Pecyn Dogfen Gyhoeddus

Gareth Owens LL.B Barrister/Bargyfreithiwr
Chief Officer (Governance)
Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu)

Swyddog Cyswllt:
Nicola Gittins 01352 702345
nicola.gittins@flintshire.gov.uk

At: Cyng Ian Roberts (Arweinydd)

Y Cynghorwyr: Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Mared Eastwood, David Healey, Dave Hughes, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones a Billy Mullin

Dydd Mercher, 13 Medi 2023

Annwyl Gynghorydd,

RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD RHITHIOL
CABINET
DYDD MAWRTH, 19EG MEDI, 2023 10.00 AM

Yn gywir

Steven Goodrum
Rheolwr Gwasanaethau Democrataidd

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: Derbyn unrhyw ymddiheuriadau.

2	**DATGAN CYSYLLTIAD**

Pwrpas: I dderbyn ddatganiad o gysylltiada chynghori's Aelodau yn unol a hynny.

3	**COFNODION** (Tudalennau 7 - 18)

Pwrpas: Cadarnhau cofnodion y cyfarfodydd a 18 Gorffennaf 2023.

YSTRID YR ADRODDIADAU CANLYNOL

ADRODDIAD STRATEGOL

4	**STRATEGAETH ARIANNOL TYMOR CANOLIG A CHYLLIDEB 2024/25** (Tudalennau 19 - 32)

Adroddiad Rheolwr Cyllid Corfforaethol - Aelod Cabinet Cyllid, Cynhwysiant, Cymunedau Cryf gan gynnwys Gwerth Cymdeithasol a Chaffael

Pwrpas: Rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf ynglŷn â'r amcangyfrifon ar gyfer y gyllideb a'r strategaeth ar gyfer pennu cyllideb 2024/25 a chyfeirio at y Pwyllgorau Trosolwg a Chraffu perthnasol.

5	**BLAENORIAETHAU'R CYNLLUN CYFALAF STRATEGOL** (Tudalennau 33 - 40)

Adroddiad Prif Swyddog (Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol) - Dirprwy Arweinydd y Cyngor a'r Aelod Cabinet Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles

Pwrpas: Sicrhau bod y Cabinet yn cefnogi'r cynlluniau a flaenoriaethwyd a fydd yn cael eu datblygu gydag Achosion Busnes a gyflwynwyd i Lywodraeth Cymru i'w hystyried ar gyfer cyllid Cyfalaf.

ADRODDIADAU GWEITHREDOL

6	**ADRODDIAD DIWEDD BLWYDDYN YNGHYLCH PERFFORMIAD CYNLLUN Y CYNGOR 2022/23** (Tudalennau 41 - 164)

Adroddiad Prif Weithredwr - Aelod Cabinet Llywodraethu a Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol gan gynnwys Iechyd a Diogelwch ac Adnoddau Dynol

Pwrpas: Adolygu canlyniadau blynyddol Cynllun y Cyngor yn ôl y cynnydd a wnaed wrth gyflawni'r blaenoriaethau a bennwyd ynddo ar gyfer 2022/23.

7   MONITRO CYLLIDEB REFENIW 2023/24 (MIS 4) (Tudalennau 165 - 186)

Adroddiad Rheolwr Cyllid Corfforaethol - Aelod Cabinet Cyllid, Cynhwysiant, Cymunedau Cryf gan gynnwys Gwerth Cymdeithasol a Chaffael

Pwrpas: Mae'r adroddiad misol rheolaidd hwn yn darparu'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am fonitro cyllideb refeniw 2023/24 Cronfa'r Cyngor a'r Cyfrif Refeniw Tai. Mae'r sefyllfa yn seiliedig ar incwm a gwariant gwirioneddol fel yr oedd hyd at Fis 4 a rhagamcan ymlaen i ddiwedd y flwyddyn.

8   MONITRO RHAGLEN GYFALAF 2023/24 (MIS 4) (Tudalennau 187 - 214)

Adroddiad Rheolwr Cyllid Corfforaethol - Aelod Cabinet Cyllid, Cynhwysiant, Cymunedau Cryf gan gynnwys Gwerth Cymdeithasol a Chaffael

Pwrpas: Darparu gwybodaeth am Raglen Gyfalaf Mis 4 ar gyfer 2023/24.

9   ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL RHEOLI'R TRYSORLYS 2022/23 (Tudalennau 215 - 234)

Adroddiad Rheolwr Cyllid Corfforaethol - Aelod Cabinet Cyllid, Cynhwysiant, Cymunedau Cryf gan gynnwys Gwerth Cymdeithasol a Chaffael

Pwrpas: Cyflwyno Adroddiad Blynyddol Rheoli'r Trysorlys 2022/23 drafft i'r Aelodau i'w argymell i'r Cyngor.

10   CYFLWYNO ADRODDIAD HUNANWERTHUSO BLYNYDDOL GWASANAETHAU ADDYSG SIR Y FFLINT (Tudalennau 235 - 306)

Adroddiad Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid) - Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

Pwrpas: Mae'r Portffolio Addysg ac Ieuenctid yn hunanwerthuso'i wasanaethau addysg bob blwyddyn er mwyn rhoi sicrwydd i'r aelodau bod safonau addysg yn Sir yn Fflint yn dda a bod anghenion plant a phobl ifanc yn cael eu diwallu. Cynhyrchir yr adroddiad yn unol â Fframwaith Arolygu Estyn ar gyfer Gwasanaethau Addysg Llywodraeth Leol.

11   DILEU ARDRETHI BUSNES (Tudalennau 307 - 310)

Adroddiad Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu) - Aelod Cabinet Llywodraethu a Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol gan gynnwys Iechyd a Diogelwch ac Adnoddau Dynol

Pwrpas: Cabinet i gymeradwyo dileu drwgddyledion unigol ar gyfer Ardrethi Busnes dros £25,000.

| 12 | **SYSTEM TRIBIWNLYS NEWYDD I GYMRU** (Tudalennau 311 - 320) |

Adroddiad Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu) - Aelod Cabinet Llywodraethu a Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol gan gynnwys Iechyd a Diogelwch ac Adnoddau Dynol

Pwrpas: Ystyried a chymeradwyo ymateb Cyngor Sir y Fflint i Bapur Gwyn: System Tribiwnlys Newydd i Gymru.

| 13 | **ADOLYGU'R POLISI CYNNAL A CHADW YN Y GAEAF** (Tudalennau 321 - 346) |

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

Pwrpas: Ceisio cymeradwyaeth y Cabinet ar y Polisi Gwasanaeth Cynnal a Chadw yn y Gaeaf a Thywydd Garw a rhoi adolygiad o weithgareddau'r flwyddyn flaenorol.

| 14 | **YMARFER PWERAU DIRPRWEDIG** (Tudalennau 347 - 348) |

Pwrpas: Rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am effaith diwygiadau lles a'r Gwaith sy'n mynd rhagddo i'w lliniaru.

RHAGLAN GWAITH I'R DYFODOL - Y CYNGOR SIR, CABINET, PPWYLLGOR ARCHWILIO A'R WYLLGOR TROOLWG A CHRAFFU - ER GWYBODAETH

DEDDF LLYWODRAETH LEOL (MYNEDIAD I WYBODAETH) 1985 - YSTYRIED GWAHARDD Y WASG A'R CYHOEDD

Mae'r eitem a ganlyn yn cael ei hystyried yn eitem eithriedig yn rhinwedd Paragraff(au) 15, 16 Rhan 4 Atodiad 12A o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 (fel y cafodd ei diwygio)

Mae'r adroddiad yn cynnwys cyngor cyfreithiol sy'n ymwneud â materion cysylltiadau gweithwyr ac mae budd y cyhoedd o gadw'r wybodaeth yn ôl yn drech na budd y cyhoedd o ddatgelu'r wybodaeth nes bod y mater wedi'i ddatrys.

| 15 | **DULL AR GYFER TÂL GWYLIAU** (Tudalennau 381 - 386) |

Adroddiad Rheolwr Corfforaethol, Pobl a Datblygu Cyfundrefnol - Aelod Cabinet Llywodraethu a Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol gan gynnwys Iechyd a Diogelwch ac Adnoddau Dynol

Pwrpas: Trafod a chytuno ar ddull ar gyfer Tâl Gwyliau yng ngoleuni Dyfarniad y Goruchaf Lys yn achos Harpur Trust a Brazel.

Mae'r eitem a ganlyn yn cael ei hystyried yn eitem eithriedig yn rhinwedd Paragraff(au) 14 Rhan 4 Atodiad 12A o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 (fel y cafodd ei diwygio)

Mae budd y cyhoedd o gadw'r wybodaeth yn ôl yn drech na'r budd o'i datgelu hyd nes y bydd y contract wedi'i ddyfarnu.

