was established by Welsh Government (WG) and Ambition North Wales. He referred Members to Appendix 1 which outlined how this would progress over the next five years to address the recovery of the economy in North Wales. He provided information on the economic gap and the delivery plan, which would be brought back to committee. Any comments from committee would be taken back to Cabinet and he confirmed that all authorities across Wales were seeking to endorse this document.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy commenting that with WG and representatives of all local authorities of North Wales working together for the economic wellbeing of the region, there was the potential for North Wales to play a leading role especially regarding renewable energy.

The Chief Officer (Planning Environment & Economy) commented that one of the programmes of Ambition North Wales was a low carbon energy, with the first being the low carbon tidal energy project on Anglesey. Referring to the Forward Work Programme he said that each of the Programme Managers would be attending to outline the work each of the programmes was undertaking, with the Land and Property Manager attending in September and that low carbon energy could be next.

The recommendation as set out in the report, was moved and seconded by Councillors Mike Allport and Ian Hodge.

RESOLVED:

To recommend the draft 'Regional Economic Framework for North Wales' for endorsement by the Council.

13. SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

The Enterprise and Regeneration Manager provided an update on the Shared Prosperity Fund saying that some information was not available at present. The UK Government Programme replaced the EU Structural Funds which was revenue based with £2.5 b funding over the next three years. He outlined the short timescales involved between the initial release and deadline for submissions. North Wales was required to submit a Regional Development Strategy by the 1st of August, and he explained how this money could be accessed and used. The Enterprise and

Regeneration Manager then provided detailed information on the Priorities, which were subject to change, for each of the three themes, community and place, support provided to local businesses and people and skills. He also provided information on the £10.8 m funding with recruitment of the staff required to deliver this a challenge. In conclusion the Enterprise and Regeneration Manager confirmed that this would be presented to Cabinet next week with WG approval in October. He confirmed that this would be brought back to committee following approval.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy said the situation was constantly changing with the same team also involved with the Levelling Up bid. When it came to funding Flintshire was 20 out of 22 authorities and felt disheartened that the funding of £10.8 m over 3 years was so low.

In response to the questions from Councillor Mike Peers, the Enterprise and Regeneration Manager confirmed that the Priorities had to be submitted by the 1st of August and would specify what interventions the council would like to choose from the programme. The workshops were publicised through the Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC) and partners, with 20 participants attending each one. The situation was still unclear with regarding the financial breakdown and work would continue to identify which projects met the criteria. Cabinet would be leading on this, but a report would be brought to committee again in the autumn. The Enterprise and Regeneration Manager commented that UK Government had set out the mechanism for this but that Welsh authorities were receiving more funding than their English neighbours, as this was a bigger programme in Wales. That said the funding was also heavily weighted towards West Wales and the Valleys.

A discussion following with Councillor Mike Peers and the committee agreeing to change the wording of the recommendation to “That Members review the opportunity presented by the Shared Prosperity Fund programme and work undertaken to date and a detailed report would be presented to a future Scrutiny meeting.”

The recommendation as amended was moved and seconded by Councillors Mike Peers and Mike Allport

RESOLVED:

That Committee reviewed the opportunity presented by the Shared Prosperity Fund programme and work undertaken to date and that a detailed report would be presented to a future Scrutiny meeting.

14. WELSH GOVERNMENT’S CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR NEW BUS LEGISLATION

In presenting the report the Transport Manager explained that Welsh Government (WG) were seeking feedback on the White Paper proposals which would fundamentally change the way that bus services were governed and operated in Wales. A detailed overview of the WG vision and the public consultation undertaken was given together with information on the current legislation (Transport Act 1985 and 2000) and the Council’s responsibilities. Background information on the

commercial bus providers was given with details of the review of the core network which were to hubs, main towns and public interchanges supported by the council with fewer services operating especially in rural areas. He also provided information on the impacts of deregulation over the years as regards services and the financial support provided by the Council and WG Network Support Grant. The pandemic had highlighted the vulnerability of the services and the impacts because of decreasing passenger numbers.

The Transport Manager then reported on the WG initiatives to enable the regulation of bus services across Wales, which were outlined in the report. Details of the list of measures and how these would be implemented with WG, local authorities and providers, and include measures to combat climate change and emissions. Local Authorities felt improvements were required but had concerns regarding the level of funding available to support this as well as provisions for rural services. Referring to the WG Questionnaire he provided detailed information on the key financial implications and risks and confirmed that comments from this committee would be fed back.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy agreed with the concerns raised and reported on his online petition to WG “Buses for People and not Profits” with former Councillor Carolyn Thomas. He felt that this initiative was trying to undo the damage of deregulation with its focus on social equity and reducing emissions but that there were unanswered questions around rural communities. He understood the impacts on small bus operators (SME) especially around school transport and that WG could intervene and take funding from one scheme and to provide to another without local authority input. The authority could be a high contributor with resources going elsewhere and wondered if all the routes in our rural communities would be prioritised when it operated in practice.

Councillor Mike Peers raised several concerns regarding the provision of the core network of buses and cross border services and the need to ensure rural communities maintained their services. The ambiguity surrounding the pooling of resources was also concerning. Referring to the train services he felt that the Wrexham to Bidston line, including the Deeside Parkway could be a useful hub but that the issues at Castle Cement were causing problems.

In response to the Wrexham Bidston line, Deeside parkway and Castle Cement concerns the Chief Officer (Planning Environment & Economy) reported on the Transport for Wales (TFW) bid in the levelling up funding to enable funding for Deeside Parkway, which would address the signalling at Castle Cement and allow two extra trains to run without impacting their freight services. This capital bid would be submitted once the portal was open. He provided information on the unsuccessful borderlines bid last year which included a park and ride facility at Penyffordd. The bid had been changed and would be re-submitted but that round 2 of levelling up would be more competitive but a decision would be received by the autumn.

The Transport Manager thanked the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy and Councillor Mike Peers for their observations regarding the reallocation of funding especially as the authority had no control over how it was distributed.

The criteria were still unknown, and clarification would be sought on that. If this failed and Flintshire was left without a bus service, the Integrated Transport System would fail as buses were an integral part of the various forms of transport. This could result in an increase in car usage and CO2 emissions.

Councillor Dan Rose understood what WG were trying to achieve with the one ticket for buses and trains etc. and asked if the authority would still be responsible for the active travel initiatives. Would this eliminate the council's powers to create extra routes around what was provided by WG. In response the Transport Manager confirmed that active travel would be continuing as the authority worked closely with TFW and WG on strategic plans and cross border routes but that would have to link with the proposals and identification of transport hubs. The Transport Area Co-ordinator confirmed that no clarification had been received on the impact of local transport arrangements which were wholly funded by Flintshire or the funding under franchise model.

The Chair commented that as the committee had not seen the final response only the concerns raised, he suggested that the second recommended be removed. This was agreed by the committee.

The change in the recommendations was moved and seconded by Mike Peers and Roy Wakelam

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Scrutiny Committee welcomed the proposals to introduce new legislation for bus services in Wales but noted some of the risks and challenges highlighted in this report.

15. RECYCLING BRING SITES

In presenting the report the Regulatory Services Manager provided detailed information on the purpose of the sites, collection rates achieved and their locations across the county. Since they were established the successful kerbside recycling collection services had been introduced and there were now also 5 HRC sites for residents to use. The Regulatory Services Manager confirmed that these sites supported the council's recycling performance, but they were unmanned and unregulated sites and were abused with fly tipping incidents as the banks were only for glass and textiles. Several of these sites were in public and pub car parks which enabled businesses, such as the hospitality industry, to dispose of their waste which was not their intention. The Council's Area Cleansing Team then had to clear the fly tipping waste, which was disposed of as black sack waste, and their costs were now increasing. The council could not offset the costs by the glass collected. Consideration was being given to this as there were several outlets providing the services in conjunction with the weekly successful kerbside operation for these residents to use. Regarding textiles these could be taken to the HRC sites or residents could use the charity bags households received through their letterbox or use sites on social media. There was also a bid currently with WG to pilot a doorstep collection service for textiles.

Councillor Mike Peers asked why residents took glass to a bring site when it was collected at the kerbside and was it clear who was using these bring sites. In response the Regulatory Services Manager explained these sites were unmanned so it was unclear which was business waste or whether residents brought these items. There was no detailed information, and it was felt predominantly the waste was from businesses

Councillor Richard Lloyd reported that he had witnessed fly tipping at his local sites and that if there was an increased cost to remove this then he was in favour of their removal, especially as residents were able to use the kerbside collections.

In response to a question from Councillor Mike Peers on textiles the Regulatory Services Manager confirmed textiles could still be deposited at HRC sites but that recommendations would also be made to residents to use local charities in their area too. A comprehensive information pack would be provided to residents should these sites be removed

Councillor Dan Rose asked if a study had been carried out for those areas which were not in a pub car park to see if there was an actual need for the site. In response the Regulatory Services Manager reported a study had not been undertaken but if people wanted to travel to these sites there were alternatives to the kerbside collection at the HRC sites.

Councillor Ian Hodge understood that currently textiles were not collected in the kerbside services but there could be people who were unable to get to the HRC sites. He felt this should not be removed until there was an alternative in place for them to use. In response the Regulatory Services Manager said there was always the option of charity shops to dispose of these items and that the funding bid to introduce kerbside collection was still with WG. A comprehensive package providing alternatives which were nearby would be included for residents.

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection commented that charity shops took textiles and there were regular bags through the door asking for donations.

The Chair reported on incidents in his ward where bags were left outside charity shops and torn apart during the night. He asked if Charity shops had a limit on the stock they could accept. In response the Regulatory Services Manager explained that a survey had not been undertaken as regards capacity but said when the bid was being prepared the Charity shops were interested in small textile items such as clothing for re-sale in their shops. Promotion of the HRC sites and hopefully kerbside collection service would be recommended to residents.

The recommendations as set out in the report was moved and seconded by Councillors Richard Lloyd and Dan Rose.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Scrutiny Committee noted the issues and challenges around the continued provision of the recycling bring sites and increasing costs for such a provision.
- (b) That the Scrutiny Committee supported the proposed removal of the recycling bring sites across the county.

16. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

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

(The meeting started at 10.00am and ended at 12.21 pm)

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Chair

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn bwrpasol

Eitem ar gyfer y Rhaglen 4



ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	13 September 2022
Report Subject	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking
Report Author	Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview & Scrutiny presents a unique opportunity for Members to determine the Forward Work programme of the Committee of which they are Members. By reviewing and prioritising the Forward Work Programme Members can ensure it is Member-led and includes the right issues. A copy of the Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' consideration which has been updated following the last meeting.

The Committee is asked to consider, and amend where necessary, the Forward Work Programme for the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The report also shows actions arising from previous meetings of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the progress made in completing them. Any outstanding actions will be continued to be reported to the Committee as shown in Appendix 2.

RECOMMENDATION

1	That the Committee considers the draft Forward Work Programme and approve/amend as necessary.
2	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.
3	That the Committee notes the progress made in completing the outstanding actions.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING
1.01	Items feed into a Committee's Forward Work Programme from a number of sources. Members can suggest topics for review by Overview & Scrutiny Committees, members of the public can suggest topics, items can be referred by the Cabinet for consultation purposes, or by County Council or Chief Officers. Other possible items are identified from the Cabinet Work Programme and the Improvement Plan.
1.02	<p>In identifying topics for future consideration, it is useful for a 'test of significance' to be applied. This can be achieved by asking a range of questions as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will the review contribute to the Council's priorities and/or objectives? 2. Is it an area of major change or risk? 3. Are there issues of concern in performance? 4. Is there new Government guidance of legislation? 5. Is it prompted by the work carried out by Regulators/Internal Audit? 6. Is the issue of public or Member concern?
1.03	In previous meetings, requests for information, reports or actions have been made. These have been summarised as action points. Following a meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee in July 2018, it was recognised that there was a need to formalise such reporting back to Overview & Scrutiny Committees, as 'Matters Arising' was not an item which can feature on an agenda.
1.04	It was suggested that the 'Action tracking' approach be trialled for the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Following a successful trial, it was agreed to extend the approach to all Overview & Scrutiny Committees.
1.05	The Action Tracking details including an update on progress is attached at Appendix 2.
1.06	<p>Following the request to all Members of the Council from the Chair of the Committee, many suggestions were received. Several of the suggestions have now been included on the Forward Work Programme. These include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Household Recycling Centres & Vehicle Permit Criteria - Woodland Strategy - Biodiversity - Waste Strategy Review - Coastal Park - Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) <p>Two workshops have been arranged for all Members on the 26th of September to consider the Household Recycling Centres & Vehicle Permit Criteria Workshops prior to consideration at Scrutiny. Waste Strategy Review workshops will be held in November.</p>

1.07	Two suggestions have been forwarded to the Education, Youth and Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parking outside schools (with a suggestion that a task & finish group could be considered) - Recycling school uniforms.
1.08	Local ward issues have been forwarded to the relevant area co-ordinator for consideration.
1.09	The following items will be referred to the Climate Change Committee once established:- Electric charging points Rise in sea levels
1.10	The Assets Teams has been asked to consider the allocation of further land for allotments/orchards and community gardens.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None as a result of this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	In some cases, action owners have been contacted to provide an update on their actions.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	None as a result of this report.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Draft Forward Work Programme Appendix 2 – Action Tracking for the Environment & Economy OSC.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Minutes of previous meetings of the Committee as identified in Appendix 2. Contact Officer: Margaret Parry-Jones Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator Telephone: 01352 702427 E-mail: Margaret.parry-jones@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Improvement Plan: the document which sets out the annual priorities of the Council. It is a requirement of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to set Improvement Objectives and publish an Improvement Plan.

Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2022/23

Date of Meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report/Presentation	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
Tudalen 21 11 October 2022 10.00 am	Shared Prosperity Fund	To receive an update.		Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)	
	Flintshire Coastal Park	To receive an update.		Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)	
	Levelling Up Fund	To provide the Committee with an update on the development of the programme and projects and to recommend approval by Cabinet of capital funding to meet the required match funding expected by UK Government.		Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)	
	Town Centre Regeneration	To update the Committee on local responses being planned and delivered to regenerate town centres across Flintshire and tackle vacant properties through enforcement action. To recommend approval to Cabinet of the draft Enforcement Action Plan and the approach proposed to the development of Place Plans.		Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)	

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
APPENDIX 1

Date of Meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report/Presentation	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
Tudalen 22 15 Nov 2022 10.00 am	Presentation by Land & Property Programme Manager – NWEAB – to be confirmed.	To receive an update on the Land & Property Programme	Awareness raising	Facilitator	
	Housing regeneration grants & loans policy	To consider the draft refreshed Housing Regeneration Grants and Loans Policy and to recommend approval to Cabinet.	Pre-decision scrutiny	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)	
	Biodiversity Sect.6 Reporting	To receive a report on Biodiversity to include details of the new requirements of the Section 6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty	Awareness raising	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)	
	Local Toilet Strategy	To advise the committee on the approach and timescales for the statutory formal review of the Local Toilet Strategy	Pre-decision scrutiny	Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation	
	Household Recycling Centre Vehicle Permit Policy	To review the current household recycling centre (HRC) operations and vehicle permit criteria	Policy review	Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation	
	Communities for Work	To update the Committee on the work of the employability programmes and on the closure of the Communities 4 Work programme and any implications for the	Awareness	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)	

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
APPENDIX 1

Date of Meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report/Presentation	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
		Council arising.			
<p>13 Dec 2022 10.00 am</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Tudalen 23</p>	<p>Wepre Park Management plan and charging</p> <p>Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO's) review</p> <p>Council Plan 2022-23 Mid-Year Performance Reporting</p> <p>MTFS & Budget Setting 23-24</p>	<p>To receive a report outlining the management plan and charging proposals.</p> <p>To review the current PSPO's prior to consideration by Cabinet.</p> <p>To review the levels of progress in the achievement of activities and performance levels identified in the Council Plan.</p> <p>That the Committee reviews and comments on the Planning Environment & Economy and Streetscene & Transportation cost pressures and overall budget strategy and advises on any areas of cost efficiency it would like to see explored further.</p>	<p>Pre-decision scrutiny</p> <p>Policy review</p> <p>Performance monitoring</p> <p>Consultation</p>	<p>Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)</p> <p>Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation</p> <p>Chief Officers</p> <p>Chief Officers</p>	

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
APPENDIX 1

Date of Meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report/Presentation	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
Tudalen 24 10 Jan 2023 10.00 am	Memorials/Legacy in the Countryside Policy	To receive an update		Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation	
	Streetscene Standards	The Streetscene Standards have not been reviewed since 2019. This report will review the existing standards and recommend amendments to ensure that the service continues to deliver to the needs and expectations of the public.	Policy review	Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation	
	Grass Cutting Policy	To advise Scrutiny of the revised Grass Cutting Policy	Policy Review	Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation	
	Waste Strategy	To review the Councils current Waste Strategy with the objective of achieving Welsh Government statutory recycling targets	Policy Review	Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation	

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
APPENDIX 1

Date of Meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report/Presentation	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
7 Feb 2023 10.00 am	Woodland Strategy	To receive a progress report.	Assurance	Tom Woodall	
7 March 2023 10.00 am	NWEAB Low carbon Energy (to be confirmed)				
18 April 2023 10.00 am					
16 May 2023 10.00 am					
13 June 2023 10.00 am					
11 July 2023 10.00 am	Council Plan 2022-23 Year-End Performance	To review the levels of progress in the achievement of activities and performance levels identified in the Council Plan.	Performance monitoring	Chief Officers	

Updated 29/07/23

Items to be added:-

Welsh Government Deposit Return scheme

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn bwrpasol

Action tracking from Environment & Economy OSC September 2022

Item/Date	Discussion	Action	By whom	Status
Performance Report 08/06/21	The Chief Officer agreed to share results of the network review by Transport for Wales	The Bus Network Review undertaken by Transport for Wales (TfW) is currently ongoing and has yet to be concluded. An update is awaited from TfW. 06/09/22	Anthony Stanford	Timescale awaited.
Town Centre Markets 06/07/21	That consideration be given to starting a market at Flint & Buckley	Interim response provided. Outcome to be shared with the Committee when available Email update circulated 1/2/22	Niall Waller	Timescale awaited.
Minutes 14/09/21	Litter from food outlets	Update on Welsh Government initiative to be circulated when available	Gabby Povey	Awaiting on current position from WG Timescale awaited.
End of Year Performance Monitoring Report 5 July 22	Check your bin day unavailable and Information on My Account incorrect.	Situation should be resolved soon.	Ruth Tulley	Awaiting update.

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn bwrpasol

Eitem ar gyfer y Rhaglen 5



Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting	13th September 2022
Report Subject	An Introduction to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board and Annual report
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to present the Annual Report for 2021-22 and introduce the Committee to the Leadership Team of Ambition North Wales, the work which they undertake and the governance structure which supports their work.

Quarterly and annual reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement. Following consideration by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, the reports will be shared with Welsh Government, UK Government and the local authority scrutiny committees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the Board consider and note the Annual Report for 2021-22.
2	That the Board approves the submission of the Annual Report for 2021-22 to Welsh Government and UK Government as well as the local authority scrutiny committees.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	
1.01	The Annual Report looks back on the progress made over the last year by Ambition North Wales. It covers the Growth Deal and other supported activities.
1.02	The report provides an overview of the Growth Deal and the progress made in delivering the projects as well as other key milestones achieved during

	<p>the year, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Three Outline Business Cases being approved and the approval of the first Full Business Case for the Digital Signal Processing Centre with Bangor University. ▪ Securing over £1m in additional grants to support projects in North Wales aligned to the Growth Deal. ▪ Securing the second tranche of Growth Deal funding of £20.45m in March 2022. ▪ Launching the Energy Strategy for North Wales with Welsh Government. ▪ Completion of the Local Full Fibre Network project which saw broadband services upgraded at 300 sites across the region. ▪ Launching the new website and brand for Ambition North Wales.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no financial implications arising directly from approving the decision sought in this report.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	None.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	None.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.1	Appendix 1 North Wales Growth Deal – Annual Performance Report Appendix 2 Portfolio Risk Register – March 2022

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Andrew Farrow (Chief Officer, Planning, Environment and Economy) Telephone: 01352 703201 E-mail: andrew.farrow@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn bwrpasol



Uchelgais Gogledd Cymru Ambition North Wales

Annual Report 2021-22



Contents

Title	Page
Foreword	3
The Last 12 months	4
Our Ambition	5
Why invest in North Wales?	6
2021/22 Highlights	7
Overview of the North Wales Growth Deal	19
Agri-food and Tourism	20
Digital Connectivity	22
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	24
Land and Property	25
Low Carbon Energy	27
Skills and Employability	30
Transport	32
Governance	33
Added Value	35
The Next 12 months	36
Our Partners	37



Foreword

The global economy continues to be impacted by factors such as the UK's exit from the European Union and the pandemic, with new and emerging challenges to navigate as a result of the ongoing uncertainty and devastation of Russia's attack on the Ukraine. We are now dealing with the aftermath and ongoing volatility of these situations as we rebuild the economy in North Wales. The outlook sees us heading into rising costs, the scarcity of skills and resources, the reality of climate change and a local economy that is bouncing back and in need of all the support available in order to survive and thrive in the coming years and beyond.

After years of work to pave the way for the North Wales Growth Deal, we are pleased to see it advance from being a set of initiatives on paper, to being real projects delivered by our teams across North Wales. This is a partnership that extends across sectors, for our industries and communities and essentially for people in North Wales now and for generations to come.

The Portfolio Management Office is now fully in place, and we continue to work side by side with the Regional Skills Partnership, UK and Welsh Governments. Together we are investing in new infrastructure and assets, delivering new highly skilled jobs, exciting opportunities and attracting further investment into the region. This will create a real foundation for long-term prosperity.

Our five Growth Deal programmes and their progress is set out within this report and demonstrates how we are tackling our key aims to make North Wales:

- **Connected**, through improving and developing digital connectivity and infrastructure, but also recognising the importance of moving towards an integrated and effective transport system.
- **Smart**, through promoting research and exploiting innovation in our high value sectors.
- **Resilient**, by creating new high value jobs and giving young people a reason to stay and a bright future at home.
- **Sustainable**, by embracing our responsibilities to the environment and developing our region sustainably through all of our investments.

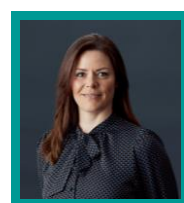
We are fully committed and privileged to lead this important partnership for North Wales and look forward to seeing it continue to grow .



Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn
Chair of the Economic
Ambition Board



Councillor Mark Pritchard
Vice-Chair of the
Economic Ambition Board



Alwen Williams
Portfolio Director for
Ambition North Wales

The Last 12 Months

By the Portfolio Director, Alwen Williams

Despite the continued challenges on our communities, people and economy during the last twelve months, good progress has been made and significant milestones reached towards delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal and the wider ambition and vision for economic prosperity over the next 10-15 years.

Throughout the year we have seen gradual easing of Covid-19 restrictions, enabling us to host several UK and Welsh Government Ministerial visits to project sites and facilitate increasingly more face to face engagement with partners, stakeholders and investors.

Recognising the value and importance of setting out our ambition for North Wales and having a clear brand and identity to represent the strength of our regional partnership, we have worked with Tinint, a creative digital design agency, and Ateb Cymru, our new strategic communications partner to develop and launch our new 'Ambition North Wales' brand and website. Having this refreshed look and feel, supported by an on-line home for news and information is a significant step forward, particularly as we increase our engagement activities with businesses and potential investors in the region and beyond. Additionally, with Business News Wales, we've launched a new North Wales specific business channel and newsletter to share news of the latest Growth Deal developments thought-leading columns and topical features from key figures in the region.

Throughout the year we've seen progress with Outline Business Cases approved for three projects and a number of successful Gateway Reviews completed.

In February 2022, after its successful journey through the business case process, the first project funding agreement, with Bangor University was reached. A total of £3m of Growth Deal funding is now committed to invest in cutting-edge equipment to develop Digital Signal Processing (DSP) capability and technology at the University's established research centre, and supports the creation of up to 40 new jobs.

This first investment means we are truly off the blocks with delivery of the Growth Deal and it has demonstrated and proven the robust end-to-end governance and process underpinning the Growth Deal portfolio, its programmes and projects. Further to this, the second annual portfolio assurance review, conducted by an independent review team, achieved an Amber-Green rating. The outcome, the second highest delivery confidence rating available, verifies progress made over the last twelve months and builds on the Amber rating received last year. The review team noting in their report that: *"The Portfolio has made significant and impressive progress since the last Portfolio Assurance Review (PAR) review, in challenging circumstances."*

During summer we also worked to update our portfolio business case, which was adopted by the Economic Ambition Board in September, and subsequently submitted to Welsh and UK Governments as part of the annual funding award process. This included a presentation to a joint Welsh and UK Government board in December 2021 and the second funding instalment of £20.4m was received in March 2022.



Our Ambition

“To build a more vibrant, sustainable and resilient economy for North Wales”

We want to:

- Focus on improving the region’s economic, social and environmental well-being.
- See the region develop in a sustainable way, with opportunities for people to gain new skills for the future and develop rewarding careers, seeing businesses grow and communities prosper.
- Champion our language, culture and heritage, in line with the well-being goals for Wales.



Why invest in North Wales?

North Wales has unlimited potential to offer a unique and rewarding proposition for investors. The region offers competitive costs, beautiful landscapes, skilled people and much more. Our people are resilient, results driven and loyal. We are large enough to make an impact but connected enough to be dynamic and adapt quickly to learn new skills for the future.

We have pride in our heritage, culture, language and the environment and are welcoming to people and opportunities. This, along with the continued investment in our economy, makes North Wales the ideal location to invest.

Askar Sheibani, Chair of the Business Delivery Board believes in particular that North Wales is well placed to become a 'world leader' in renewable energy, with opportunities to develop tidal and marine renewable energy as well as generating green hydrogen.



Askar Sheibani,
Chair of the Business
Delivery Board

"North Wales has a really good opportunity and it is fortunate to have the landscape to turn itself into a world leader in renewable energy. It's not just magical thinking - this is within our reach. It's logical, practical and we can achieve it.

We have the natural resources, we have the manufacturing expertise, particularly in Deeside and Wrexham, and we have the people and partnerships to drive this forward. We have all of the ingredients and projects are starting, which I am very excited about."



2021 / 22 Highlights

Top Highlights of 2021 / 22

April 2021

We secured funding of £500,000 from the Welsh Government's Whole System Business Research Innovation for Decarbonisation scheme to help farmers decarbonise

May 2021

We secured a grant of £200,000 through the OFGEM Green Recovery scheme to develop low carbon technologies for homes such as EV charging points and heating systems

June 2021

We conducted focus groups with the public and private sector to help identify the priorities for mobile connectivity across the region's transport networks

July 2021

We hosted visits from UK Government and Welsh Government Ministers

August 2021

The Outline Business Case of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub project was approved

September 2021

We launched our Energy Strategy for North Wales with the Welsh Government, to transform how energy is used across the region

October 2021

We raised £2,300 for Mind, with the donations being split across the North Wales branches

November 2021

We secured a grant of £387,600 from the Community Renewal Fund to conduct feasibility studies for Smart Local Energy Systems

December 2021

Our first Full Business Case was approved for the Digital Signal Processing Centre at Bangor University

January 2022

We upgraded broadband services at 300 sites through the Local Full Fibre Network Scheme

February 2022

We helped three organisations to launch new agricultural systems that will help farmers decarbonise

March 2022

Morlais, the tidal energy stream project ran by Menter Môn, became ready to start construction

Quarter 1 Highlights


£200k OFGEM Green Recovery Funding Secured

We secured a grant of £200,000 from the OFGEM Green Recovery funding, bringing in 1MW of additional power at the Former North Wales Hospital, Denbighshire. This funding will provide the capacity to develop low carbon technologies and systems such as EV charging infrastructure and heating systems at the site, which are essential to reducing carbon emissions.

£500k WBRID Funding secured to help Farmers Decarbonise

We secured funding of £500,000 from Welsh Government's Whole System Business Research Innovation for Decarbonisation (WBRID) scheme to fund low carbon and agricultural projects. The funding is essential in developing projects as we aim towards the net-zero target.

Consultation on Mobile Connectivity Priorities



We held sessions with the private and public sectors to identify priorities for mobile connectivity across the region's transport networks.

Findings of the consultation sessions influenced the Growth Deal's Digital Connectivity projects.

We recruited five roles!

The Portfolio Management Team was further strengthened during this quarter, with appointments made within the procurement and social value field as well as project management support roles.

The Economic Ambition Board's Annual General Meeting

The North Wales Economic Ambition Board held its Annual General Meeting on 18th June with Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn confirmed as Chair and Councillor Mark Pritchard confirmed as Vice-Chair for the 2021-22 year.

Helping North Wales Farmers to decarbonise

Working in partnership with the Welsh Government and Coleg Cambria, we supported three organisations in creating low carbon agri-initiatives through the Whole Business Research Innovation for Decarbonisation (WBRID) scheme.



Three learners at Coleg Cambria, Llysfasi unveil the new Micro-Anaerobic Digestion (AD) system by Biofactory Energy

The three Initiatives:

1. BioFactory Energy designed, built and deployed an innovative Micro-Anaerobic Digestion solution. The aim is to capture methane from slurry and convert it into heat for use on the farm or as an off-grid source of energy.

This will reduce the amount of energy required from the grid and provide a cost saving on energy bills and fertilizer – as well as being beneficial to the environment.

2. Promar International are creating a bilingual, user-friendly online carbon accounting tool, and sustainability platform to measure and monitor sustainability of a farm. The new tool will measure and monitor the sustainability of a farm businesses and will let livestock farmers make year on year comparisons



3. M-Sparc managed the design and build of an innovative Artificial Intelligence computer vision and drone solution. The drone scans an area and identifies weeds, to trigger another drone to deploy a specific amount of pesticide to the weeds.

This has been successfully tested and proven to help reduce time and costs for farming communities as well as introduce an energy efficient opportunity to decarbonise farming.



Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Head of Operations and the M-Sparc team with the 'Green Eagle' drone

Quarter 2 Highlights

Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub Outline Business Case Approval

August saw the approval of the outline business case for the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub. The approval was a major milestone, bringing the project a step closer to creating a world-class hub to enhance the food and drink sector.



Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Visit

David TC Davies, MP and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales visited three Growth Deal projects: The Digital Signal Processing Centre, the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre and the Former North Wales Hospital, Denbighshire.

New Energy Strategy Launched

The new strategy was launched with a vision to transform the way energy is used across the region. Working with the Energy Service at Welsh Government, the strategy will bring us a step closer to the net-zero carbon target for 2050.



Minister Lesley Griffiths Visit

The Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd, Lesley Griffiths MS, visited the Morlais project as well as other low carbon schemes in the region.

Programme Assurance Review

The second annual Growth Deal assurance review was undertaken in August 2021 and delivered an Amber-Green rating, an improvement on the Amber rating received in 2020. **Tudalen 44**

Quarter 3 Highlights

Full Business Case approval for the Digital Signal Processing Centre



The DSP Centre was the first Growth Deal project to have reached this milestone and to secure the funding. The £3 million funding will be invested in cutting-edge equipment to develop the facility, which will manage how digital information is processed efficiently and reliably. In addition to creating up to 40 new jobs for the region, it will be integral to respond to the increase in digital needs.

£387,600 from the Community Renewal Funding secured

We secured the funding to conduct Smart Local Energy System feasibility studies in four of the region's counties. These Systems could unlock many community benefits including the opportunity to generate and sell energy locally at a more affordable cost, the potential to create new jobs and contribute towards decarbonisation of the local energy system.

We held our first Early Market Engagement event

Our first ever 'Early Market Engagement' event was held for regional businesses in December. The aim was to help SME's to understand more about the procurement process behind the Growth Deal. The event focussed on our priorities and how businesses can get involved.

Launch of Ambition North Wales

A new name 'Ambition North Wales' and a new website and brand identity was launched in November to represent our vision for a prosperous North Wales and the partnership in place to deliver that vision.

Pob Cam Campaign to Promote Career Pathways

We ran a social media campaign, Pob Cam to show that there is no such thing as a wrong career move. The campaign saw Welsh pop star Elin Fflur and former Wales international footballer Owain Tudalen join in.



Tudalen 45

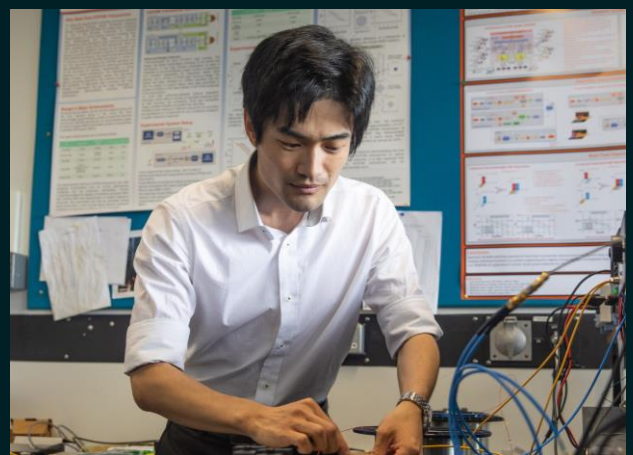
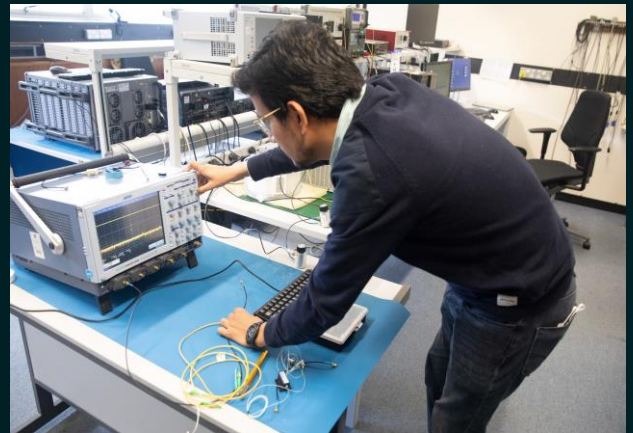
Digital Signal Processing Centre: Full Business Case **Approved**

Twelve months after the North Wales Growth Deal was signed, the first project was approved by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

The Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP) is the first Growth Deal project to receive funding, securing £3 million to invest in cutting-edge equipment, which will develop the facility as well as create up to 40 new jobs. The project is recognised by both Welsh and UK Governments as being critical to the development and future of North Wales and the wider economy.

**Bangor University Vice-Chancellor,
Professor Iwan Davies said:**

“The DSP Centre is a prime example of how Bangor University is collaborating with industry and other academic institutions to develop solutions to address real-world problems through world-class research and development.”



Demonstration of how the DSP equipment can be used

Lead Sponsor:



Quarter 4 Highlights

Morlais gets Green Light to Start Construction

The project became ready to commence main construction phase after securing consents and £31m of ERDF funding and agreeing construction contracts.



Two Projects complete Gateway Reviews

The Last Few % project completed its Gateway 2 review in February with the Centre for Environmental Biotechnology project completing its Gateway 1 review in January. Both projects are working on addressing the recommendations as part of the development of their business cases.

The First Project becomes Operational

Following the approval of the first Full Business Case for the North Wales Growth Deal in December 2021, the Digital Signal Processing Centre has now placed orders for phase one of the project and the first items of new equipment have been received.

Funding Letter Agreed

Following the adoption of the 2021 update to the Portfolio Business Case in September, we submitted the update to Welsh and UK Governments as part of the annual funding award process. In March, we received and signed the award of funding letter for 2021/22 confirming the next instalment of Growth Deal funding of £20.45m.

Tudalen 47

We joined M-SParc's 'Dewch yn ôl' Campaign

We joined the 'Dewch yn ôl' campaign for the second time, with the aim of attracting young people to stay to live and work in North Wales.



The Local Full Fibre Network Scheme Improved Broadband Connections for 300 sites in North Wales



Improved Broadband connection at 311 sites*



Broadband connection improvement from 10Mbps to up to 1Gbps



165 of these sites are in rural* areas with previously poor Broadband Connections

Overview:

Over **300 public sites** such as doctor surgeries, ambulance stations and community hospitals benefitted from better broadband connectivity this year, due to the Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) scheme, funded by the UK Government.

The Digital Connectivity team led on the delivery of this scheme, **helping the health care sector deal with the increase in demand for patient services**, following the pandemic.

The scheme has **targeted sites to tackle some of the challenges caused by slow or unreliable broadband services**, supporting them to adopt more efficient ways of working digitally and ultimately helping them to improve patient service delivery.

* Classified as rural by ONS

Caerffynnon Surgery, Dolgellau

"Having better broadband connection means that we have been able to provide a better service to our patients. The reduction in waiting for administrative tasks to be completed has led to patients waiting less for an appointment.

We have also been able to add services such as video conferencing to help patients remotely, which has made a huge difference to many of our patients, especially those who are most vulnerable."

Mrs Sarah Tibbetts, Practice Manager at Caerffynnon Surgery, Dolgellau.



From left: Dylan Rhys Griffiths (Deputy Senior Responsible Owner for the Digital Connectivity Programme), Kirrie Roberts (Digital Connectivity Project Manager), Sarah Tibbetts (Practice Manager), The Rt. Hon. Simon Hart (MP) and Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn on a visit to Caerffynnon Surgery in Dolgellau

Denbighshire County Council

"The LFFN program has brought access to high speed fibre connectivity to a number of sites across Denbighshire. This has allowed us to take advantage of improved faster and more resilient connections to our core network. Having access to faster reliable internet has helped our customers and colleagues work flexibly from remote locations. Colleagues have been able to stay safe and be well connected to do their jobs on-line during the Covid-19 restrictions without being impeded by slow internet connectivity".

Barry Eaton, Interim Head of Service, Denbighshire County Council

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

"World-class communications are essential to us so that we can ensure our services meet the needs of the local population.

Faster, more reliable connections can transform the way we live and work. Improved broadband supports our teams and systems across North Wales to become more resilient."

Jo Whitehead, Chief Executive for the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

An aerial photograph of a coastal town in North Wales. The town is nestled in a valley between green hills and a rocky coastline. A multi-lane road runs along the coast, curving around a bay. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a pale, hazy blue. The overall scene is a mix of natural beauty and infrastructure.

The North Wales Growth Deal

Tudalen 50

Overview of the Growth Deal

Our Aims

- To build a more **vibrant, sustainable and resilient economy** in North Wales.
- To **build on our strengths**, to **boost productivity** while tackling long-term challenges and economic barriers to **deliver inclusive growth**.
- To **promote growth** in a scalable, inclusive and sustainable way, in line with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Investment

Growth Deal Investment £240m

Total Investment: >£1bn

Spending Objectives

Create up to 4,200 new jobs

Generate up to £2.4bn net additional GVA

Our Programmes



Agri-food and
Tourism



Digital
Connectivity



Innovation in High
Value Manufacturing



Land and
Property



Low Carbon
Energy

Agri-food and Tourism

Programme Overview and Progress

Overview

This programme will promote and support employment and training in the Agri-food and Tourism sectors, building on world-leading skills and expertise already established within the region. Due to our diverse and striking landscape, the programme will maximise sustainable opportunities within North Wales.

Successfully delivered, the programme will optimise innovation and create employment and training opportunities. It will deliver facilities that drive a sustainable and globally competitive position for our region.

Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub

Lead Sponsor  Glynllifon
Llandrillo
Menai

The project will create a distinctive, world-class Rural Economy Hub on the Glynllifon estate near Caernarfon. It will provide regional start-ups or expanding businesses with facilities such as business units and an on-site knowledge centre. These will offer practical experience to support innovation and enterprise growth.

The project will strengthen opportunities for collaboration, supply chain development and growth within an expanding food and drink sector in North Wales.

Agri-food and Tourism

Programme Overview and Progress

Tourism Talent Network

Lead Sponsor 

The project sets out to future-proof tourism and hospitality skills provision and increase the commercial benefits from one of the best established and fastest growing sectors in the region.

Successfully delivered, it will stimulate public-private collaboration to coordinate action on skills and product development, transforming growth of the tourism and hospitality sector in the region.

Llysfasi Net Zero Farm

Lead Sponsor 

In a purpose-built facility on the agricultural college campus, this project will lead practical training in cutting-edge technologies and land management approaches to reduce emissions and enhance biodiversity.

This project will help ensure a resilient future for North Wales where carbon neutral land management and a developing renewable energy sector support sustainable, thriving and healthy communities..

Project Progress Tracker

	Stage 1 Determine the project context	Stage 2 Prepare the Strategic Outline Case	Stage 3 Preparing the Outline Business Case	Stage 4 Approval of the Outline Business Case	Stage 5 Preparing the Full Business Case	Stage 6 Approval of the Full Business Case	Stage 7 Project Implementation and Monitoring	Stage 8 Project Evaluation
Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	In Progress ⌚			
Tourism Talent Network	Complete ✓	In Progress ⌚						
Llysfasi Net Zero Farm	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	In Progress ⌚					

Digital Connectivity

Programme Overview and Progress

Overview

This programme will address connectivity challenges within North Wales. Whilst the rest of the UK has benefited from improved services in recent years, many of our communities lack strong mobile and fixed broadband connectivity. The programme will enhance our region's capability to develop technologies for the future, ensuring that we can meet the increasing demand for digital and benefit from fast, high-quality connectivity.

The Last Few %

Lead Sponsor



Despite the rest of the UK benefiting from improved connectivity in recent years, parts of North Wales still lack consistent broadband coverage, which has impacted communities, businesses and the wider economy.

This project will address the 'digital divide' (the difference in connectivity quality between towns and rural communities) and consider how connectivity can reach the last of the region's premises currently without superfast (30 megabits per second) broadband. It will aim to provide sustainable and affordable broadband connectivity to benefit North Wales communities and businesses.

Digital Signal Processing Centre

Lead Sponsor



Digital Signal Processing (DSP) technology is a vital part of the digital economy and manages how digital information is processed efficiently and reliably between devices and people.

Bangor University has established leading capabilities in developing new DSP technologies, supporting industry collaboration, job creation and opportunities within the region's supply chains. The project is recognised by both Welsh and UK Governments as being critical to the development and future of North Wales and the wider economy.

Digital Connectivity

Programme Overview and Progress

Full Fibre at Key Sites

Lead Sponsor  Uchelgais Gogledd Cymru
Ambition North Wales

This project will enhance broadband connectivity for key locations in North Wales. These locations are rich in SMEs that will benefit from better connectivity.

Full fibre is a leading network technology that enables the highest-quality broadband. All businesses are reliant on better connectivity to address the increasing demand for digital. Ensuring that businesses can access competitive and affordable connectivity options is vital for growth, innovation and sustainability.

Connected Key Sites and Corridors

Lead Sponsor  Uchelgais Gogledd Cymru
Ambition North Wales

This project aims to enhance mobile connectivity on transport routes and provide competitive full fibre infrastructure to key commercial sites across the region.

Investment will be directed at fibreoptic networks which are essential for delivering 4G, 5G and gigabit capable broadband.

Project Progress Tracker

	Stage 1 Determine the project context	Stage 2 Prepare the Strategic Outline Case	Stage 3 Preparing the Outline Business Case	Stage 4 Approval of the Outline Business Case	Stage 5 Preparing the Full Business Case	Stage 6 Approval of the Full Business Case	Stage 7 Project Implementation and Monitoring	Stage 8 Project Evaluation
Last Few %	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	In Progress ⌚					
Digital Signal Processing Centre	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	In Progress ⌚	
Full Fibre at Key Sites	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	In Progress ⌚					
Connected Key Sites and Corridors	Complete ✓	In Progress ⌚						

Innovation in High Value Manufacturing

Programme Overview and Progress

Overview

This programme will promote innovation and commercialisation of technology in the manufacturing industry, building on the existing strength of the sector within our region.

In doing so, the programme aims to secure high-value employment and training opportunities and support manufacturing businesses to decarbonise in line with national and global efforts.

Centre for Environmental Biotechnology

Lead Sponsor



This project will explore the use of biological processes as low carbon alternatives to products and industrial manufacturing processes. Based at Bangor University, the project will research unique enzymes and how they can transform into products that have less impact on the environment than current materials and industrial chemicals.

Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre

Lead Sponsor



The project will deliver state-of-the-art facilities to explore optics, photonics and composite materials as a lightweight material alternative, which will reduce carbon within the manufacturing sector.

The project will drive innovation and commercialisation within regional businesses, create jobs and attract inward investment.

Project Progress Tracker

	Stage 1 Determine the project context	Stage 2 Prepare the Strategic Outline Case	Stage 3 Preparing the Outline Business Case	Stage 4 Approval of the Outline Business Case	Stage 5 Preparing the Full Business Case	Stage 6 Approval of the Full Business Case	Stage 7 Project Implementation and Monitoring	Stage 8 Project Evaluation
Centre for Environmental Biotechnology	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	In Progress 🕒					
Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	Tudalen 56	In Progress 🕒			

Land and Property

Programme Overview and Progress

Overview

This programme will address land and property challenges within the region, to unlock opportunities and build on our strengths.