16 **DATBLYGIAD CYFALAF CARTREF PRESWYL CROES ATTI** (Tudalennau 387 - 396)

Adroddiad Prif Swyddog (Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol) - Dirprwy Arweinydd y Cyngor a'r Aelod Cabinet Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles

Pwrpas: Gofyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cabinet i Gyngor Sir y Fflint ymrwymo i gytundeb â Willmott Dixon i adeiladu cartref gofal preswyl newydd â 56 o welyau yn y Fflint.

MATER BRYS O FUSNES

Mae Arweinydd y Cyngor wedi cymeradwo i'r Cabinet ystyried yr eitem fusnes gyfrinachol frys a ddangosir fel eitem 17 ar y rhaglen.

Mae'r eitem a ganlyn yn cael ei hystyried yn eitem eithriedig yn rhinwedd Paragraff(au) 14 Rhan 4 Atodiad 12A o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 (fel y cafodd ei diwygio)

Mae'r adroddiad yn ymwneud â thrafodaethau contract ac mae budd y cyhoedd o gadw'r wybodaeth yn ôl yn drech na budd y cyhoedd o ddatgelu'r wybodaeth hyd nes y bydd y contract wedi'i gwblhau.

17 **PROCUREMENT OF FLEET CONTRACT EXTENSION** (Tudalennau 397 - 400)

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

Pwrpas: Gofyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cabinet ar gyfer y cyfnod estyniad o 6 mis.

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

CABINET
18TH JULY 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet of Flintshire County Council held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday 18th July 2023.

PRESENT: Councillor Dave Hughes (Deputy Leader in the Chair)
Councillors: Sean Bibby, Mared Eastwood, Dave Healey, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones and Billy Mullin.

IN ATTENDANCE:
Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy), Chief Officer (Social Services), Corporate Finance Manager, Corporate Manager – Capital Programme and Assets, Corporate Manager, People and Organisational Development, Highway Network Manager, Strategic Performance Advisor, Senior Manager, Planning and Provision, Democratic Services Manager and Team Leader – Democratic Services.

APOLOGIES:
Councillor: Ian Roberts and Chris Bithell.

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Councillor Bernie Attridge.

20. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

    None.

21. **MINUTES**

    The minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2023 were submitted and confirmed as a correct record.

    RESOLVED:

    That the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record.

22. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY – BUDGET 2024/25**

    Councillor Johnson introduced the report and explained that the Council reviewed and updated the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) annually. The MTFS forecasted the resources the Council would need to meet its every changing cost base for the years ahead. Refining the forecast was the first step in planning the budget requirement for the following financial year.

    Following the initial projected budget requirement, the forecast for 2024/25 had been updated to take into account the latest national position on public sector pay, the estimated impact of changes to service demand and the ongoing impacts of

inflation. The revised forecast showed that, at this early stage, there was likely to be an additional budget requirement of £32.222m for 2024/25.

Appended to the report were the details of all of the cost pressures for 2024/25 as well as early indications of pressures for 2025/26 and 2026/27.

An all Member workshop was scheduled to take place on 31st July to enable Members to have a better understanding of the financial position and to contribute to a developing budget strategy.

A detailed budget strategy needed to be developed with urgency in parallel to contributing to national discussions on the financial outlook across Wales including any options available to increase the overall quantum available for local government.

The Corporate Finance Manager provided additional information on the reasons for the increase in the budget requirement.

The Democratic Services Manager explained that the report had been submitted to Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous week and no comments were made.

An outline of the budget timeline was set out in the report.

RESOLVED:

(a)   That the update on the additional budget requirement for the 2024/25 financial year be received; and

(b)   That the process and timeline for budget setting for 2024/25 be agreed.

23.   **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Chief Executive introduced the Annual Performance Report and explained that it reviewed the Council's progress against the Council Priorities as detailed in the Flintshire County Council Reporting Measures 2022/23.

2022/23 had seen the Council move out of the recovery approach as part of the Covid-19 pandemic and move into a more 'business as usual' approach. Performance against the Council Plan measures was positive overall with 61% of the performance indicators meeting or exceeding target for the year and the Council was now also reporting on more 'Actions' and 'Measures' than in 2021/22; a total of 160 Actions and 111 Measures compared to 2021/22 when 144 Actions and 60 Measures were reported upon.

The Chief Executive added that the performance for 2022/23 against the Council Plan Actions and Measures were summarised in a chart in the report. Overall progress against the actions were:

- Good (green) progress was achieved in 77% (123) of activities
- Satisfactory (amber) progress was achieved in 19% (31) of activities

- Limited (red) progress was made in 4% (6) of activities

The Report would be made available via the Council's website once published and paper copies would also be available with supporting documents.

Both Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee had continued to consider performance areas which under-performed (downward trend and/or low quartile benchmark position) throughout 2022/23.

RESOLVED:

That the 2022/23 Annual Performance Report be approved, noting performance achieved.

24. **LOCAL TOILET STRATEGY REVIEW**

The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) introduced the report and explained that Flintshire's current local toilet strategy was approved and published in May 2019. National guidelines stated that the policy should be reviewed every two years from when the local authority last published or last reviewed its strategy, and within one year of every ordinary local government election.

The strategy review was presented at the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee (E&EOSC) on 7th March 2023 where Members supported the proposed review to the local toilet strategy and the intended approach set out in the report. The purpose of the report was to provide Cabinet Members with an update following the publication of the consultation questionnaire and how the comments raised would be addressed in the proposed action plan.

The action plan would be incorporated within the new local toilet strategy prior to opening the formal 12-week consultation on the revised Local Toilet Strategy over the summer.

The new strategy aimed to reflect the ambition of the council's leadership to provide improved facilities for the residents and visitors of Flintshire.

The questionnaire received 687 responses with approximately 430 responses per question and a summary of the responses was provided.

A further report, to adopt the strategy would be submitted to Cabinet in the autumn.

RESOLVED:

(a)   That the results from the questionnaire be acknowledged and the action plan presented be supported; and

(b)   That the draft revision of the Local Toilet Strategy and renewed action plan prior to the launch of the 12-week consultation be supported.

25.   REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2022/23 (FINAL OUTTURN)

Councillor Johnson introduced the report which provided Members with the revenue budget final outturn position for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account for the financial year 2022/23 (subject to audit).

The Accounts for 2022/23 were now effectively closed, and the Council was on schedule to submit the formal Statement of Accounts and supporting notes to Audit Wales within the timeframe set by Welsh Government (WG).

As reported previously, measures were introduced to review and challenge non-essential spend and recruitment to vacancies with the aim of reducing in-year expenditure to 'dampen' the projected overspend at that time. That work had made a positive impact on the outturn position.

The final year end position was:
Council Fund
- An operating surplus of (£3.013m) which was a favourable movement of (£0.907m) from the last reported figure of (£2.106m) as at Month 11.
- A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31st March 2023 of £9.508m.

The Council Fund final outturn surplus position of (£3.013m) did not include various one-off items of expenditure totalling £5.876m approved for funding from the Contingency Reserve such as the Pay Award of £3.826m, COVID related costs of £1.573m and Social Services one off costs within Children's Services of £0.477m. If those amounts had been taken from the in-year revenue budget, there would have been an overall net overspend of £2.863m for the financial year.

The operating surplus of (£3.013m) equated to 0.9% of the Approved Budget, which was above the target MTFS KPI for a variance against budget of 0.5%

Housing Revenue Account
- Net in-year revenue expenditure was £2.688m higher than budget.
- A closing balance as at 31st March, 2023 of £3.786m.

The Corporate Finance Manager explained that, since completion of the report, the accounts had been formally submitted to Audit Wales and would be reported to Governance and Audit Committee the following week.

Unearmarked reserves would be looked into over the summer and any that were no longer required would be moved into the contingency reserve.

The Democratic Services Manager explained that the report had been considered at Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous week where questions were asked on waste infraction charges, the cost of the Local Development Plan and the Central Loans and Investment Account. The Committee congratulated the Revenues Manager and his team on achieving a 97.4% collection rate for Council Tax.

RESOLVED:

(a)   That the overall report and the Council Fund contingency sum as at 31st March 2023 (subject to audit) be noted;

(b)   That the final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (subject to audit) be noted; and

(c)   That the carry forward of funding be approved.

26.   INTERIM REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2023/24

Councillor Johnson introduced the report which provided the first overview of the budget monitoring position for the 2023/24 financial year where it was reported by exception on potential significant variances which could impact on the financial position in 2023/24.

The Corporate Finance Manager said at this early stage, financial risks only had been highlighted in the report. The ability to mitigate those risks would centre on review and challenge of delayed and deferred spend, maximising income streams and grant funding.

The final level of Council Fund Contingency Reserve brought forward into 2022/23 was £9.508m as detailed in the 2022/23 outturn report (subject to audit).

An amount of £3.743m remained available from the original £5.316m COVID emergency ring-fenced fund.

A full detailed monitoring report would be provided in September which would include a projection on the overall financial position for 2023/24.

The Democratic Services Manager explained that the report had been considered at Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous week and no comments were made.

RESOLVED:

(a)   That the report and potential financial risks on the 2023/24 budget be noted; and

(b)   That an allocation of £0.100m from the Contingency Reserve for Theatr Clwyd Trust be approved.

27.   CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2022/23 (OUTTURN)

Councillor Johnson introduced the report which summarised the final outturn position for 2022/23 together with changes to the Capital Programme during the last quarter.

The Capital Programme had seen a net decrease in budget of (£12.735m) during the last quarter which comprised of:-

- Net budget decrease in the programme of (£6.382m) (See Table 2 - Council Fund (CF) (£4.243m), Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (£2.139m);
- Carry Forward to 2023/24, approved at Month 9 of (£3.060m) partially offset by Carry Forward reversal of £0.245m;
- Switch of School Maintenance grant (£2.524m) and Additional Learning Needs grant (£1.001m) (all CF);
- Identified savings at outturn of (£0.013m) (CF)

Actual expenditure for the year was £55.013m.

The final outturn funding surplus from the 2022/23 – 2024/25 Capital Programme was £4.313m. The 2023/24 – 2025/26 Capital Programme was approved on the 24th January 2023, accounting for £3.376m of the current year surplus towards the programme and leaving a projected funding surplus of £0.365m. The final outturn for 2022/23 had the impact of a revised opening funding position surplus of £1.302m, prior to the realisation of additional capital receipts and/or other funding sources.

The Democratic Services Manager explained that the report had been considered at Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous week and no comments were made.

RESOLVED:

(a)   That the overall report be approved;

(b)   That the carry forward adjustments be approved; and

(c)   That the additional allocations be approved.

28.   **PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS – ACTUALS 2022/23**

Councillor Johnson introduced the report and explained that under the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code), as updated in 2017, Councils were required to set a range of prudential indicators.

This report provided details of the Council's actual prudential indicators for the 2022/23 financial year compared with the estimates set for:-

- Prudential indicators for Prudence
- Prudential indicators for Affordability

RESOLVED:

That the prudential indicators be approved.

29. BUSINESS RATES – WRITE OFFS

Councillor Mullin introduced the report and explained that for individual bad debts more than £25,000, Financial Procedure Rules (section 5.2) asked Cabinet to approve recommendations to write off debts.

A Business Rates debt for PPA Ltd, totalling £38,563.06, was deemed to be irrecoverable as the company was now in compulsory liquidation. Business Rates were always classed as non-preferential debts and since there were no assets available for non-preferential creditors successful recovery of this Business Rates debt was no longer possible.

The Chief Officer (Governance) explained that the proposals, as set out in the consultation, did not have any direct resource implications for the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Business Rates write off totalling £38,563.06 for PPA Ltd be approved.

30. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – BUSINESS RATES IMPROVEMENT RATES RELIEF

Councillor Mullin introduced the report which provided information and a recommended response to a Welsh Government (WG) consultation on proposals to introduce an Improvement Business Rate Relief scheme from April 2024.

The Chief Officer (Governance) explained that the scheme aimed to support growth and investment in the tax-base. It was intended to encourage ratepayers to invest in improvements to their properties by providing short-term relief, for a period of twelve months, from the effect of a resulting rateable value increase in their Non-Domestic Rate (NDR) liability. That was to say that when a property was improved the new level of NDR based on the improved rateable value would be deferred for a year.

RESOLVED:

That the proposals of the Welsh Government consultation be noted, and the Revenues and Procurement Manager in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources be authorised to respond to the consultation questions as set out in the report.

31. ANNUAL REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES 2023

Councillor Johnson introduced the report and explained that the 2023 review of fees and charges had been completed in line with the Council's Income Generation Policy, which set out the rationale and process for an annual review of fees and charges.

The outcome of the review was appended to the report and would apply from 1st October 2023.

Applying the principles contained within the Council's Income Generation Policy, version three of which was endorsed by Cabinet in July 2022, had ensured that any changes to charging had been appropriately managed under the 2023 review.

Version three of the policy is attached as Appendix B.

The report also outlined the ongoing requirements of the annual review of fees and charges for 2023, particularly for those fees and charges which were still to demonstrate that they achieved full cost recovery.

Councillor Hughes said there was an amendment to the details in the appendix which related to town centre car parking charges, which should read as follows:

- 60 minutes would become 90 minutes and the fee would increase from 30 pence to 50 pence
- 120 minutes would become 150 minutes and the fee would increase from 50 pence to 70 pence
    - The charges would apply between 0800-1500 hours and it would be free to park after 3pm

RESOLVED:

(a)   That the schedule of fees and charges documented in Appendix A for implementation on 1st October 2023 be approved; and

(b)   That it be agreed that a customer friendly version of the schedule of fees and charges be produced and published.

32.   **RENEWAL OF THE NORTH WALES CONSTRUCTION PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK**

Councillor Eastwood introduced the report and explained that the use of procurement frameworks were widely acknowledged and used as a way of reducing transaction costs, providing continuous improvement within long-term relationships and to allow public sector organisations to get better value and greater community wealth.

The North Wales Construction Partnership was established in 2014, primarily to deliver the construction of new school buildings, or the remodelling and refurbishment of existing school buildings, under the Welsh Government's (WG) Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme previously known as the 21st Century Schools programme.

The Framework was a partnership between the six North Wales Authorities with Denbighshire County Council acting as the lead Authority. The Framework

delivered a range of projects across different sectors and could also be used by other public sector organisations in the region to deliver their construction projects.

The current framework agreement expired in May 2024, and the report outlined the proposed approach for renewing the Framework Agreement.

RESOLVED:

That the approach outlined to procure the next framework generation of the North Wales Construction Partnership be endorsed.

33. **ACCESS BARRIER REVIEW – WALES COAST PATH**

Councillor Healey introduced the report and explained that the Council had appointed a consultant to undertake a review of the existing access control measures in place on a section of the Wales Coast Path (WCP) between Chester and Queensferry.

The access control barriers were in place to protect users of the WCP against the risks posed by illegal vehicle access to the path, however, the existing barriers could cause access issues to users of some mobility scooters & unconventional cycles.

The study reviewed the background context, legislations, barrier dimensions and user constraints in order to put forward recommendations for all 14 access points from Chester to Deeside. Recommendations to improve access were balanced against any impact of such amendments on illegal vehicle accessibility.

There were two main proposed recommendations:

- A frame - upgrade this barrier to a Radar Lock Gated A Frame Barrier. This would offer a cost-effective solution with the potential for improved accessibility by legitimate users holding a radar key (which were readily available online) whilst still maintaining an effective deterrent to illegal vehicle ingress.

- Chicane - It was recommended that the existing chicane barriers be replaced by a staggered gates solution. This would retain the existing level of permeability for legitimate users (which could be enhanced should the gates be fitted with radar locks which could be opened as required), and would retain the existing level of deterrent to illegal vehicle access.

On 11th July the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Flintshire's Local Access Forum (LAF) both supported the work to provide improved access to the WCP and recommended that further consultation with specific user groups would be advantageous. It was proposed that as a design was drawn up at each specific access point, then the plan would be shared and feedback invited from the North Wales Police Design-out Crime Officer, cycling and disability groups. Implementation would then follow.

The Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) explained that grant funding would be accessed to implement the solutions.

RESOLVED:

That the findings of the review be noted and the recommendations for improved accessibility be supported.

34. **FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2023-24 FOR FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Councillor Healey introduced the report which provided an overview of the Food Service in line with The Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities April 2010.

The plan set out the aims and objectives for the Service for the forthcoming year and how those were to be achieved.

The Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) added that the report was submitted to Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous week where Members expressed their appreciated of the work undertaken by the service.

RESOLVED:

That the Food Service Plan 2023-24 be approved.

35. **RESILIENCE AND CAPACITY WITHIN STREETSCENE AND TRANSPORTATION**

Councillor Hughes introduced the report and explained that the Streetscene and Transportation portfolio had been experiencing several issues over the last two years with staff recruitment, retention and long-term absences, which had impacted the resilience and capacity of the existing teams.

It was anticipated that the demands on the portfolio would continue to increase as legislation was updated or introduced and the pressure to deliver additional or new services multiplied.