By addressing the challenges that face the property market in North Wales, the programme will develop sites to provide residential and employment premises. It will also maximise capacity at key transport links.

Holyhead Gateway

Lead Sponsor 

This project will enhance the port's capacity through land reclamation (creating new land from the sea) within the harbour. In doing this, the aim is to ensure the port can meet the increasing demands of both business and tourism visits to the region.

The port is one of the most used transport routes between the UK and Ireland. As the UK's second busiest port it is an important transport link between both countries.

Former North Wales Hospital

Lead Sponsor 

The former hospital is in a poor condition following recent arson attacks and severe vandalism. The project will demolish, decontaminate and clean the site so that it's suitable for residential development and employment premises. The aim is to attract private investment, deliver new jobs and create opportunities for businesses to relocate or expand.

Bodelwyddan Key Strategic Site

Lead Sponsor 

This project will provide primary services, such as power, telecoms and water for the development of residential and employment premises. In doing so, the aim is to attract private sector investment and provide opportunities for businesses to relocate and expand to create new jobs.

Land and Property

Programme Overview and Progress

Western Gateway

Lead Sponsor



Uchelgais Gogledd Cymru
Ambition North Wales



This project will provide primary services such as power, telecoms and water for the development of employment and business premises. In doing so, the aim is to attract private sector investment and provide opportunities for businesses to relocate and expand to create new jobs.

Warren Hall

Lead Sponsor



Uchelgais Gogledd Cymru
Ambition North Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

This project will involve providing primary services such as power, telecoms and water to the site. It will also level the ground so that it's suitable for employment and business premises. The aim is to attract private sector investment and create opportunities for businesses to relocate and expand. It will also create new job opportunities.

Parc Bryn Cegin

Lead Sponsor



Uchelgais Gogledd Cymru
Ambition North Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

This project will develop land for new build employment and business premises. In doing so, the aim is to attract private sector investment and create opportunities for businesses to relocate and expand. It will also create new job opportunities.

Project Progress Tracker

	Stage 1 Determine the project context	Stage 2 Prepare the Strategic Outline Case	Stage 3 Preparing the Outline Business Case	Stage 4 Approval of the Outline Business Case	Stage 5 Preparing the Full Business Case	Stage 6 Approval of the Full Business Case	Stage 7 Project Implementation and Monitoring	Stage 8 Project Evaluation
Holyhead Gateway	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	In Progress ⌚					
Former North Wales Hospital	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	In Progress ⌚					
Bodelwyddan Key Strategic Site	In Progress ⌚							
Western Gateway	Complete ✓	In Progress ⌚						
Warren Hall	In Progress ⌚							
Parc Bryn Cegin	In Progress ⌚							

Low Carbon Energy Programme Overview and Progress

Overview

This programme will unlock the benefits of developing low carbon energy projects within the region, positioning North Wales as a leading location for the low carbon energy sector.

Our region's unique characteristics and natural resources offer the potential to develop projects that create new jobs, reduce carbon emissions and contribute to achieving net-zero by 2050.

Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence (Egni)

Lead Sponsor 

This project will invest in developing a Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence at Bangor University and M-SParc, enhancing the region's capabilities for research, design and innovation in low carbon energy. It will provide opportunities for further research, supply chain development and attract inward investment.

Morlais

Lead Sponsor 

This project will connect Morlais with the electricity grid system, enabling developers of tidal stream technology to deploy their devices in the zone. Morlais is located off the northwest coast of Holy Island, Anglesey and aims to generate electricity through tidal energy. Once the infrastructure is in place, it will use some of the best tidal resources in Europe.

Hydrogen Hub and Transport Decarbonisation

Lead Sponsor 

This project will support the deployment of green hydrogen to kick start the low carbon hydrogen economy in the region, including options for decarbonising transport networks.

Low Carbon Energy Programme Overview and Progress

Smart Local Energy

Lead Sponsor



The project aims to support energy projects across North Wales which will help achieve renewable energy and decarbonisation targets and have an element of local ownership. It will also help unlock private and community investment in new energy projects.

Local ownership is defined as assets owned by stakeholders located and operating in North Wales, whether that's individuals, communities, businesses or other organisations.

Trawsfynydd

Lead Sponsor



This project will deploy first-of-a-kind Small or Advanced Modular Reactors at the Trawsfynydd site to generate low carbon energy. The Growth Deal will contribute towards project development costs and infrastructure, helping to create jobs as well as position North Wales as a leading location for a technology that has significant potential for deployment across the UK and internationally.

Project Progress Tracker

	Stage 1 Determine the project context	Stage 2 Prepare the Strategic Outline Case	Stage 3 Preparing the Outline Business Case	Stage 4 Approval of the Outline Business Case	Stage 5 Preparing the Full Business Case	Stage 6 Approval of the Full Business Case	Stage 7 Project Implementation and Monitoring	Stage 8 Project Evaluation
Morlais	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	In Progress ⌚			
Trawsfynydd	Complete ✓	In Progress ⌚						
Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence (Egni)	Complete ✓	In Progress ⌚						
Smart Local Energy	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	In Progress ⌚					
Hydrogen Hub and Transport Decarbonisation	Complete ✓	Complete ✓	In Progress ⌚					



Skills and Transport Programmes



Skills and Employability Programme Overview and Progress

Overview by the North Wales Regional Skills Partnership

Over the last 12 months the focus has been on ensuring employer membership and input from our key and growth sectors. We developed two new employer cluster groups as sub-groups of the board: Public sector employers and Construction employers. We also re-focused our work based learning provider group and appointed a new chair.

Moving forward, we will focus on further strengthening our employer membership as we develop the next employment and skills plan 2023-25 where there will be a strong focus on digital skills, net zero, Welsh language and employability. The plan will identify the key skills and employment priorities and any key regional sectors for the region, aligned to regional economic plans, including the Growth Deal.

Despite the continued challenges faced in the last year due to Covid-19, our priorities remain unchanged and have become even more important to ensure a skills led economic recovery in the region. We are still focused on providing support for our key and growth sectors in the region.

This year we have made progress by delivering on our action plan of activities for each of the three priorities.

Highlights from the Last 12 months

Labour Market Information (LMI): We strengthened our analytical capability and embarked on a deep dive to understand our changing landscape and the challenges and skills issues that are facing employers across our key and growth sectors. We have produced three Covid-19 LMI reports over the year which has helped inform Welsh Government's policies and programmes for Skills and Employability.

Published Green Skills Report: We commissioned Data Cymru to produce a Green Skills Report, which was published in March. This report outlines the approach they have taken to understanding green jobs and skills, sets out the major publicly available data sources, and then assesses the green jobs and skills challenges within key sectors of the Welsh economy.

Skills and Employability Programme Overview and Progress

Memorandum of Understanding, Trawsfynydd: To promote and support the development of a skills pipeline for nuclear decommissioning, we agreed to work collaboratively with Magnox Ltd and Grŵp Llandrillo Menai to support this ambition. This collaborative joint working arrangement will aim to deliver a range of proposed benefits for the region that will include, a clear skills pipeline that will help skills/training providers and the supply chain effectively plan for future skills requirements for the next 5-10 years.



Signing of the Trawsfynydd Memorandum of Understanding between the Regional Skills Partnership, Welsh Government and Grŵp Llandrillo Menai

Young Person's Guarantee: We completed a mapping work to understand the current landscape in terms of provision and support for young people 16-24 who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training). We consulted with programmes and projects across the region to better understand the current landscape of offer/support available in terms of the current education, employment, training and wellbeing support/provision available for young people locally and regionally.

Social Media Campaigns and Career events: There was a need for innovative interventions across all sectors to aid recovery from the pandemic last year. For the Regional Skills Partnership, this translated into working collaboratively with partners to arrange and deliver a range of social media campaigns and careers events. Some notable campaigns and events that we have supported deliver to raise awareness of local opportunities include; Your Career, Your Future Digital Skills Festival; Tourism and Hospitality and Pob Cam.

Transport

Programme Overview and Progress

The Last 12 months:

- We worked as a region to write a coherent response to the Great British Railway Transition Consultation. There was positive involvement from all six local authorities, Transport for Wales and Growth Track 360.
- Since January, we have been supporting the phased implementation of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee particularly around the Transport Functions. Seeking input from all six transport departments, the first annual budget and guiding the implementation team on key transport areas.
- Consideration has been given to the work required by the Corporate Joint Committee on developing the required Regional Transport Plan. Regular meetings of a regional transport group has ensured all partners remain updated on any developments relating to transport within the Corporate Joint Committee.

The Next 12 months:

- Local authorities will respond to the 'One Network' Consultation this June, we plan to further support the Local Authorities by drawing in their local responses into a strengthened regional response in order to further support their views.
- We will continue to support the implementation of a North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, with a particular interest in the transport function. The regional transport group will continue to work through the necessary tasks to ensure a streamlined transition to Regional Planning is made possible.
- With a publishing date targeted for summer 2023, this year will see the region begin to develop their first Regional Transport Plan as a Corporate Joint Committee. The focus will be on our regional response to implementing the Welsh Government vision for transport as detailed within the 'llwybr newydd', as well as the localised needs of our citizens, communities, businesses and environment.

Governance

Governance Overview

The Economic Ambition Board was established by local authority partners as a joint committee in 2019 and is the decision-making body for the North Wales Growth Deal, as well as leading on regional economic collaboration.

Having secured the Growth Deal in December 2020, the partners entered into 'Governance Agreement 2'. This agreement, which is a legally binding document, defines the role and function of the Economic Ambition Board and its use of delegated powers. It also outlines the decision-making structures and democratic accountability.

The Growth Deal's governance arrangements enable decisions to be made in an open and transparent way for the benefit of the whole of the region. While the Economic Ambition Board acts as the decision-making body for the Growth Deal, there are strong links both formal and informal to the Welsh and UK Governments as funders of the Deal.

The Economic Ambition Board has adopted a delivery model based on a best practice approach to portfolio, programme and project management. This approach is an integrated way of meeting an organisation's ambition, driving better decisions and increasing the likelihood of successful outcomes.

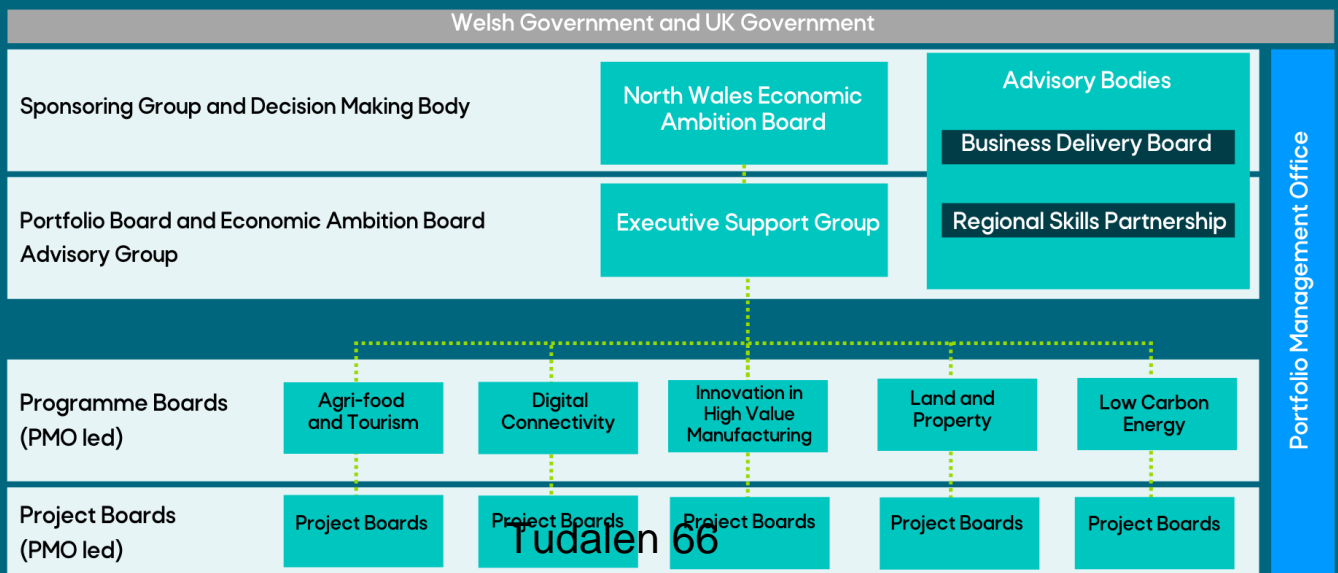
Scrutiny Arrangements

Scrutiny of the North Wales Growth Deal is provided by the six local authorities through their existing Scrutiny Committee arrangements. The Scrutiny Committees will consider the quarterly and annual reports produced by the Portfolio Management Office.

Reporting

The Portfolio Management Office will produce quarterly progress reports and an annual report on the Growth Deal which will be shared with Welsh Government and UK Government, the Economic Ambition Board and its partners. These reports will be publicly available on our website.

Growth Deal Project Delivery Structure



Added Value

We believe in giving back to North Wales. As a team, we work to ensure that we deliver additional benefits to the region and that our work improves the economic, social and Environmental well-being of North Wales.

Here are some examples of what we've done in 2021/22:

- We secured over £1m in additional grants to support projects in North Wales.
- We supported the Morlais Project in securing £31m from the Welsh European Funding Office.
- We raised £2,300 for local Mind branches in North Wales by walking the entire North Wales coastal path.
- We secured £78,000 in additional social value through the DSP procurement process
- We supported regional projects by providing input to the Theatre Clwyd redevelopment business case, which secured £25m from Welsh Government.
- We contributed to 'Cadw Cymru'n Daclus' campaign by collecting litter from our local communities.



Tudalen 67



The Next 12 Months

By the Portfolio Director, Alwen Williams

We need to look ahead with positivity and determination to deliver even more for North Wales over the next twelve months. It will undoubtedly be a challenge as we make sense of the new dynamics of working in the post pandemic world.

One of our key priorities is to develop our strategy for attracting private sector investment. We have a draft strategy in place that acknowledges the requirement to attract private sector investment directly into the Growth Deal projects, but also recognises that Growth Deal investment will improve the regions infrastructure, and therefore create more compelling investment opportunities for the business sector as well as highlight our strengths and competitiveness as a region.

The last two years have been anything but 'usual' in the way we work and we now have the opportunity to face out into the investor market with an approach that will capture and cultivate interest and demonstrate the potential North Wales can provide for investors. We have dipped our toes in the water this year, and held our first early market engagement event with businesses in the region, giving them an early view of our priorities and the opportunities for our local businesses over the coming years. We look forward to continuing to build on this relationship with our local supplier market as we move forward.

Having moved into the delivery phase of the Growth Deal during the past year, the next 12 months will be focused on securing approvals for our next tranche of projects with a real focus on delivering benefits and additional social value to the region. While there are challenges to overcome, particularly around inflation and increasing costs, the opportunities for North Wales are significant and deliverable.

The first of this next tranche, the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre by Wrexham Glyndwr University had an outline business case approved by the Board in April and will now progress through the procurement process before seeking a final investment decision in early 2023.