The report provided Members with an overview of the ongoing staffing issues within the portfolio, which were impacting the resilience and capacity of the existing teams to respond to service demands and deliver service priorities effectively and flexibly.

The report presented proposals to address the resilience and capacity issues within the portfolio in two key areas: fleet services and waste strategy. The proposals did not require any structural changes and did not place any current employees at risk. Those areas of the portfolio had been identified as high risk, where increased capacity was required to ensure that the service remained resilient and ensured that statutory targets were met, legal duties were fulfilled, and future anticipated demand was met.

The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) explained that the Fleet Manager role was a statutory one and as the prescribed transport manager on the operator's licence, it was required to ensure that the legal requirements for road haulage were met.

RESOLVED:

(a)   That the challenges faced by the portfolio in terms of staff resilience and capacity be recognised and the associated risks highlighted be noted; and

(b)   That the proposals detailed with the report be supported, which would require additional budget to be allocated for the creation of the following additional posts:
- o   Fleet Services – two additional posts to support delivery and provide resilience
- o   Waste Strategy – three additional recycling and compliance data officer posts

36.   EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS

An information item on the actions taken under delegated powers was submitted. The actions were as set out below:-

Streetscene and Transportation

- **The Flintshire County Council (Kinnerton Lane and Lesters Lane, Higher Kinnerton) (40MPH Speed Limit) (Amendment No. 02) Order 202**
  To advise Members of the objection received following the advertisement of the 40mph speed limit on the roads as listed above.

NEWydd Catering and Cleaning

- **School Meal Price Increase**
  The cost pressure on the provision of school meals since the previous review in April 2022 has been significant. With RPI currently at 13.8% and specifically food inflation running at 19.3% and with the added pressure of labour rates increasing by more than 10% the need for an increase in the price of a school meal whilst highly regrettable is clear.

  Increased enable NEWydd to continue to provide a quality service in line with sharply increasing costs, particularly those associated with both food and labour.

Housing and Assets

- **Community Asset Transfer, Glanrafon Youth Centre, Mold, Flintshire**
  The areas and asset to be transferred are detailed on the site location plan edged red. The period of the transfer is for twenty seven years at a peppercorn rent, with an option to break at year give exercisable by the tenant only.

- **Community Asset Transfer, Bagillt Library, Gadlys Lane, Bagillt, Flintshire**
  The areas and asset to be transferred are detailed on the site location plan edged red. The period of the transfer is for twenty seven years at a peppercorn rent, with an option to break at year give exercisable by the tenant only.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 – TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting for the following items by virtue of exempt information under paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

37. TRI FFORDD AND GROWING PLACES RE-LOCATION PROJECT (MAES GWERN DEVELOPMENT)

Councillor Jones introduced the report on the relocation project for Tri Ffordd and Growing Places.

RESOLVED:

That the progress made for the Maes Gwern development be noted and authority be granted to enter into a contract for the construction of the new development providing the Welsh Government grant was approved.

38. PROCUREMENT OF A NEW MANAGED AGENCY CONTRACT

Councillor Mullin introduced the report for the procurement of a new managed agency contact which would initially be established for a period of three years.

RESOLVED:

That the award of contract to the company outlined in the report, for an initial period of three years commencing 29th August 2023, with an option to extend up to a further 12 months, be approved.

39. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the public in attendance.

(The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and ended at 11.32 a.m.)

…………………………
Chair

CYNGOR
Sir y Fflint
Flintshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET	

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 19th September 2023
Report Subject	Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2024/25
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager and Chief Executive
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Council's revenue budget position for the 2024/25 financial year in advance of consideration by relevant Overview and Scrutiny meetings.

In July, Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee were advised of an additional budget requirement for the 2024/25 financial year of £32.222m.

This position included the impact of the latest national offer on pay awards, continuing high inflation and increases to service demands. The report also included details of some ongoing risks that could still change the budget requirement.

Budget workshops were held on the afternoon and evening of 31 July 2023 to allow members the opportunity to request any further detail on the overall budget position and timeline for formal budget setting.

The latest budget position for 2024/25 is reflected in this report including an update on the work undertaken by Portfolios over the Summer.

The Council still has a major challenge to identify solutions that will enable it to agree a legal and balanced budget by March next year which it needs to address with urgency.

	RECOMMENDATIONS
1	To receive and note the revised additional budget requirement for the 2024/25 financial year and refer to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
2	To note the ongoing work on budget solutions that will need to be urgently considered to enable the Council to set a legal and balanced budget in February 2024.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	**EXPLAINING THE MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND BUDGET 2024/25**
1.01	This report provides an update on the Council's revenue budget position for the 2024/25 financial year in advance of consideration by relevant Overview and Scrutiny meetings.
1.02	In July, Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee were advised of an additional budget requirement for the 2024/25 financial year of £32.222m.
1.03	This position included the impact of the latest national offer on pay awards, continuing high inflation and increases to service demands. The report also included details of some ongoing risks that could still change the budget requirement.
1.04	Budget workshops were held on the afternoon and evening of 31 July 2023 to inform members of the current position and provide the opportunity to request any further detail on the overall budget position and timeline for formal budget setting.
	THE REVISED ADDITIONAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT
1.05	Since July there have been some changes to the additional budget requirement, and these are set out in the table below: **Table 1: Changes to the Additional Budget Requirement 2024/25**

	£m	
July Cabinet Report	**32.222**	**Note**
Increases to Pressures:		
Business Systems inflationary increase (1)	0.039	(1)
Reprofile of Mayrise System replacement	0.075	(2)
New Pressures	0.050	(3)

	School Health and Safety Monitoring Officer
	Revised Additional Budget Requirement **32.386**

Note:

1. Further inflationary increases on business systems have been identified which increases the overall pressure to £0.075m.

2. A further update on the timing of the replacement of the Mayrise System has brought forward the pressure from 2025/26 to 2024/25.

3. The post is related to the increasing demand generally from schools for health and safety advice and particularly related to the increased rigour from Estyn and more recommendations about Health and Safety matters.

1.06	**ONGOING RISKS** The July report included a number of ongoing risks, and an update is provided below (para 1.07 to 1.14) for those that still remain and which may change the additional budget forecast requirement further.
1.07	**Pay Awards** Impact of National Pay Awards National Pay awards have still not been agreed; the latest offer for NJC (Green Book) employees has been rejected and Trade Union Members have been balloted for potential industrial action. Assumptions for teachers pay are in line with current awards communicated by the Minister for Education and Welsh Language. These have not been accepted by all teaching unions and a formal dispute is still ongoing. Whilst the impact of the current offers are included in the forecast, any increase to these will add to the amount that will need to be found for 2024/25. Pay Modelling No figures are currently included for any impact of the pay modelling review which has commenced to address the difficulties currently being experienced in recruitment and retention. The review is due to be completed later this year.
1.08	**Homelessness** The homelessness service is continuing to see increasing numbers presenting for support and the projected overspend in the current financial year has increased to £2.4m over the summer and there is a significant risk of this increasing further by the end of the financial year. An additional amount of £2m is currently included in the forecast so will need to be kept under close review.

1.09	**Social Care**
	A number of risks remain within the service such as on-going recruitment and retention challenges, new statutory responsibilities and the impact of inflationary increases as well as match funding for projects such as the Regional Integration Fund (RIF).
	On-going support from existing grants is an area on which the service depends, so the continuation of these is critical. Any reduction would clearly present a risk to service delivery.
1.10	**Streetscene and Transportation**
	The review of the Waste Strategy is likely to impact on future costs of the service in relation to the ongoing risk of potential infraction fines for failing to achieve Welsh Governments statutory recycling targets in 2022-2023 (estimated to be in the region of £470k).
	The risk that the Sustainable Waste Management Grant may be ceased or reduced is still a concern. This is a revenue grant of £0.742m provided by Welsh Government to support the provision of re-use and recycling services, as well as preventing waste. Any reduction of this grant from the current level could impact on further revisions to the forecast.
	The funding arrangements for the Bus Emergency Scheme and the Bus Transition Fund is still unknown beyond March 2024 so will need to be kept under close review.
1.11	**Education and Youth**
	As previously reported, an increase in the cost of employer teachers' pension contributions is anticipated from April 2024 this could be significant.
	There are no specific indications of the likely scale of the increase at this stage, although it is expected that it will be fully funded by UK Government.
	Increases in demand and complexity for Additional Learning Needs, Specialist Provision and Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) is currently being funded by additional Welsh Government grant. There are a number of risks relating to the continuation of grant funding into 2024/25 which will need to be kept under review.
	Further work is being undertaken on demography and the impact of any changes on revenue costs due to the school modernisation programme.
1.12	**Out of County Placements**
	The position on Out of County placements remains an ongoing risk and the projected overspend in the current financial year is now more than £1m. An amount of £0.500m is included in the current forecast which will need to be kept under review throughout the budget process.

1.13	**Utility Costs**
	Utility costs remain a risk; significant additional funding had to be added to the 2023/24 budget. At this stage we do not anticipate any further increase for 2024/25, but this will be monitored closely throughout the year in line with intelligence from the market and our current energy providers.
1.14	**External Partners**
	Our external partners are also subject to the same cost pressures on pay and inflation which will present them with similar challenges to the Council. There is a risk and likelihood that additional contributions will be sought from the Council which will need to be considered in line with overall affordability.
	Funding Solutions
1.15	Over the summer all Portfolios have undertaken a review of the following areas: - Impact of reducing/removing cost pressures - Review of proposals not taken forward in 2023/24 and any new proposals for 24/25 - Review of the 2022/23 Outturn - Review of Earmarked Reserves The outcome of this work is detailed in paras 1.16 – 1.19.
1.16	Review of Existing Cost Pressures
	A further review of all cost pressures included in the forecast has been undertaken across all services. This has identified the following changes:

Table 2: Pressures to be removed/reduced

Pressure	Amount (£m)
Social Care Pressures:	
Reduction of Homecare Pressure due to current underspend	0.050
Reduction in North East Wales Community Equipment Service (NEWCES) Inflationary Pressure – partially offset by grant	0.050
Special Guardianship Order Pressure – to be met from existing budget.	0.050
Deferral of Regional Collaboration Team Pressure	0.050
Housing and Community Pressures:	

	Council Tax Reduction Scheme Pressure – to be met by reserve in 24/25	0.518	
	Total of Pressures to be reduced	**0.718**	

1.17	**Review of Outturn 2022/23** The Final Outturn for 2022/23 was a net underspend of £3.013m (excluding the impact of the pay award which was met from reserves). A significant proportion of the underspend was within central and corporate due to one-off NDR revaluations and temporary reductions in borrowing compounded by increased investment income. A review of the outturn position for 2022/23 has been undertaken to assess any opportunities for recurring cost reductions and an amount of £0.150m has been identified as detailed below: **Table 3: Review of Outturn**

Budget Change	Amount (£m)
Planning Economy and Environment:	
Increase to Income budget for planning fee application	0.100
Social Care:	
Increase to Income budget Older People Commissioning	0.050
Total from Review of Outturn	**0.150**

1.18	**Revisiting of 2023/24 options not included** Options totalling £6.625m were identified for consideration during budget setting for 2023/24 and were given a risk status (Red/Amber/Green) Options totalling £4.073m were taken forward and included in the final approved budget for 2023/24. All portfolios have reviewed the proposals not taken forward (£2.552m) which has resulted in £0.445m being brought forward for consideration in 2024/25. Further additional options for 2024/25 of £1.321m have also been identified bringing the total amount of proposals for consideration to £1.766m.

Table 4: Options to be considered

Portfolio	Amount (£m)
Education & Youth:	
• Review of Youth Services	0.100
Social Care	
• Welsh Government Grants	0.050
• Newydd Cleaning Contract	0.100
Streetscene and Transportation	
• Part time opening of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)	0.150
• Garden Waste collections	0.025
• Review/Reduce Service Standards	0.025
• Food Waste Bag charges	0.010
• Review/Reduce Service Standards – Cemetery Maintenance	0.025
• Review of School Transport routes	0.035
• Introduce Night working	0.025
• Cleansing Standards/Zero tolerance - Littering	0.030
• Charge for Compost material at HWRC sites	0.010
• In house services e.g. weed spraying, traffic management	0.010
• Increased charging for Car Parking including changes to permit schemes	0.050
• Full Cost Recovery for supporting community events	0.010
Assets	
• Stonewall subscription	0.003
• Rent Review of commercial estate	0.104
• Valuation and Estates - restructure	0.010
• Reduction in Third Sector funding	0.028
• Social Value	0.048
• Strategy Office restructure	0.072
Governance	
• Revenues – Discretionary Rate relief	0.004
• Revenues – Cash in Transit	0.012
• Revenues – Single Person Discount Review	0.150
• Procurement – Reduction in contribution	0.009
• Internal Audit – Vacant Post	0.049
• IT – Reduction in Equipment requirements	0.018
• IT – Mobile Phone contract	0.094
• Connects – Reduction in budget	0.010

Corporate Finance		
• Central Loans and Investment Account	0.500	
Total options to be considered	**1.766**	

Further work on understanding the risks associated with the above proposals will be undertaken prior to them being considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

There are a number of further options being considered and work on these is ongoing.

| 1.19 | Review of Reserves and Balances

A detailed review of all earmarked reserves has been undertaken and the overall position is due to be concluded by the end of September. The outcome of this work will be reported as part of the month 5 revenue monitoring report.

Whilst this is not a solution that can be used on a recurring basis, any earmarked reserve that can be released will increase the amount available within the contingency reserve. |
|---|---|
| 1.20 | Fees and Charges

The Council has adopted a comprehensive policy for fees and charges for chargeable services. The annual review was approved by Cabinet in July and will contribute £0.310m to the 2024/25 budget. |
| 1.21 | Actuarial Review

As part of the triennial review of the Clwyd Pension Scheme an indicative figure of £2m was identified for 2024/25 (2nd year of 3) as a potential reduction in employer pension contributions for 2024/25. |
| 1.22 | Aggregate External Finance (AEF)

The 2023/24 Welsh Local Government settlement provided an updated indicative figure for 2024/25 of 3.1% which equates to an uplift of around £7.8m for the Council.

Although the indicative allocation was welcome, it is at a significantly lower level than previous years so will present major challenges and will increase the requirement for budget contributions from other sources. |
| 1.23 | Local Taxation

It is too early to make an assumption on council tax levels for 2024/25 as this will be largely dependent on how successful the Council is in identifying portfolio and corporate efficiencies. As in previous years council tax levels will be a key consideration in the final stage of the budget process. |

| | | If there was a similar increase in Council Tax as in 2023/24 this would provide an additional £5.6m. |

| 1.24 | **Table 5 : Summary of Revised Overall Position** |

	£m	£m
Additional Budget Requirement 2024/25		32.386
Budget Solutions		
Increase in AEF 3.1%	7.800	
Council Tax (Indicative figure only 5%)	5.600	
Review of Pressures	0.718	
Review of Outturn	0.150	
Efficiencies/Review of RAGs	1.766	
Fees and Charges Review	0.310	
Actuarial Review (year 2 of 3)	2.000	
Total Solutions		18.344
Remaining Gap		14.042

| 1.25 | **Summary and Conclusions** |

The Council clearly has a major budget challenge for the financial year 2024/25 if there is no movement in the indicative uplift in the settlement of 3.1% from Welsh Government. This is significantly below the level required to meet current service demand and inflationary impacts – most of which are outside of the Council's control.

We will continue to make representations for a better settlement alongside all Welsh Councils through the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), although it does appear clear that Welsh Government also have a challenging budget situation which they are grappling with, and which means that an improved increased settlement figure cannot be assumed.

At this stage the amount remaining to be found to reach a legal and balanced budget is £14.042m and the Council will need to urgently consider further cost reductions of significant scale to bridge that gap as a matter of priority.

There is a need for a radical and strategic programme of service transformation to ensure that the Council is developing cost reductions over the medium term in order to protect its ongoing future financial position and ensure it is further prepared for inevitable future budget challenges.

The cost pressures and cost reductions identified to date will now be considered by relevant overview and scrutiny committees and a second budget workshop is being scheduled for 5 October which is open to all members.

Regular updates will be provided to members throughout the budget process in conjunction with the budget timeline detailed in the report.

1.26	**Table 2: Budget Timeline**

Date	Event
September 2023	Report to Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Updated additional budget requirement and emerging budget solutions
5 October 2023	2nd Member Workshop
October/November 2023	Overview & Scrutiny Committees
December 2023	Report to Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Budget Update
December 2023	WG Draft Budget/Provisional Settlement
January 2024	Report to Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Proposed budget requirement and solutions
February 2024	Report to Cabinet and Council - Final Budget Proposals
March 2024	WG Final Budget/Settlement

2.00	**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**
2.01	**Revenue:** the revenue implications for the 2024/25 budget are set out in the report. **Capital:** the borrowing needs for the capital programme are built into the revenue estimates for 2024/25.