Driving towards a net-zero future is an underpinning principle for the Growth Deal. Investing in a way that promotes a greener and cleaner future for generations to come. This year we have worked with Arup to develop an approach that leads the way for capital investment to consider sustainable development and really deliver against the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act as we move forward. This has been described as a pioneering approach by our partners Arup. We're proud to be leading the way in North Wales and look forward to implementing the approach with our project partners over the coming year.

As a region and in partnership with UK and Welsh Governments we will continue to place focus on working together to take full advantage of Levelling-Up opportunities and will deliver an investment plan for the Shared Prosperity Fund as part of delivering against our Regional Economic Framework for North Wales.

The 'team North Wales' partnership continues to gain momentum and I am immensely proud of the impact being delivered but also, importantly, the growth in relationships and personal resilience shown by everyone involved throughout, what has, and continues to be, a prolonged period of economic uncertainty and instability. With this in mind, we can look ahead with confidence as we continue to deliver for North Wales.

Our Partners



£240m Growth Deal Investment funded by



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



UK Government
Llywodraeth y DU

Office of the Secretary of State for Wales
Swyddfa Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn bwrpasol

Planning, Environment and Economy Portfolio Risk Register

Risk Register - Part 1 (Portfolio Management)

Finance

Key		
Underlying Risk Rating	The risk rating before any mitigating actions	
Current Risk Rating	This risk rating following the planned mitigation actions	
Target Risk Rating	The risk rating which is realistically achievable and by when	
Risk Trend	The trend of the risk since the last review date	
Risk Status	Open denotes a live risk	Closed denotes a closed risk
*Denotes the risk is specific to the 'Recovery'		
PE	Planning, Environment and Economy	

Risk Ref.	Risk Title	Risk Type	Lead Officer	Supporting Officers	Underlying Risk Rating	Current Risk Rating	Target Risk Rating	Risk Trend	Risk Status
*PE02	Failure to meet income targets for Portfolio due to downturn in submission of planning applications, building regulations applications, Highways DC applications and licensing applications	Operational	Andrew Farrow	Sian Jones	R	Y	Y Q4 2022/23	NC ↔	Open
*PE03	Unable to regenerate Town Centres through implementation of the Town Centre Strategy due to insufficient resources and the compound economic consequences of the emergency situation	Strategic	Niall Waller	Karen Whitney Lang	R	A	A Q4 2022/23	NC ↔	Open
*PE24	Failure to deliver the Flintshire element of Regional Growth Deal projects	Strategic	Niall Waller	Rachael Byrne	Y	Y	G Q4 2022/23	NC ↔	Open
PE25	Domestic energy service is self-funding so remains vulnerable to a shortfall in income levels.	Operational	Niall Waller	Joseph Muxlow	A	Y	G Q4 2022/23	NC ↔	Open
PE23	Financial risks arising from programme for private sector homes improvements	Operational	Niall Waller	Joseph Muxlow	Y	G	G Q4 2022/23	NC ↔	Open
PE26	Essential Services are disrupted and/or stopped due to contract failure	Strategic	Andrew Farrow	Lynne Fensome	A	Y	G Q4 2022/23	NC ↔	Open
PE29 New	Failure to deliver the projects that receive funding from the levelling up fund due to the time constraints on the delivery programme for the funding to be used Note : New risk included as the bidding process has been delayed by Welsh Government	Operational	Andrew Farrow	Niall Waller	R	R	G Q4 2022/23	New	Open
PE30 New	Ability of the Portfolio to deliver projects that rely on external funding due to decreasing grant funding	Operational	Andrew Farrow	PEESMT	R	A	G Q4 2022/23	New	Open

Workforce

Risk Ref.	Risk Title	Risk Type	Lead Officer	Supporting Officers	Underlying Risk Rating	Current Risk Rating	Target Risk Rating	Risk Trend	Risk Status
*PE07	Impact on service delivery due to the resilience of staff and succession planning	Operational	Andrew Farrow	PEESMT	R	A	A Q4 2022/23	NC ↔	Open
PE28	Risk to service delivery through inability to recruit into vacant posts	Operational	Andrew Farrow	PEESMT	R	R	A Q4 2022/23	R ↑	Open

External Regulation

Risk Ref.	Risk Title	Risk Type	Lead Officer	Supporting Officers	Underlying Risk Rating	Current Risk Rating	Target Risk Rating	Risk Trend	Risk Status
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Risk Ref.	Risk Title	Risk Type	Lead Officer	Supporting Officers	Underlying Risk Rating	Current Risk Rating	Target Risk Rating	Risk Trend	Risk Status
PE11	Non-compliance with Welsh Government Carbon Reduction Target due to external factors such as willingness of the wider public to support initiatives, access to funding to develop projects	Strategic	Andrew Farrow	Alex Ellis	R	A	G Q4 2022/23	R ↑	Open
PE12 Updated	The implications of Ash Die back on finances and reputation of the Council due to the scale of the problem and the ability to make safe Highways and Council amenity land Note : Risk trend is increasing due to the identification of further trees at high risk as peak surveying season is hit in advance of the felling season	Strategic	Tom Woodall	John Purchase	B	R	A Q4 2022/23	R ↑	Open
*PE14 Updated	Non-compliance with Sustainable Urban Drainage System legislation due to capacity of the team Note: risk trend is increasing due to a further loss of existing staff from this team and a continuing inability to attract applicants to vacant posts	Operational	Andy Roberts	TBC	R	R	A Q4 2022/23	R ↑	Open
PE17	Non-compliance with Welsh Language Standards due to the Welsh Language Commissioner's instruction to Flintshire County Council for translation of planning applications and consultation responses	Operational	Lynne Fensome	Sue Davies	R	A	Y Q4 2022/23	NC ↔	Open

ICT & Systems

Risk Ref.	Risk Title	Risk Type	Lead Officer	Supporting Officers	Underlying Risk Rating	Current Risk Rating	Target Risk Rating	Risk Trend	Risk Status
Tudalen 72 *PE21 Updated	Integration and assimilation to new case management system is not achieved Note: risk trend is increasing as Phase 2 of the project has started to introduce the system to Community and Business Protection	Project	Lynne Fensome	Sue Davies	R	A	G Q4 2022/23	R ↑	Open

Closed Risks

Risk Ref.	Risk Title	Risk Type	Lead Officer	Supporting Officers	Underlying Risk Rating	Current Risk Rating	Target Risk Rating	Risk Trend	Risk Status
*PE16	Capacity within the Community and Business Protection teams to resume planned and reactionary programmes of inspections due to existing backlog of work accumulated during the pandemic, ongoing Covid work and recruitment issues due to the national shortage of Environmental Health Officers	Operational	Sian Jones	Helen O'Loughlin/ Marian Davies/ Lisette Bembridge	R	G	G Q1 2022/23	NC ↔	Closed
*PE27 Updated	Risk to officers who do not adhere to the hybrid model developed for return to the offices Note: risk trend is reducing due to increasing familiarity with the Portfolio's ways of working and increasing confidence in our ability to provide a safe workplace with the measures in place to prevent the spread of Covid within the workforce	Operational	Andrew Farrow	PEESMT	R	G	G Q3 2021/22	G ↓	Closed
*PE05	Failure to meet income targets for Minerals and Waste Shared Service due to downturn in submission of planning applications and reduced compliance visits during lockdown and a subsequent potential economic downturn	Operational	Gary Nancarrow	Robin Williams	R	G	G Q4 2021/22	NC ↔	Closed

Risk Ref.	Risk Title	Risk Type	Lead Officer	Supporting Officers	Underlying Risk Rating	Current Risk Rating	Target Risk Rating	Risk Trend	Risk Status
*PE19	Unsustainable demand on the Employment Mentoring service due to the economic implications of lockdown and the increase in referrals from Job Centres of those seeking employment	Operational	Niall Waller	Sharon Jones	R	G	G Q4 2021/22	G ↓	Closed
*PE18	Procurement, integration and assimilation to new case management system is not achieved due to market forces and compliance with Flintshire County Council terms of contract	Project	Lynne Fensome	Sue Davies	R	G	G O4 2021/22	G ↓	Closed
*PE13	Welsh Government call in the Local Development Plan due to our inability to meet the delivery agreement timetable	Strategic	Andy Roberts	Adrian Walters	B	G	G Q3 2020/21	G ↓	Closed
PE08 PE15	Decrease in Food Safety and Food Standards following exit from the European Union	Operational	Sian Jones	Helen O'Loughlin	B	G	G Q4 2021/22	G ↓	Closed
PE22	Increased anxiety among officers required to attend their work base due to non-compliance with risk assessment and increasing numbers of officers testing positive for coronavirus	Operational	Andrew Farrow	PEESMT	R	G	G Q2 2021/22	G ↓	Closed
*PE06	Decreasing availability of funding to deliver fuel poverty projects due to re-prioritisation of funding streams	Operational	Niall Waller	Joseph Muxlow	R	G	G Q1 2021/22	G ↓	Closed
*PE04	Failure to prepare and deliver Growth Deal projects due to potential realigning of capital funding	Strategic	Niall Waller	Rachael Byrne	A	G	G Q1 2021/22	G ↓	Closed
*PE01	Loss of Community Benefits by not maximising the inclusion of social value in Contracts	Strategic	Niall Waller	Olivia Hughes	A	G	G Q4 2021/22	G ↓	Closed
Tudalen 73 *PE09	Reluctance of staff to return to their work base and "normal working patterns on lifting of lockdown restrictions due to anxiety levels linked to increased exposure and personal circumstances and failure to take account into the personal preferences of officers in designing future service delivery models	Operational	Andrew Farrow	PEESMT	R	G	G Q2 2021/22	G ↓	Closed
PE10	Energy Saving initiatives not included in Capital Projects due to non-involvement of Energy Team with Property and Assets team on design of projects which may result in those projects accruing higher long-term costs	Strategic	Andy Roberts	Energy Team	R	G	G Q4 2021/22	G ↓	Closed
*PE20	Increase in non-compliant sites due to inability to conduct enforcement and site monitoring inspections	Operational	Andrew Farrow	Gary Nancarrow/Sian Jones/Andy Roberts/Tom Woodall	R	G	G Q4 2021/22	G ↓	Closed

Risk Matrix

Impact Severity	Catastrophic	Y	A	R	R	B	B
	Critical	Y	A	A	R	R	R
	Significant	G	G	Y	A	A	R

	Marginal	G	G	G	Y	Y	A
		Unlikely	Very Low	Low	High	Very High	Extremely High
Likelihood of risk happening							

DRAFT

Eitem ar gyfer y Rhaglen 6



ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	13 September 2022
Report Subject	Outcome of Statutory Training Audit
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Streetscene & Regional Transport Strategy
Report Author	Chief Officer, Streetscene and Transportation
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Streetscene & Transportation portfolio is committed to ensuring that all employees in the staffing structure are competent in their roles, and have the education to know what they need to know to do their jobs safely and have been trained to be able to do their jobs properly.

The portfolio employs in excess of 500 employees across a diverse range of activities with approximately two thirds being frontline operational workforce. The roles fulfilled within the portfolio span a range of functions covering office based administrative support staff, transport planners, civil engineers, traffic management and highway workers on Flintshire's high speed road network and recycling and refuse collectors. All work activities are subject to a level of risk and employees are therefore required to undertake a diverse range of statutory and mandatory training for their roles.

As part of the agreed Internal Audit Plan for 2021/2022, an internal audit of the training provision was undertaken in November 2021. The purpose of the audit was to assess whether statutory and mandatory training was in place and to provide assurance that workers were not undertaking work without such training in place. The audit provided some level of assurance, in that the audit did not identify any instances of any workers undertaking work without the necessary training; however, key controls to mitigate the strategic risks were found to be not effective or applied consistently and a number of areas for further improvement were recommended.

This report provides the Committee with an overview of the Compliance and Training service along with assurances regarding the recommended action taken and controls put in place following the audit.

RECOMMENDATIONS	
1	That the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee notes and supports the work of the Streetscene and Transportation Compliance and Training team.
2	That the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee notes and supports the action taken and controls put in place in response to the internal audit recommendations.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	OVERVIEW OF THE COMPLAINE AND TRAINING TEAM AND EXPLAINING THE OUTCOME OF THE STATUTORY TRAINING AUDIT
1.01	The Streetscene & Transportation portfolio employs a Compliance and Training team, which consist of one Compliance and Training Manager, two Operational Trainers and two Compliance and Training Officers. The team is responsible for designing, implementing and managing an effective training and compliance monitoring programme across all Streetscene & Transportation operations, in order to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and ensure that the training provision meets the complex needs of a flexible, multi-skilled workforce across a diverse range of services.
1.02	<p>In 2020, all face-to-face non-statutory training for the portfolio was suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to this, the longstanding operational trainer retired from his post, which led to the role being vacant for the duration of the pandemic. This brought about an opportunity for the training service provision to be reconsidered and, in 2021, the portfolio invested in the development of the training service by carrying out a review of the operational trainer role, which resulted in a stronger emphasis on compliance assessments post-training. This has been supplemented with the addition of a second training officer post, which enable the portfolio to increase the number of in-house training sessions to be delivered.</p> <p>Subsequently, an upgraded training facility was designed and built during 2021 to enable training to be undertaken in a covid-safe environment. The new facility is intended to enhance the training offer by providing a modern, fit for purpose environment and it allows multiple training sessions to be carried out at any one time, as well as a comprehensive, undercover area for practical exercises or assessments. To supplement this, a digital training management system is currently being explored to improve the back office support in respect of data management for training records, session scheduling and documentation storage.</p>
1.03	The portfolio continues to successfully maintain two training accreditations from the Road Transport Industry Training Board (RTITB) and is a registered MIDAS training provider with the Community Transport Association (CTA). This allows us to develop and deliver task specific practical training, which meets statutory and service delivery requirements and provide training to other council departments when required.

	<p>Maintaining industry recognised training accreditations in-house allows us to provide staff with access to quality training and provides assurance that training delivery meets high standards of training provision. The training team is required to be externally audited on a regular basis to ensure that best practice standards are continually maintained.</p>
1.04	<p>To supplement the current training provision, the portfolio has been successful in obtaining WULF funding via the Unite trade union and corporate training to provide additional HGV driving and plant and equipment training. We will be looking to develop this successful partnership working into 2022-2023 and we are currently considering what other non-statutory training may be provided through the funding, which could be offered to staff and workforce.</p>
1.05	<p>Pre-pandemic, in excess of 2,400 training events per annum were completed by managers, supervisors and front line workforce. Approximately ninety different course titles can be delivered across a diverse range of disciplines, which are required to address specific legislative requirements and the risks associated with work activities.</p> <p>All agency workers are provided with the same level of induction and training as substantive members of the workforce to ensure their safety, health and wellbeing. This investment in agency staff is of benefit when full time positions become available as they already have the necessary experience and training to undertake the role.</p>
1.06	<p>As part of the agreed Internal Audit Plan for 2021/2022, an internal audit of the training provision within the portfolio was undertaken in November 2021. The internal audit was requested by the Chief Officer in response to concerns raised by trade union representatives that there was the potential that employees could be required to undertake a work task that they were not trained to do. The concerns that were raised predominantly came about due to the fact that all face-to-face non-statutory training had to be suspended as a result of the social distancing requirements during the COVID pandemic.</p>
1.07	<p>The audit focussed on the following areas of possible risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and responsibilities are not clear and risks and mitigations have not been identified via the risk registers; • Managers are unaware / have incorrectly defined the mandatory training for each job role (internal / contractors); • The system in place does not accurately record and evidence the level of training / certification including where due for renewal or expired; • Operatives are assigned to work in areas for which they do not have the requisite training, thereby failing to comply with statutory regulations. This could result in injury, legal proceedings, financial loss and reputational damage to the Council; • The policy and system in place does not deliver a dynamic and responsive workforce, risking an increased use of external contractors and a higher financial cost to the Council; • The impacts of COVID-19 have not been adequately mitigated/managed.