3.00	**IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**
3.01	**Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact**

Long-term	Negative – the absence of longer-term funding settlements from Welsh Government means that sustainable support for service delivery is challenging for the longer term. Sustainable funding from Welsh Government that provides additional funding for Indexation, Service demands and new legislation will provide a positive and sustainable position for the Council in the longer term.
Prevention	As above

Integration	Neutral Impact
Collaboration	Services continue to explore opportunities for collaboration with other services and external partners to support positive impacts.
Involvement	Communication with Members, residents and other stakeholders throughout the budget process.

Well-Being Goals Impact

Prosperous Wales	Longer term funding settlements from Welsh Government that provide additional funding for indexation, service demands and new legislation will aid sustainability and support a strong economy that encourage business investment in the region. The opposite will be true if settlements are inadequate.
Resilient Wales	Continuation of services to support communities and social cohesion will have a positive impact. The opposite will be true if settlements are inadequate.
Healthier Wales	An appropriate level of funding will ensure that communities are supported and will have a positive impact. The opposite will be true if settlements are inadequate.
More equal Wales	A positive impact with greater parity of funding from Welsh Government for all Welsh Local Authorities. The opposite will be true if settlements are inadequate.
Cohesive Wales	Appropriate level of funding will support services working alongside partners. The opposite will be true if settlements are inadequate.
Vibrant Wales	As Healthier and Cohesive Wales above
Globally responsible Wales	Neutral impact.

4.00	**CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT**
4.01	Consultation has taken place with Portfolio Management Teams and the Chief Officer Team, the Finance Team, Cabinet Members, Group Leaders and Scrutiny Committees. Further consultation will be undertaken through Member briefings and specific Scrutiny meetings during the Autumn.

5.00	**APPENDICES**
5.01	None to this report

6.00	**LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**
6.01	Cabinet Report 18 July 2023

7.00	**CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS**
7.01	**Contact Officer:** Gary Ferguson Corporate Finance Manager **Telephone:** 01352 702271 **E-mail:** gary.ferguson@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**
8.01	**Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS):** 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. **Revenue:** a term used to describe the day to day costs of running Council services and income deriving from those services. It also includes charges for the repayment of debt, including interest, and may include direct financing of capital expenditure. **Capital:** Expenditure on the acquisition of **non-current assets** or expenditure which extends the useful life of an existing asset. **Budget:** a statement expressing the Council's policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them. **Revenue Support Grant:** the annual amount of money the Council receives from Welsh Government to fund what it does alongside the Council Tax and other income the Council raises locally. Councils can decide how to use this grant across services although their freedom to

allocate according to local choice can be limited by guidelines set by Government.

Specific Grants: An award of funding from a grant provider (e.g. Welsh Government) which must be used for a pre-defined purpose.

Welsh Local Government Association: the representative body for unitary councils, fire and rescue authorities and national parks authorities in Wales.

Financial Year: the period of 12 months commencing on 1 April.

Local Government Funding Formula: The system through which the annual funding needs of each council is assessed at a national level and under which each council's Aggregate External Finance (AEF) is set. The revenue support grant is distributed according to that formula.

Aggregate External Finance (AEF): The support for local revenue spending from the Welsh Government and is made up of formula grant including the revenue support grant and the distributable part of non-domestic rates.

Provisional Local Government Settlement: The Provisional Settlement is the draft budget for local government published by the Welsh Government for consultation. The Final Local Government Settlement is set following the consultation.

Funding Floor: a guaranteed level of funding for councils who come under the all-Wales average change in the annual Settlement. A floor has been a feature of the Settlement for many years.

External Partners: Organisations outside of the Council that we work alongside to deliver services.

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn bwrpasol

CYNGOR Sir y Fflint Flintshire COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 19th September 2023
Report Subject	North Wales Regional Partnership Board Strategic Capital Plan
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Report Author	Chief Officer (Social Services)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The North Wales Regional Programme Board (NWRPB), and all regions in Wales, have been tasked by Welsh Government to develop and implement a Strategic Capital Plan. The plan should reflect a ten-year view of the proposed capital investment needs of its community infrastructure for the provision of social care and primary and community healthcare. The plan is the only mechanism to release external capital funding to the Council.

This report provides an update on the development of a ten-year Strategic Capital Plan (SCP) by the North Wales Regional Partnership Board, in collaboration with all local authorities, health teams and other service delivery partners.

The Strategic Capital Plan relates to proposed capital development projects that are seeking Welsh Government funding from the Housing with Care Fund (HCF) or Health and Social Care Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund (IRCF).

The report seeks to gain Cabinet approval for Flintshire County Council's participation in the plan and its strategic intent, noting that individual projects will need to be brought back to Cabinet for approval and considered in line with the Council's Medium-term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Capital Programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS	
1	Cabinet notes the requirement for a ten-year Strategic Capital Plan for North Wales and the associated prioritisation and business case processes required to secure Welsh Government funding.

2	Cabinet approve participation in the regional programme, the proposed projects, and the plan's strategic intent.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	**EXPLAINING THE NWRPB STRATEGIC CAPITAL PLAN**
1.01	The Regional Integration Fund (RIF) replaced the Integrated Care Fund (ICF) in 2022. The RIF Revenue Programme has been implemented for an initial five years up to March 2027 and supports models of preventative care. The RIF Revenue Programme provides financial support to social care, health and third sector services and projects across Flintshire. The RIF revenue programme is supported by two capital funding programmes to accelerate a move towards greater independent living, provision of care closer to home and as a driver to rebalance the care market. The Housing with Care Fund (HCF) has a primary objective to increase the stock of housing provision to meet the needs of people with care and support needs, at home or closer to home. This supports accommodation projects where there is a social rented tenancy, such as Extra Care and Supported Living. It also supports projects that increase the stock of intermediate and medium-term community-based residential care settings. The Health and Social Care Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund (IRCF) supports the development of integrated health and social care community hubs and centres to create local single points of access and co-location of staff and services delivering integrated care pathways. IRCF also supports the rebalancing of the care market by investing in community settings and residential care premises.

| 1.02 | The two capital funds provide an opportunity for all counties to secure funding that will support local capital investment through a match funding approach.

HCF funding is allocated to regions and counties, but still requires regional and national approval as part of a business case process.

IRCF provides a national funding pot, allocated through a Business Case Panel review process and Ministerial approval aligned to strategic requirements.

The current capital funding available for North Wales is shown below:

HCF
- North Wales allocation of £14.2m per annum (2023 to 2026)
- Flintshire allocation of £2.65m per annum (2023 to 2026)
- There is a requirement for 10% of the annual HCF allocation to be used for small discretionary projects that provide equipment, technology, or minor refurbishments.

IRCF
- All Wales allocation of £60m for 2023/24 – subject to approval of Business Case bids through a national panel process
- All Wales allocation of £70m for 2024/25 – subject to approval of Business Case bids through a national panel process |
|---|---|
| 1.03 | The NWRPB, and all regions in Wales, have been tasked by Welsh Government to develop and implement a Strategic Capital Plan. The plan should reflect a ten-year view of the capital investment needs of its community infrastructure for the provision of social care and primary and community healthcare.

This plan is being co-developed by all service delivery partners across North Wales. This includes teams from Social Services, Education, Housing, Health Board, Registered Social Landlords and Third Sector organisations.

The SCP seeks to provide a planned and co-ordinated response at the regional level to deliver on the strategic service priorities and key challenges in relation to priorities defined in the North Wales Population Needs Assessment and Market Stability Report.

The NWRPB is developing a capital plan that delivers a range of solutions to promote independence, wellbeing and care closer to home for our communities in a manner that aligns with Welsh Government strategic priorities and the drive to achieve Net Zero on the Decarbonisation agenda.

The plan will also include projects that may choose to augment their capital outlays by accessing other relevant and targeted Welsh Government funding schemes, internal organisational investment capital, as well as public-private partnerships with the third sector or wider. |

1.04	The SCP is being developed using a prioritisation process to ensure that local and regional governance is undertaken on all prospective capital projects before they proceed to the Welsh Government's business case processes.

The SCP is structured into three-year funding cycles, beginning with 2023-2026 for projects that are ready to proceed to a business case process. Future projects will be added to the SCP for subsequent funding cycles once they have attained local governance approval. The long-term ten-year SCP will be a living document that will evolve over time to reflect strategic changes at a national and local level.

Flintshire County Council teams have contributed an initial list of projects for the SCP based on strategic priorities. This includes the projects that have been accepted into the Flintshire Capital Investment Programme. Namely, the current projects Relocation of Tri Ffordd Day Service Provision and Croes Atti Residential Care Home. In addition, the potential future scheme Llys Gwenffrwd, Holywell Care Home Review.