1.08	<p>The audit testing did not identify any instances of the operational workforce having to undertake a work task for which they were not trained to carry out.</p> <p>The audit reported that areas managed well included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Training Team are diligent with updating and managing training for the workforce. • Training schedules developed using the master rotors <i>[sic]</i> are sent to managers and supervisors on a weekly basis. • Non-attendance at training is reported to Managers and Supervisors and analysis of causes for non-attendance carried out to help with continuous improvement of training. • The Training Team obtain management information from their systems and report numbers of trained/untrained to SMT. • This data is used in an annual <i>[*report sic]</i> by the Corporate H&S group. • Testing did not identify any instances of any operatives who had been asked to do work for which they were not trained. <p>However, the audit was assessed as Amber/Red due to a failure in addressing strategic risks and it identified that there were limited key controls in place to mitigate those risks.</p>
1.09	<p>The audit identified several areas for further improvement, which were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity of mandatory and non-mandatory training requirement : the service needs to be able to demonstrate that all operatives have the requisite mandatory training to discharge their responsibilities safely. • Reliance on Manager awareness of Training Requirements for Roles and Jobs: there are documents which state which training and skills are needed for each role, however these are rarely referenced by the Managers and Supervisors. • Risk management – operational risk not acknowledged: the Council has a risk management framework which defines how risks are identified, recorded, managed and reported. Whilst there are two risks relating to statutory training on the S&T portfolio register (ST16 and ST30) they are both in regard to the difficulties posed by the Pandemic. • Lack of S&T Training Strategy or Policy: currently Streetscene and Transportation does not have a specific training strategy or policy, rather it relies on the Council's corporate policy. • Lack of Training Recovery Plan: currently sixty percent of training logged on the system is overdue or due in the next six months. • Use of spreadsheet and quality of data held: the details of operatives, training received and training expiry dates is held in an internal spreadsheet. This document is extensive (in-excess of 6000 lines) and if corrupt would result in the loss of all training data. • Job Description - personal responsibility for continuous improvement: There are job descriptions for all level of operatives in Streetscene, they are comprehensive in listing the principal accountabilities and knowledge and skills required for each post. Whilst they state all work must be completed in compliance with Health & Safety regulations and to an expected standard, there is no requirement stated for continuous improvement and maintenance of skills and knowledge.

1.10

Since the audit has been finalised and key actions agreed, there are a number of measures that the portfolio has put in place, which are detailed as follows: -

- **Clarity of mandatory and non-mandatory training requirement and Reliance on Manager awareness of Training Requirements for Roles and Jobs:** Operational managers within the Service Delivery team have identified all training requirements for the operational workforce. Each training requirement has been categorised as either statutory (required under legislation), mandatory (deemed necessary to deliver work compliantly and safely) or non-mandatory (required as best practice and for career development).

This information has been collated into an annual training matrix which can then be cross referenced to existing employees to ensure that they are trained and qualified to carry out work tasks. This matrix will also be used to identify gaps in training for specific work areas with will assist with planning training for the year.

- **Risk management – operational risk not acknowledged**

Four additional service specific risks were included on the portfolio risk register:

- ST51 - Inability to deliver training session due to vacancy of the training officer position
- ST52 - Inability to deliver service due to untrained workforce
- ST53 - Loss of training data due to inadequate recording process
- ST54 - Increased expenditure on procuring training database systems

- **Lack of S&T Training Strategy or Policy**

A training policy specific to Streetscene and Transportation has been drafted and is due to be finalised, published and adopted by the portfolio in October 2022.

- **Lack of Training Recovery Plan**

Training was included within the Streetscene and Transportation plan for post-COVID recovery to ensure that the service reinstated training sessions in a controlled and compliant manner as the social distancing guidelines and restrictions eased. This ensured that training sessions could be reintroduced to ensure that any expired or near to expiry training requirements took place.

- **Use of spreadsheet and quality of data held**

The spreadsheet for holding training records has been revised allowing easier access to records by operational managers and supervisors. The database is now stable with regard to the number of records held and a backup copy is retained.

The Training and Compliance manager is exploring a digital training database system that was developed in-house by the IT Service, which can be utilised to further improve data storage and training planning. Currently, Social Services use the database system, which is well-established and can be extended to accommodate the requirements of the Streetscene & Transportation portfolio.

- **Job Description - personal responsibility for continuous improvement**

It has been made a contractual requirement for an employee to undertake the required mandatory training required of the role.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	IT support is required to develop the internal training management database system.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	The actions undertaken by the portfolio intend to minimise the risk of an employee undertaking work tasks which they are not trained to do.
3.02	All risks identified within the portfolio risk register are currently assessed as being yellow or green risks as their current risk rating.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	With the three Trade Unions (Unison, GMB and Unite)
4.02	With HR and corporate training.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Internal Audit Report

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	N/A

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Ruth Tulley, Regulatory Services Manager Telephone: 01352 704796 E-mail: ruth.tulley@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	None

Flintshire Internal Audit

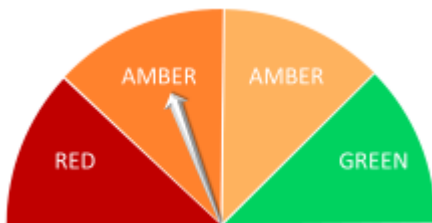
Audit Report

Title: 21/22 Statutory Training
Portfolio: Streetscene & Transportation
Issued Dated: December 2021
Report No: 19-2021/22
Report Status: Final v2

Internal Audit engagements are conducted in conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

Tudalen 81

Audit Opinion



1 Executive Summary:

Introduction and Scope:

This review has been carried out as part of the agreed Internal Audit Plan 2021/22.

Streetscene & Transport (S&T) have a large and varied workforce, it comprises of 295 operatives working in areas as diverse as waste disposal to highway maintenance. Operatives can be internal or sourced from agencies and the task of ensuring they are up to date with statutory training and certification before they are assigned to work is a complex one. There are different statutory training events and certifications the operatives must attend or renew prior to working on a particular job or task.

Tudalen 82

Currently the Compliance & Training team consists of one manager, two administration officers and two training officers. The service has found recruiting training officers difficult in the last two years. The roles are currently in the process of being re-advertised for a third time following two unsuccessful rounds of recruitment. Staff rotas are produced by the Logistics Manager with the supervisors of each team setting daily/weekly tasks to the operatives on shift.

In 2019 the Compliance & Training Team delivered in excess of 2400 training events which were attended and completed by managers, supervisors and operatives, in over 90 different course areas. In some cases training and assessment will be carried out by an external body, for example HGV driving but the Council does have internal trainers and assessors.

The risks the audit focussed on included:

- Roles and responsibilities are not clear and risks and mitigations have not been identified via the risk registers
- Managers are unaware / have incorrectly defined the mandatory training for each job role (internal / contractors)

Audit Opinion:

In each report we provide management with an overall assurance opinion on how effectively risks are being managed within the area reviewed. Appendix A of the report details our assurance levels:

Assurance:	Explanation
Amber Red - Some	<p>Some Assurance – Significant improvement in control environment required (one or more of the following)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controls exist but fail to address all key risks identified and/or are not applied consistently and effectively • Key management information exists but is unreliable <p>Conclusion: key controls are generally inadequate or ineffective.</p>

The table below highlights the number and priority of agreed actions to be implemented.

Priority	High (Red)	Medium (Amber)	Low (Green)	Total
No.	2	4	1	7

2 Summary Findings:

Tudalen 84

Areas Managed Well	Areas for Further Improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Training Team are diligent with updating and managing training for the workforce. • Training schedules developed using the master rotors are sent to managers and supervisors on a weekly basis. • Non-attendance at training is reported to Managers and Supervisors and analysis of causes for non-attendance carried out to help with continuous improvement of training. • The Training Team obtain management information from their systems and report numbers of trained/untrained to SMT. This data is also used in an annual by the Corporate H&S group. • Testing did not identify any instances of any operatives who had been asked to do work for which they were not trained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity of mandatory and non-mandatory training requirement – the training spreadsheet holds all training and there is no identifier of statutory training, nor is statutory training numbers reported separately. • Reliance on manager awareness of training requirements for roles and jobs - There is no process or system to ensure the managers and supervisors are aware of the training needed for each role or job. • Risk management – There are no general risks for training stated on the portfolio’s risk register, or risk method statements completed. • Lack of S&T Training Strategy or Policy - The service does not have a training strategy to reflect is very specific needs. • Lack of Training Recovery Plan - The increased training needs caused by Covid have not been included in the portfolio’s recovery plan. • Use of Spreadsheet & data quality - The training record is being kept on a spreadsheet rather than a database and has limitations of use. • Job Description - personal responsibility for continuous improvement - The requirement for operatives to be responsible for attending training and highlighting any skill gaps is not included in the job descriptions.

3 Action Plan:

Priority	Description
High (Red)	Action is imperative to ensure that the objectives of the area under review are met.
Medium (Amber)	Requires action to avoid exposure to significant risks in achieving the objectives of the area.
Low (Green)	Action encouraged to enhance control or improve operational efficiency.

No.	Findings and Implications	Agreed Action	Who	When
1 (R)	<p><u>Clarity of mandatory and non-mandatory training requirement</u></p> <p>The service needs to be able to demonstrate that all operatives have the requisite mandatory training to discharge their responsibilities safely.</p> <p>The service maintains a training spreadsheet (Compliance & Training team) which is sent weekly to the managers and supervisors, this is based on the main rota of operatives which records the availability of all staff.</p> <p>We tried to analyse the data to provide assurance that all operatives have an up to date set of mandatory training for their role. Testing identified that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spreadsheet does not distinguish between mandatory and non-mandatory training. It shows 60% of operatives will be overdue for training in the next 1-3 months, but it does not highlight which are mandatory and which are added value and personal development courses. The reporting of training in the Health & Safety report and to senior management again reports the numbers of training sessions undertaken by the operatives. There is nothing to state if these were statutory training or not. Interrogation of the spreadsheet is difficult due to size 	<p>We are pleased the testing did not identify any instances of any operatives asked to do work for which they were not trained.</p> <p>A training matrix will be developed to identify mandatory training required for each role. This will be a project for all the supervisors and managers with the Streetscene Service Manager ensuring the action is implemented by the agreed due date.</p> <p>The training spreadsheet will be redesigned to ensure statutory and non-statutory training are easily identified and training reports can specify how much training has been completed in the mandatory areas. Senior Compliance & Training Officer will report progress to the Streetscene Service Manager to ensure Pentana is updated with either an implementation date or revised due date if necessary.</p> <p>URN 03254</p>	Neil Cox	31/03/2022

Fudalen 85

No.	Findings and Implications	Agreed Action	Who	When
	<p>a high number of duplicates (see URN 03239).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accuracy of data is an issue, whilst these have been reported to the Training and Compliance team, there is a risk data will not be reported accurately (see URN 03239). <p>The service has documents which state which training and skills are needed for each role, however this is not linked with the training spreadsheet. Management state they rarely refer to the documents in practice when producing the weekly work rotas (see URN 03223).</p> <p>If statutory training is not recorded and reported separately, it becomes more difficult to produce useful management information to help with the decision making on budgets and staffing needed for training a large and varied work force.</p>			
2 (R)	<p><u>Reliance on Manager awareness of Training Requirements for Roles and Jobs</u></p> <p>There are documents which state which training and skills are needed for each role, however these are rarely referenced by the Managers and Supervisors. The Manager also states he does not use the training record as it is confusing, and of such a size it is slow to open and prone to crashing.</p> <p>The service is heavily reliant on the extensive knowledge of the Logistics Manager and his team of supervisors. However this is not an adequate control. This form of control relies on nothing changing in both the workforce and in statutory training regulations.</p> <p>There is a risk, staff absence and turnover (including</p>	<p>Once the training matrix has been developed (see 3254), the information will be used to help restructure the training spreadsheet (see also 3239). Data protection regulations will be observed in how the spreadsheet will be made available to all relevant managers and supervisors. With these two documents there will be a process for managers and supervisors to show which training is required and which operative has the relevant, up to date skills.</p> <p>URN 03223</p>	Gemma Boniface	30/04/2022

No.	Findings and Implications	Agreed Action	Who	When
	<p>managers and supervisors) and changes in the regulations determining training and skills would negate local knowledge and could result in unskilled operatives being assigned roles for which they were not trained.</p> <p>With no processes or system in place for checking the training and skills needed for each role to the training and skills an operative has, there is a risk the Council could face insurance claims and sanctions by HSE if unskilled/untrained operatives are tasked to do a job and caused harm to themselves or others.</p>			
3 (A)	<p><u>Risk management – operational risk not acknowledged</u></p> <p>The Council has a risk management framework which defines how risks are identified, recorded, managed and reported. The framework encourages that all risks should be reflected in the risk register, the controls recorded in the risk method statement and that management use the monitoring and reporting processes to review and score their risks based on evidence and performance data. This gives the services, portfolio and council sufficient assurance that risks are being managed and mitigated appropriately.</p> <p>Whilst there are two risks relating to statutory training on the S&T portfolio register (ST16 and ST30) they are both in regard to the difficulties posed by the Pandemic.</p> <p>The overall risk to ensure an effective statutory training strategy for a large and varied workforce is in place, monitored and managed is not included within the S&T portfolio risk register. The risk of an operative undertaking work for which they are not trained causing</p>	<p>Portfolio risks are reviewed on a monthly basis. The team will expand the stated risks to specify the risk associated with training a large and varied work force. This can be completed at the next monthly review in December.</p> <p>Risk Method Statements for these newly stated risks will be completed by the end of January</p> <p>URN 03196</p>	Ruth Tully	31/01/2022

No.	Findings and Implications	Agreed Action	Who	When
	<p>harm to themselves or others could result in insurance claims, financial loss and reputational damage from a Health & Safety Executive (HSE) investigation and improvement notice.</p> <p>Identifying risks and regularly reviewing them creates a culture where compliance and control is examined and continuously improved. This becomes part of the compliance checks to correctly train operatives or assign them to the right work. It also enables management to demonstrate the effectiveness of their strategy. Failure to state risks can result in a culture of stagnation and failure of service improvement.</p>			
4 (A)	<p><u>Lack of S&T Training Strategy or Policy</u> Currently S&T does not have a specific training strategy or policy, rather it relies on the Council's corporate policy. S&T have many operative roles which require statutory training. Jobs cannot be completed by an untrained member of staff. A specific training policy would set out the portfolio's arrangements and responsibilities for providing statutory training to operatives.</p> <p>Without a specific policy there is a risk there is no consistent standard to which compliance checks are carried out.</p> <p>There is a risk the roles of the various staff are unclear and lines are blurred between duties.</p> <p>There is also a risk the requirement for operatives to be responsible for attending training and raising training needs with supervisors is not being stated.</p>	<p>The Senior Management team are currently developing a People Management Strategy with HR and the Corporate Training team. A training strategy for S&T will be developed in conjunction with this strategy.</p> <p>URN 03219</p>	Katie Wilby	30/04/2022

No.	Findings and Implications	Agreed Action	Who	When
	A dedicated training policy would help to form part of the risk management of stated training risks.			
5 (A)	<p><u>Lack of Training Recovery Plan</u> Currently 60% of training logged on the system is overdue or due in the next 6 months. The service is in the process of recruiting 50 new operatives. Many will come from current long term agency staff, however they will add to the already increased training needs, The Training Manager does have a plan to increase training and introduce more e-learning were viable, however this is not part of the Portfolio's strategic recovery plan.</p> <p>During the height of the pandemic Welsh Government (WG) allowed some required training renewal to lapse, however as we continue to move out of the crisis period, it is unlikely this leniency will continue . With the majority of operatives' training in need of renewal and a planned recruitment of 50 operatives, not including training in the portfolio's recovery plan fails to acknowledge the scale of the training needs created by the pandemic and the risks to the portfolio if the workforce's skills and training is not brought up to date.</p> <p>A plan would be able to set out the seriousness of the task ahead of the training team, it would also show the costs and capacity the service needs to complete the training of their large workforce.</p>	<p>The issues to Statutory training caused by Covid and how the service will meet the increased need for training will be specified within the Recovery Plan. This will be done in conjunction with the updating of the Risk Register (see 3196)</p> <p>URN 03222</p>	Ruth Tully	30/01/2022
6 (A)	<p><u>Use of spreadsheet and quality of data held</u> The details of operatives, training received and due to expire is held in an internal spreadsheet, this is the document of record and would be used in any external</p>	The service acknowledges the training spreadsheet has, due to its size, become a problematic system. Currently the spreadsheet is backed up weekly to ensure	Gemma Boniface	31/04/2022

Tudalen 90

No.	Findings and Implications	Agreed Action	Who	When
	<p>audit by HSE. This is maintained by the Training Team, from reviewing this document it is clear the record is regularly maintained and updated. It is also clear they are monitoring when training has to be renewed.</p> <p>However the training record is nearly 6000 rows long and the manner in which it has been designed it will only get longer. Each time an operative attends a new training session (not updates training) another line is added duplicating name, payroll reference etc. Excel spreadsheets have a variety of tools for analysing data and can be an excellent programme, however it is not a database and the larger a sheet is the more unstable it becomes.</p> <p>The stability of a large sheet relies on the size of computer memory and speed. In the Council we use the thin client model, meaning all users access the program from a central online source. The reliance then is on the size of our servers, which is limited in the Council. This means larger spreadsheets will struggle and will be liable to corruption and loss of data. Managers have reported they find using the spreadsheet difficult and find that it can crash and be unstable when sorted.</p> <p>Analysis of the data found:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of operatives who had been recorded with multiple payroll references. This could mean the training has been recorded under the wrong name. This was caused by Excel not copying the cell above but continuing the sequence and the Training Officer not identifying the error. This has been communicated to the team and rectified. • Duplicate names, payroll reference and courses, this due to the design of the spreadsheet and 	<p>the safety of the data. The Compliance Manager is also concerned about the free entry on the spreadsheet which allows for errors to be more easily introduced.</p> <p>In the short term the training spreadsheet will be restructured in conjunction with the development of the training matrix to make it more stable and easier to use and to obtain management information from.</p> <p>In the longer term a business case will be produced and presented for the purchase and introduction of a staff training management database.</p> <p>URN 03239</p>		

No.	Findings and Implications	Agreed Action	Who	When
	<p>makes it difficult to obtain useful management information using Excel tools.</p> <p>Whilst it is clear the Training Team are diligent in maintaining the training record, they are using a spreadsheet which is not an ideal system for the type and large amount of data being added. There is a risk data may be lost or corrupted due to the limits of the excel system, due to the size of the record it is not a simple task to carry out regular data cleanse or spot errors.</p>			
7 (G)	<p><u>Job Description - personal responsibility for continuous improvement</u></p> <p>There are job descriptions for all level of operatives in Streetscene, they are comprehensive in listing the principal accountabilities and knowledge and skills required for each post. Whilst they state all work must be completed in compliance with H&S regulations and to an expected standard, there is no requirement stated for continuous improvement and maintenance of skills and knowledge.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the Council to ensure they only use the appropriately skilled operatives to carry out duties, and to funding or host training events however it should be the responsibility of the operative to actively take part in the training and raise skill gaps with their supervisor/manager.</p> <p>By sharing the responsibility between both the Council and the operative it will help promote a culture of continuous improvement resulting in a highly skilled workforce.</p>	<p>Changing the job descriptions requires a re-negotiation with the Unions. The risk can be addressed by including the requirement for operatives to be pro-active in taking part in training in both the induction and in letters of appointment. These changes can be made immediately so all future appointments can be advised of their responsibility to take part in the training provided by the Council.</p> <p>For current employees it will be highlighted in one-to-ones and supervisions.</p> <p>URN 03220</p>	Katie Wilby	31/12/2021

Tudalen 91

4 Distribution List:

Name	Title
Neil Cox	Officer Accountable for the Implementation of Agreed Actions
Katie Wilby	Chief Officer – Streetscene and Transport
Neil Cox	Streetscene Service Manager
Ruth Tulley	Programme Manager
Barry Wilkinson	Highways Network Manager
Gemma Boniface	Senior Compliance & Training Officer
Gareth Thomas (Streetscene)	Logistics Manager

Tudalen 92

Appendix A – Audit Opinion:

The audit opinion is the level of assurance that Internal Audit can give to management and all other stakeholders on the adequacy and effectiveness of controls within the area audited. It is assessed following the completion of the audit and is based on the findings from the audit. Progress on the implementation of agreed actions will be monitored. Findings from **Some** or **Limited** assurance audits will be reported to the Audit Committee.

Assurance	Explanation
Green - Substantial	<p>Strong controls in place (all or most of the following)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key controls exist and are applied consistently and effectively • Objectives achieved in a pragmatic and cost effective manner • Compliance with relevant regulations and procedures • Assets safeguarded • Information reliable <p>Conclusion: key controls have been adequately designed and are operating effectively to deliver the key objectives of the system, process, function or service.</p>
Amber Green – Reasonable	<p>Key Controls in place but some fine tuning required (one or more of the following)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key controls exist but there are weaknesses and / or inconsistencies in application though no evidence of any significant impact • Some refinement or addition of controls would enhance the control environment • Key objectives could be better achieved with some relatively minor adjustments <p>Conclusion: key controls generally operating effectively.</p>
Amber Red – Some	<p>Significant improvement in control environment required (one or more of the following)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key controls exist but fail to address all risks identified and / or are not applied consistently and effectively • Evidence of (or the potential for) financial / other loss • Key management information exists but is unreliable • System / process objectives are not being met, or are being met at an unnecessary cost or use of resources. <p>Conclusion: key controls are generally inadequate or ineffective.</p>
Red – Limited	<p>Urgent system revision required (one or more of the following)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key controls are absent or rarely applied • Evidence of (or the potential for) significant financial / other losses • Key management information does not exist • System / process objectives are not being met, or are being met at a significant and unnecessary cost or use of resources. <p>Conclusion: a lack of adequate or effective controls.</p>

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn bwrpasol

Eitem ar gyfer y Rhaglen 7



ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	13 th September 2022
Report Subject	Ash Dieback Update
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Countryside & Economy
Report Author	Andrew Farrow Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report provides an update on how Flintshire County Council has addressed Ash Dieback in 2021/22 in line with the *2019 Ash Dieback Action Plan* (as presented to Informal Cabinet 10th September 2019). It also reports on the recommendations following an internal audit in July 2021. A previous update was reported to Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12th May 2021.

The 2019 Ash Dieback Action Plan identified and proposed ways in which to manage the risk and costs associated to Ash Dieback, highlighting where infected Ash trees have an increased risk to public safety and the financial cost incurred to the Council.

To moderate and manage the risk associated to Ash Dieback, a series of surveys have been undertaken to assess the distribution and disease classification of roadside Ash trees for primary and secondary roads. A programme of tree removal is ongoing for Flintshire owned trees and landowners with infected trees have been contacted to highlight the presence of Ash Dieback in their trees, with an expectation that they will manage their own trees to mitigate the risks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Members note the content of this update and support the officers in their ongoing work associated with Ash Dieback.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE ASH DIEBACK UPDATE
1.01	<p>The Disease in Flintshire</p> <p>Ash Dieback was first confirmed in Flintshire on the A55 at Northop by Forestry Commission plant health staff in 2015. In 2016 it was found in a woodland near Rhydymwyn on Ash that had been cut down underneath overhead power cables.</p>
1.02	<p>It is evident that since being initially recorded Ash Dieback is now endemic in the county and widely distributed. It is estimated that Flintshire has approximately 24,000 ash trees growing outside the woodland environment adjacent to the highway.</p>
1.03	<p>Responding to the disease</p> <p>Flintshire County Council are focusing on the Ash trees that pose the most risk to the public, whether these trees are growing on Council or privately owned land. The Council has published an Ash Dieback Action Plan which can be found on the Council's web pages here:-</p> <p>https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/LeisureAndTourism/Countryside-and-Coast/Ash-Dieback.aspx</p>
1.04	<p>Survey</p> <p>Officers are now in an annual cycle of survey and inspection to identify, monitor and classify infected Ash trees growing adjacent to Flintshire's roads.</p> <p>These surveys have verified the position, size and characteristics of the roadside ash trees/groups of ash trees, ownership and the disease infection classification - 1 to 4, (with 4 being the "most serious").</p> <p>This information is recorded on a GIS program and will aid officers with the management of Flintshire County Council's infected Ash trees and prompt officers (under Section 154 of the Highways Act) to notify private landowners to make safe their diseased roadside Ash trees.</p>
1.5	<p>To simplify the surveying process into manageable sizes, the highways network was subdivided into roads which were deemed to be of a high priority roads (Red), secondary roads (Amber) and other roads (blank). Priority appointment level being speed of traffic, volume of traffic and the general character of the traffic.</p>
1.6	<p>All priority roads have been surveyed from a vehicle to map the general disease spread. This then prioritises the areas to follow up with a foot survey and tree inspection.</p> <p>To date 145,603m or 67% of the priority roads and 23,460m or 25% of the secondary roads have been surveyed. With 50% of combined priority and</p>

	secondary compartments remaining to be surveyed, it is anticipated that the foot survey will be completed in 2023.										
1.7	Information obtained in the foot survey is used by the administration team to direct land searches (to identify landowners with infected trees), quantify the extent of the work and to officially prompt the Authority to instruct landowners to engage with the management of infected Ash trees										
1.8	To date our survey data shows that the vast majority of infected trees are on private land and although the Authority have powers to deal with these trees, the approach currently adopted is to target owners with Class 3 & 4 trees, emphasise their responsibility and encourage landowners to manage their own trees. (via a series of letters). It is difficult to predict which landowners will/can take the responsible view.										
1.9	The school baseline tree survey is complete with initial remedial work accomplished, with future activities focusing on monitoring tree health and responding as and when necessary. Countryside sites are monitored in-house and infected Ash trees are systematically removed within the winter felling programme. It is proposed that greenspaces will be subject to an initial baseline tree survey in 2022 (as per schools) with subsequent work acted upon recommendations										
1.10	<p>Summary Data</p> <p>Searches completed on 24 road compartments (out of 93) and represents all the red high priority compartments</p> <p>Total trees searched and surveyed up to March 2022:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>TOTALS</th> <th>Class 1</th> <th>Class 2</th> <th>Class 3</th> <th>Class 4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5229</td> <td>729</td> <td>1395</td> <td>1133</td> <td>1972</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>3105 (Flintshire, Unregistered and Private) recorded as class 3 and 4</p>	TOTALS	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	5229	729	1395	1133	1972
TOTALS	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4							
5229	729	1395	1133	1972							
1.11	<p>253 Private Owners have been identified and written to. 108 have already taken action (action is identified as either felling their trees or providing an indication that they will manage/fell their trees).</p> <p>If a landowner does not act to remove a potential threat to the highway, then Flintshire may issue a Sect 154 notice and ultimately undertake the work and attempt to recoup the cost. This extent of this work is unknown.</p>										
1.12	<p>Flintshire Action</p> <p>1295 Ash trees have been recorded as Flintshire owned trees within the red compartments</p> <p>It is accepted that Flintshire will assume the responsibility for Ash trees growing on unregistered land. The number of unregistered trees within the red compartments is 857</p>										

	It is estimated that around 4-5000 unregistered Ash trees are growing adjacent to the highway across the county.
1.13	Action to deal with the 1295 Flintshire owned trees: 2020-2022 FCC owned trees felled – 218 2022–2023 Number of trees planned to be felled - 1077
1.14	Work on ‘recovery’ to re-plant the trees lost due to this disease will begin once the risk to highway has been reduced and officer time can be reprioritised to focus on planting.
1.15	The 2018 Urban Tree and Woodland Plan aims to increase canopy cover across Flintshire and clearly Ash Dieback presents a challenge in achieving the 3.5% target with so many trees having to be removed. However in February 2022 officers were able to offset the recent losses by utilising Welsh Governments Woodland Improvement Grant to plant 5000 new trees at Wepre Park.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS			
2.01	<p>Currently there is no allocated budget to deal with Ash Dieback and is being reflected as an in-year portfolio pressure.</p> <p>The programme of work is generating a substantial amount of additional work, and is currently being absorbed into Officer work programmes. However, this is having an impact on existing day to day duties of key officers, in particular the Tree Inspector who reports that the ongoing and regular Highways and Open-space tree inspections are behind schedule, and response times to inspect trees on request from customers is taking longer. This time delay may lead to an increase in risk in dealing with potentially unsafe trees. The Tree Inspector has also ceased undertaking work for Housing and Valuation & Estates teams.</p>			
2.02	Staffing cost 2021/22			
	Position	Grade	ADB Role	ADB Time Commitment/ Cost
	Woodland Officer	G7	Coordinate/Dev. Programmes Develop and Trial Surveys Survey Roadside Trees Liaise with landowners Co-manage information posts Offer Advice and Training. Research	90% £47,000
	Admin Support	G2	Organise and Administer Files	40%

			Coordinate email response and phone hub. Land searches Organise and if necessary redraft and send out letters and information posts	£10,400
	Tree Inspector	G7	Survey (Ezytreev) Highways link officer. Liaise with landowners. Supervision/manage tree resource	20% £10,400
	Manager	G11	Project overview, management control and coordination. Senior Officer reporting	5% £4,100
2.03	Currently it is anticipated with the current staffing resource levels, the foot survey will not be completed until 2023. This allows a degree of risk that there may be trees unknown which have reached class 4 disease state.			
2.04	Early surveys indicated that Ash Dieback maybe accelerating through the disease classification. The 2022 survey, with hot and dry weather, may show a change in pace as the disease thrives better in damp conditions. The pace of the disease is crucial in planning our response as the current staffing provision may not keep pace with a. identifying class 3 and 4 trees; b. identifying the landowners and communicating with them the inherent risk to the highway and c. the capacity of the Tree Inspector to coordinate works to remove the trees.			
2.05	<p>Current average tree felling cost £120</p> <p>Estimated felling cost of FCC owned trees adjacent to the highway in red compartments - £155,400.</p> <p>Estimated felling cost of trees growing on un registered land in red compartments - £102,840</p> <p>Estimated cost to remove private trees through Sect 154 notice is yet to be defined, however on current figures were expecting 20% of private trees to go through to notice and with a likelihood that FCC will undertake the works and endeavour to recoup the costs. This is estimated to be 2000 trees and cost £240,000</p>			