The initial SCP for North Wales will be reviewed by NWRPB in September 2023 and submitted to Welsh Government in October 2023. Future capital projects will be admitted to the SCP from December 2023, subject to county and regional approval processes. |
| 1.05 | The NWRPB Strategic Capital Plan has been developed in alignment with a robust planning and prioritisation process for business case development and approval as follows.

At Stage Zero the lead partner develops project proposition document, with local approval secured, including any core capital match funding requirements. RPB validates the proposition using a prioritisation tool reflecting funding requirements and strategic priorities. RPB approves or declines the project into the SCP.

At Stage One the lead partner produces a Strategic Outline Case or Business Justification Case, for projects under £5 million in value, for review and approval by RPB and then Welsh Government funding panel.

At Stage Two the lead partner produces an Outline Business Case for review and approval by RPB and then Welsh Government funding panel. Projects under £5 million approved at Stage One are commenced.

At Stage Three the lead partner produces a Full Business Case for review and approval by RPB and then the Welsh Government funding panel.
At Stage Four approved projects commence execution and governance. |

2.00	**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**
2.01	There are no additional resource implications for the development and management of the SCP.

	The RIF Revenue and Capital programmes are managed and coordinated in Flintshire by a Wellbeing and Partnership Lead role which is wholly funded by Welsh Government RIF funding. This role provides a key link to the Regional Collaboration Team who oversee the development of the SCP on behalf of the RPB. There are lead officers in the impacted Council portfolio teams to provide input to the SCP and to develop project propositions.
2.02	Capital projects on the SCP will require a level of local match funding in addition to HCF or IRCF funding from Welsh Government. This funding will require appropriate planning and governance through the Council's Core Capital Programme.
2.03	Individual projects contained in the strategic plan will be brought back to Cabinet for approval and will feed into the MTFS and Capital Programme.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	Welsh Government have indicated that the HCF and IRCF programmes have provisional funding for three and two years respectively from 2023. This is subject to annual review and there is a risk that the funding may reduce in response to competing national or regional priorities. To mitigate this risk, the NWRPB has requested that Welsh Government provide early notice of any significant funding reviews.
3.02	The business case process introduced by Welsh Government for IRCF and HCF is based on a multi-stage approach which will add additional timescales to the development of capital projects and the requirement for more specialist business case writing skills. To mitigate this risk, the NWRPB is providing training and resources to support business case development.
3.03	It is anticipated that regional plans will not always reflect a proportionate allocation of the IRCF funds across all counties and population groups. Funding decisions of the Welsh government will be based purely on the merit of the individual proposed projects. To mitigate this risk, the local prioritisation of projects in Flintshire, based strategic service priorities, will help to provide a balanced capital programme of prospective projects.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
4.01	The NWRPB is the key leadership body to oversee all integration work across health and social care and to formally represent the interests of the local authorities, the Health Board, and its key stakeholders. The allocation of significant additional capital through the HCF and the potential to secure further capital for regional priorities through IRCF has required the NWRPB to consider how to strengthen its governance and

	delivery arrangements to deliver this strategy. The SCP provides a comprehensive and collaborative approach to the prioritisation of capital funding. The NWRPB will strengthen its governance arrangements to optimise the use of capital for prioritised strategic development projects.
4.02	The strategic priorities for health and social care services in Flintshire are directly informed by engagement with local citizens and people supported by services.
4.03	All capital development projects led by Flintshire County Council will be subject to local governance processes to ensure acceptance into the MFTS and Capital Programme.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
6.01	Contact Officer: Michael Jones Telephone: 01352 702546 E-mail: michael.jones@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
7.01	None.

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	**Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) :** Service delivery partner for RIF revenue and capital projects, predominantly IRCF funded 'hub' projects rather than HCF accommodation projects. **Capital Investment Programme (CIP):** The Flintshire County Council strategic investment programme for capital development. **Health and Social Care Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund (IRCF):** Welsh Government grant fund for capital projects that deliver integrated health and social care community hubs and centres service hubs or rebalance the care market by investing in community settings and residential care premises. **Housing with Care Fund (HCF):** Welsh Government grant fund for capital projects that increase the stock of housing provision to meet the needs of people with care and support needs, at home or closer to home. This includes accommodation projects where there is a social rented tenancy,

such as Extra Care and Supported Living. It also supports projects that increase the stock of intermediate and medium-term community-based residential care settings.

Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS): The Flintshire County Council strategic financial programme.

North Wales Market Stability Report: The North Wales Market Stability Report published in November 2022 includes information about the availability of care and support across the region. This includes care homes, home care, children's homes, fostering, adoption, advocacy, and support for unpaid carers. The report assesses how well current provision meets people's needs and recommends ways to make sure enough support is available in future.

North Wales Population Needs Assessment: The North Wales Population Needs Assessment was published in April 2022 and provides information about the care and support needs of people in North Wales and the support needs of carers.

North Wales Regional Programme Board (NWRPB): The NWRPB was established to meet Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The Board includes representation for public service providers across the region including local authorities, the health board, emergency services, local voluntary council, third sector organisations and citizens. The Board provide overall governance and authority for the North Wales Strategic Capital Plan.

Regional Integration Fund (RIF): RIF replaced the Integrated Care Fund (ICF) in 2022. RIF provides revenue and capital funding to service delivery partners for the development and implementation of integrated health and social care services.

Registered Social Landlord (RSL): RSLs, such as First Choice Housing Association, work closely with the Council and Regional Transformation Programmes to deliver capital projects. These include supported living and extra care schemes and can bid for both Housing with Care Funding and Social Housing Grant funding.

Social Housing Grant (SHG): SHG is the main capital grant provided by Welsh Government to fund the provision of affordable housing in Wales. Housing associations and local authorities can access this funding for the provision of building new homes and the rehabilitation of existing buildings to provide homes at social and intermediate rent. SHG provides supplementary funding in conjunction with HCF for accommodation-based projects where there is a social housing tenancy.

Strategic Capital Programme (SCP): The NWRPB Strategic Capital Programme provides a ten-year view of the capital investment needs of the region for the provision of social care and primary and community healthcare. The SCP will be used to manage a prioritised business case process for HCF and IRCF funding requests.

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn bwrpasol

CYNGOR Sir y Fflint Flintshire COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 19th September 2023
Report Subject	Council Plan 2022/23 End of Year Performance Monitoring Report
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services Including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council Plan 2022/23 was adopted by the Council in July 2022. This report presents a summary of performance of progress against the Council Plan priorities identified for 2022-23 at year end (Q4) position.

This out-turn report for the Council Plan 2022/23 shows 77% of activities are making good progress and 62% of the performance indicators have met or exceeded their targets for the year.

This report is an exception-based report and concentrates on those areas of performance which are not currently achieving their target.

Recommendations	
1.	To endorse and support the levels of progress and confidence in the achievement of priorities as detailed within the Council Plan 2022/23.
2.	To endorse and support overall performance against Council Plan 2022/23 performance indicators/measures.
3.	To be assured by explanations given for those areas of underperformance.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	**EXPLAINING THE COUNCIL PLAN 2022/23 PERFORMANCE AT END OF YEAR**
1.01	The Council Plan End of Year Performance Report provides an explanation of the progress made towards the delivery of the priorities set out in the 2022/23 Council Plan. The narrative is supported by information on performance indicators and/or milestones.
1.02	This report is an exception-based report and concentrates on those areas of performance which are not currently achieving their target.
1.03	**Monitoring Activities** Each of the sub-priorities under each theme within the Plan have high level activities which are monitored over time. 'Progress' shows action against scheduled activity and is categorised as: • **RED**: Limited Progress – delay in scheduled activity and not on track • **AMBER:** Satisfactory Progress – some delay in scheduled activity, but broadly on track • **GREEN:** Good Progress – activities completed on schedule and on track
1.04	In summary, our overall progress against activities (actions) at year end was: **Progress RAG** • Good progress (green) was achieved in 77% (123) of activities • Satisfactory (amber) progress was achieved in 19% (31) of activities • Limited (red) progress was made in 4% (6) of activities

PRIORITY	ACTIONS		
	GREEN	**AMBER**	**RED**
Poverty	96%	4%	-
Affordable and Accessible Housing	59%	38%	3%
Green Society and Environment	61%	31%	8%
Economy	65%	31%	4%
Personal and Community Wellbeing	94%	-	6%
Education and Skills	90%	8%	2%
Overall Progress	**77%**	**19%**	**4%**

1.05	The six activities/actions with a red RAG status are detailed below: **PRIORITY: AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING**

Sub Priority: Housing Support and Homeless Prevention
Exploring opportunities to develop a young person's homeless hub offering accommodation and support services
This is a long-term action which has stalled as the priority is to identify a suitable location for a permanent Homeless Hub. Should a potential site for a young person's hub become available, capacity for design and explorative work will be identified.