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Local members and Town & Community Councils are notified of upcoming works to fell infected ash trees adjacent to the Highway. Landowners are notified when infected ash trees on their property are posing a risk to the Highway with a request for them to make safe.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	<p>Internal audit</p> <p>A review of the management of Ash Dieback was undertaken as part of the approved Internal Audit Strategic Plan for 2021/22</p>
4.02	<p>A black inherent risk (catastrophic impact/ very high to extremely high likelihood) relating to Ash Dieback has been raised in the Council's Corporate Risk Register. The risk focuses on the implications of Ash Dieback on finances and reputation of the Council due to the scale of the problem and the ability to make safe highways and Council amenity land</p>
4.03	<p>Audit considered the adequacy and effectiveness of the controls in place to manage the risks and identified some improvements to controls with an amber red assurance rating reported.</p>
4.04	<p>Positive Audit findings</p> <p>The Ash Dieback Action Plan 2019 is comprehensive and identifies the key expected risks to the Council. It also sets out the strategy to address the risks identified.</p> <p>Legal Counsel Advice was sought in July 2020 to assess the adequacy of the Ash Dieback Action Plan 2019. The review by Legal Counsel concluded the plan approach was sound provided it was properly implemented.</p> <p>A number of updates have been provided to Senior Management and Members on progress of the Ash Dieback Action Plan 2019.</p>
4.05	<p>Areas for improvement</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>A formal detailed delivery plan to be devised for the removal of Flintshire owned trees and those on unregistered land, with timescales/targets to be established.</p> <p>Explore reporting capabilities from ARCGIS system and routinely generate management information to provide progress updates against newly established targets.</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>A highways delivery and risk management plan has been produced.</p> <p>A review of ARCGIS was carried out and found that the reporting functions and management capabilities were inadequate, therefore work has shifted to use the existing Ezytreev programme to more effectively manage Ash Dieback information.</p>
4.06	<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>The outstanding work to identify the ownership of trees on private land and to send out first stage letters to those private landowners to be completed as quickly as possible.</p> <p>A review of all customer communication and effectiveness to be completed and management information to be introduced to oversee action plan deliverables.</p> <p>Action:</p>

	<p>All landowners within red, high priority compartments have been identified and written to. Work is ongoing to identify landowners in the next priority area.</p> <p>A review of the 4 stage letters was carried out with audit recommendations included.</p>
4.07	<p>Recommendation: Reports to senior management and members will be maintained at 6 monthly intervals. Reports will include performance targets and details of progress against these targets to ensure Senior Management and Members have a clear understanding of the success of the actions in mitigating risk.</p> <p>Action: This report is the first of such</p>
4.08	<p>Recommendation: A project/plan risk register incorporating strategic and operational risks to be compiled and regularly reviewed (at least quarterly) to assess impact on project/plan deliverables. Risk Method Statements (supporting corporate risk PE12) to be update every 6 months in line with designated timescales.</p> <p>Action: An operational risk register has been written as part of the delivery plan and will be reviewed every quarter.</p>
4.09	All audit recommendations have now been completed and closed.

5.00	APPENDICES

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Contact Officer: Tom Woodall, Access & Natural Environment Manager Telephone: 01352 703902 E-mail: tom.woodall@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) is a native ash tree found in nearly every part of the UK. Ash is typically found in hedgerows, highway verges and un-grazed land and a wide variety of urban spaces including, open spaces, semi-urban woodlands, parks, private gardens, schools and cemeteries.</p>
7.02	<p>Ash Dieback (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>) is a fungal pathogen that affects the UK's native ash trees. The disease arrived in Europe from Asia in the 1990s and spread rapidly on the continent. The disease was first recorded in Britain in 2012.</p>

Eitem ar gyfer y Rhaglen 8



ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 13 th September 2022
Report Subject	Council Plan 2022-23 Timeline Review
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council Plan for 2022-23 was adopted by County Council in July. The Plan was reviewed and refreshed for content following on from our response to the pandemic and our Recovery Strategy. The themes and priorities remain the same to 2021/22 however there are some developments with sub-priorities.

The outline of the Council Plan for 2022/23 including the six themes, their priorities and actions is appended (as Part 1).

At County Council in July, it was requested Overview and Scrutiny Committee's review; (1) action timelines; and (2) some of the definitions be reviewed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To agree Council Plan Part 1 reviewed and updated timelines for completion
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	COUNCIL PLAN 2022/23
1.01	It is a requirement of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for organisations to 'set out any actions to increase the extent to which the council is meeting the performance requirements.' Plans for organisations should be robust; be clear on where it wants to go; and how it will get there.
1.02	<p>In July, County Council requested a review of timelines due to several target completion dates being set as March 2023. This review has been carried out for each of the actions of the Council Plan and is appended for reference. The dates have been reviewed by officers to ensure accurate targets are now identified. The document contains the updated target dates and rationale for the changes or no changes. The three categories of rationale are:</p> <p>Core Business – activity is ongoing; Project – activity has clear start and end dates; and New Initiative – activity has clear start date which may develop in the future.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Resource implications have been considered during preparation of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Capital Programme and will continue to be monitored during the regular budget monitoring and financial review arrangements.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	All Members have had the opportunity to consider and review the content of the draft Plan themes and priorities. Overview and Scrutiny Committees have reviewed and discussed the overall content of the Plan throughout January and February 2022.

4.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT						
4.01	<p>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td rowspan="5">The Council Plan 2022/23 continues to be aligned to the Sustainable Development Principles across all their working. Assessment against these will be made at the end of year Annual Performance Report.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> </tr> </table> <p>Well-being Goals Impact</p>	Long-term	The Council Plan 2022/23 continues to be aligned to the Sustainable Development Principles across all their working. Assessment against these will be made at the end of year Annual Performance Report.	Prevention	Integration	Collaboration	Involvement
Long-term	The Council Plan 2022/23 continues to be aligned to the Sustainable Development Principles across all their working. Assessment against these will be made at the end of year Annual Performance Report.						
Prevention							
Integration							
Collaboration							
Involvement							

	Prosperous Wales Resilient Wales Healthier Wales More equal Wales Cohesive Wales Vibrant Wales Globally responsible Wales	Council Plan 2022/23 continues to provide evidence of alignment with the Well-being Goals. Specific strategic and policy reports include impact and risk assessments.
	<p>Risk Management Risks have been captured and added for information within Part 2 Council Plan 2022/23.</p>	

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1: Council Plan (Part 1) 2022-23 Timeline Review (Streetscene & Transportation). Appendix 2: Council Plan (Part 1) 2022-23 Timeline Review (Planning, Environment & Economy).

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None

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.
8.02	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.

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn bwrpasol

Portfolio	Task Description	Task Estimated Completion Date	New Estimated Completion Date	Task Type
Streetscene and Transportation	Converting the authority's fleet to electric and alternative fuels (hydrogen etc)	31/03/2023	31/03/2030	New Initiative
Streetscene and Transportation	Promoting the use of public transport through the further development of the Council's core bus network	31/03/2023	No Change	Core Business
Streetscene and Transportation	Promoting multi modal transport journeys and the development of strategic transport hubs	31/03/2023	No Change	Core Business
Streetscene and Transportation	Developing the County's electric car charging network	31/03/2023	31/12/2022	New Initiative
Streetscene and Transportation	Promoting active travel and further developing the County's walking and cycling network	31/03/2023	No Change	Core Business
Streetscene and Transportation	Achieving Welsh Government recycling targets	31/03/2023	31/03/2025	Core Business
Streetscene and Transportation	Support and promote Re-Use and Repair initiatives in partnership with Refurbs Flintshire	31/03/2023	No Change	Project
Streetscene and Transportation	Promoting the option to reuse and repair unwanted items at Household Recycling Centres by partnering with local Charities or social enterprises	31/03/2023	No Change	New Initiative
Streetscene and Transportation	Working in partnership, actively support and engage with community led groups by developing recycling initiatives	31/03/2023	No Change	New Initiative
Streetscene and Transportation	Developing and delivering transport infrastructure improvements as part of North Wales Metro programme and the Council's Integrated Transport Strategy	31/03/2023	No Change	Core Business
Streetscene and Transportation	Ensuring Flintshire strategic transport priorities are well-represented in the Regional Transport Plan from the forthcoming Corporate Joint Committee development	31/03/2023	No Change	Project
Streetscene and Transportation	Working in partnership, actively support and engage with community led groups by developing Local Environmental Quality initiatives	31/03/2023	31/03/2024	New Initiative

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn bwrpasol

Portfolio	Task Description	Task Estimated Completion Date	New Estimated Completion Date	Task Type
Planning, Environment and Economy	Reducing the risk of fuel poverty for residents by increasing the energy efficiency of homes	31/03/2023	No Change	Core Business
Planning, Environment and Economy	Engaging, supporting and referring vulnerable households to reduce fuel poverty and improve health and wellbeing	31/03/2023	No Change	Core Business
Planning, Environment and Economy	Mapping Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO's) across Flintshire to ensure legal minimum housing standards are met and to improve residents' quality of life	31/03/2023	No Change	Project
Planning, Environment and Economy	Bringing empty homes back into use through the Empty Homes Loan	31/03/2023	No Change	Core Business
Planning, Environment and Economy	Exploring opportunities to develop a project management service for non-commercial landlords to encourage take up of the Empty Home Loan Scheme	31/03/2023	No Change	New Initiative
Planning, Environment and Economy	Targeting 'problem' empty homes in our communities and use enforcement powers where appropriate to improve our communities and increase housing supply	31/03/2023	No Change	Core Business
Planning, Environment and Economy	Exploring opportunities to maximise housing and revitalise our towns through the redevelopment of the High Street	31/03/2023	No Change	Project
Planning, Environment and Economy	Gathering information on annual Council greenhouse gas emissions to submit to Welsh Government and the Carbon Programme Board	30/09/2022	No Change	Core Business
Planning, Environment and Economy	Reviewing the procurement policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from suppliers	30/09/2022	30/09/2022	New Initiative
Planning, Environment and Economy	Developing plans towards net zero carbon for our assets in line with Welsh Government guidance	31/03/2023	No Change	Core Business
Planning, Environment and Economy	Working with Flintshire's leisure and culture trust partners to reduce carbon emissions	31/03/2023	No Change	New Initiative
Planning, Environment and Economy	Reviewing the Council's Flood Risk Management Strategy	31/03/2023	No Change	Core Business
Planning, Environment and Economy	Reviewing the Council's Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment	30/11/2022	30/11/2022	Core Business
Planning, Environment and Economy	Carrying out flood investigations and alleviation works where appropriate	31/03/2023	No Change	Core Business
Planning, Environment and Economy	Assessing the feasibility of schemes within land assets for resisting flood and drought while enhancing biodiversity and increasing carbon storage	31/01/2023	31/01/2023	Project
Planning, Environment and Economy	Enhancing the natural environment through the delivery of the Section 6 Environment Act Wales biodiversity duty	31/03/2023	No Change	Project
Planning, Environment and Economy	Delivering an increase in canopy cover as part of the Urban Tree and Woodland Plan	31/03/2023	No Change	Project
Planning, Environment and Economy	Delivery of green infrastructure projects under the Local Places for Nature grant funding stream	31/03/2023	No Change	Project
Planning, Environment and Economy	Exploring opportunities to develop the Flintshire Coast Park through the production of a scoping study	31/03/2023	31/12/2022	Project
Planning, Environment and Economy	Delivering the Rights of Way Improvement Plan with a focus to ensure improved access for all and the promotions of Walking for Health	31/03/2023	No Change	Core Business
Planning, Environment and Economy	Assessing the feasibility of renewable energy and land assets and link to wider carbon ambitions	31/03/2023	No Change	New Initiative
Planning, Environment and Economy	Agreeing appropriate investment strategy for future renewable energy developments	31/03/2023	No Change	New Initiative
Planning, Environment and Economy	Support local businesses in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient	31/03/2023	No Change	New Initiative

Portfolio	Task Description	Task Estimated Completion Date	New Estimated Completion Date	Task Type
Planning, Environment and Economy	Monitoring the health and vitality of town centres to support effective management and business investment decisions	31/03/2023	No Change	Project
Planning, Environment and Economy	Encouraging and support investment in town centre properties especially to facilitate more sustainable uses	31/03/2023	No Change	Project
Planning, Environment and Economy	Improving the environment in town centres	31/03/2023	No Change	Project
Planning, Environment and Economy	Supporting the growth of community enterprises in town centre locations	31/03/2023	No Change	Project
Planning, Environment and Economy	Engaging town centre small businesses and improve support packages available to them	31/03/2023	No Change	Project
Planning, Environment and Economy	Supporting small and/or local businesses to engage with public sector procurement opportunities	31/03/2023	No Change	Project
Planning, Environment and Economy	Supporting recovery of the County's Street and indoor markets	31/03/2023	No Change	Project
Planning, Environment and Economy	Supporting growth of the local and regional food and drink business sector through marketing and collaborative projects	31/03/2023	No Change	New Initiative
Planning, Environment and Economy	Supporting recovery of the tourism and hospitality sectors and rebuild confidence in the industry	31/03/2023	No Change	New Initiative
Planning, Environment and Economy	Supporting local businesses in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient	31/03/2023	No Change	New Initiative
Planning, Environment and Economy	Increasing the scale and impact of the social business sector	31/03/2023	No Change	Project
Planning, Environment and Economy	Starting delivery of the local plans within North Wales Growth Deal for digital infrastructure	31/03/2023	No Change	Project
Planning, Environment and Economy	Connecting further rural communities to improved digital infrastructure	31/03/2023	No Change	Project
Planning, Environment and Economy	Ensuring timely adoption of the LDP once Inspector's Report received	31/12/2022	No Change	Core Business
Planning, Environment and Economy	Monitoring overall Plan performance via the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and submit to Welsh Government	31/03/2023	No Change	Core Business
Planning, Environment and Economy	Maintaining and updating the LDP Housing Trajectory in line with planning decisions made	31/03/2023	No Change	Core Business
Planning, Environment and Economy	Making decisions at Planning Committee in line with the adopted LDP	31/03/2023	No Change	Core Business
Planning, Environment and Economy	Referencing the LDP growth strategy in early work on a North Wales Strategic Development Plan (SDP)	31/03/2023	No Change	Core Business
Planning, Environment and Economy	Co-ordinating a multi-agency approach to support businesses to recruit people from disadvantaged groups	31/03/2023	No Change	Project
Planning, Environment and Economy	Delivering mentoring and wider support programmes to assist disadvantaged people to re-engage with the labour market	31/03/2023	No Change	Project