PRIORITY: GREEN SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT
Sub Priority: Circular Economy
Achieving Welsh Government recycling targets
While the statutory recycling target for 2022/23 is 64%, we aspire to meet the target of 70% ahead of 2024/25. Following the impact of the pandemic we had started seeing residual waste tonnages decrease closer to pre-pandemic levels, along with some recycling materials such as glass and food waste. This is improving our overall recycling performance in comparison to 2021/22; however, further improvement needs to be made to achieve national targets (64% 2021/22 and 70% 2024/25) as the current waste strategy is not supporting this. A review of the Waste Strategy is currently ongoing as recent compositional analysis of the residual waste bins shows that a high proportion of waste put in them could be collected via the weekly recycling service. Residents of Flintshire have been asked to support the Council in achieving these targets by making use of the recycling containers provided. Evaluation of any improvement will be reviewed in September 2023.

Sub Priority: Circular Economy
Developing and extending the Standard Yard Waste and Recycling Transfer Station
The project to redevelop the Standard Yard materials recovery facility (MRF) in Buckley is ongoing and currently subject to review following a recent tendering exercise to procure the construction of the facility. Due to the commercial sensitivities around the tenders, the details of the procurement exercise cannot be shared publicly. However, there are a number of national issues in the construction industry, which are impacting the project, including supply chain delays and shortages, costs of materials, inflation costs and energy prices. Additionally, and although planning consent for the site was granted over 12 months ago, there are also still a number of outstanding matters to resolve with the site in relation to environmental permitting, utilities, SUDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems), and legal traffic regulation orders, all of which are likely to take some time to resolve. The review will involve an independent assessment of the options available to the Council for future operational depots and examine all aspects of the project, including technical, economic, financial, legal, and environmental considerations. In the meantime, arrangements are in place with a third-party contractor to provide a bulking and storage facility for the local authority for recyclable material and material recovery.

PRIORITY: ECONOMY
Sub Priority: Business
Supporting small and/or local businesses to engage with public sector procurement opportunities
Opportunities to deliver supply chain events did not present themselves during 2022/23. However, the planning and development of the supply chain

	and social responsibility events are progressing well with Flintshire County Council capital works and Theatr Clwyd to deliver a series of 'Meet the Buyer' sessions in 2023/24. **PRIORITY: PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING** **Sub Priority: A well connected, safe and clean environment** ***Working with two local communities to inform a long-term vision and delivery plan for using the Flexible Funding Grant programme to achieve positive outcomes for people*** The Friends of the Holway have opened their own 'Warm Hub' where residents can attend to meet with others and receive free refreshments, supporting the Croeso Cynnes/Warm Welcome Project which has been a great success. We will continue to work with Friends of the Holway to arrange and hold future events for the residents. This is part of a wider Holywell Plan and is currently in the early development stages. **PRIORITY: EDUCATION AND SKILLS** **Sub Priority: Well-Being** ***Developing action plans based on the findings, particularly in relation to Emotional Health and Wellbeing*** Schools are on track to complete the action plans in accordance with the academic year 22/23 (summer term) following the completions of their audits. This will enable any actions to form part of their development planning in the new academic year.
1.06	**Monitoring our Performance** Analysis of performance against the performance indicators (measures) is undertaken using the RAG status. This is defined as: - **RED** - under-performance against target. - **AMBER** - where improvement may have been made but performance has missed the target. - **GREEN** - positive performance against target.
1.07	Analysis of the end of year performance against the targets set for 2022/23 shows the following: - 71 (64%) measures have a green RAG status - 14 (13%) measures have an amber RAG status - 25 (22%) measures have a red RAG status - 1 (1%) measure has not been fully updated for End of Year (Q4)

PRIORITY	MEASURES			
	GREEN	**AMBER**	**RED**	**NO DATA**
Poverty	79%	16%	5%	-
Affordable and Accessible Housing	48%	10%	42%	-
Green Society and Environment	55%	-	45%	-

Economy	70%	-	30%	-
Personal and Community Well-being	84%	16%	-	-
Education and Skills	57%	24%	14%	5%
Overall Progress	**64%**	**13%**	**22%**	**1%**

1.08	There are 25 performance indicators (PIs) / measures which show a red RAG status for performance against the target set for 2022/23. These are detailed below:

PRIORITY: POVERTY
Sub Priority: Food Poverty
CHA005M - Number of residents supported by the 'Hospital to Home' meals service
(Target 24 - Actual 5)
The process is working well but the initial take up has been low during the pilot. Further promotional work will be carried out to raise awareness of this service.

PRIORITY: AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING
Sub Priority: Housing Support and Homeless Prevention
CHA007M - Number of presentations to the homeless service
(Target 1,400 – Actual 1,598)
Presentations are up significantly from the previous year; this reflects the continued housing and cost of living crisis. More people are presenting as homeless or at risk of homelessness. There are fewer homes available in the private sector and many landlords are serving notices ahead of the implementation of the 6-month notice rules linked to Rent Homes (Wales) Act 2016 which apply from 01 June 2023.

Sub Priority: Housing Needs and Housing Options
CHA015M - Number of applicants rehoused via SARTH by all Housing Partners
(Target 610 – Actual 534)
Lettings by housing partners are as follows: Flintshire County Council 85; Clwyd Alyn 7; Wales and West Housing 25; Grwp Cynefin 1.

It is noted that lettings across all housing partners are lower than target and with fewer properties becoming available. The consequence is that the length of time applicants will wait to be rehoused will be longer. Also, there are fewer homes available through social housing providers which reduces the opportunities for the Council to prevent and relieve homelessness through positive move on into social housing.

The introduction of Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 on 01 December 2022, may have contributed to the lower numbers of lettings. Turnaround of void properties may also have impacted on the number of lettings. |

CHA016M - Number of applicants rehoused via SARTH by Flintshire County Council
(Target 440 – Actual 366)
85 applicants were rehoused by Flintshire County Council in the final quarter of 2022/23 and the total number of applicants rehoused for 2022/23 was 366.

<u>**Sub Priority: Social Housing**</u>
CHA018M - Number of Council Homes under construction
(Target 77 – Actual 38)
There has been a delay in the completion of designated homeless units at Park Lane (4 units) and Duke Street (2 units). Progress has been slower on both sites due to several issues, mostly contractor related but also connected to BT, Flintshire Street naming and client preferred kitchen supplier. We are closely monitoring progress and anticipate that that these units will be completed circa Q1 of the 2023/2024 financial year. The social homes at Mostyn (30 units) have also been delayed due to adverse weather conditions, Way Leave issues and sub-contractor issues. We remain optimistic that these units will also be completed circa Q1 of the 2023/2024 financial year. In addition, there are 2 larger properties at Ash Grove which also should complete in 2023/2024.

CHA019M - Number of Council Homes completed
(Target 36 – Actual 0)
There has been a delay in the completion of designated Homeless units at Park Lane (4 units) and Duke Street (2 units). Progress has been slower on both sites due to several issues, mostly contractor related but also connected to BT, Flintshire Street naming and client preferred kitchen supplier. We are closely monitoring progress and anticipate that that these units will be completed circa Q1 of the 2023/2024 financial year. The social homes at Mostyn (30 units) have also been delayed due to adverse weather, Way Leave issues and sub-contractor issues. We remain optimistic that these units will also be completed circa Q1 of the 2023/2024 financial year. In addition, there are 2 larger properties at Ash Grove which also should complete in 2023/2024.

CHA020M - Number of Affordable Homes under construction via NEW Homes
(Target 21 – Actual 6)
We have redesignated a potential site at Pandy, Oakenholt to a different Tenure mix. A fresh Planning Application will be required. The targets for 2023/2024 will be updated to reflect the change.

CHA021M - Number of Affordable Homes completed via NEW Homes
(Target 5 – Actual 0)
This target will be reviewed and updated for the next financial year 2023/2024.The acquisition of six properties should complete in the first quarter of 2023/2024.

CHA022M - Number of Residential Social Landlord (RSL's) homes under construction
(Target 150 – Actual 22)
There has been a delay in some of the larger sites being developed including Northern Gateway (100 units) and 66A Mold Road, Mynydd Isa (56 units) due

to contractors withdrawing from contracts which they deemed to have become unviable due to increased costs. The contractor for Northern Gateway has recently entered Administration. The full Welsh Government grant of £11.2 million was secured.

CHA030M - Total number of Mandatory Medium Disabled Adaptations completed
(Target 60 – Actual 47)
We are completely reliant on the Occupational Therapist recommendation and their clients need, so it is always difficult to project the amount of different sized works we may receive. The target for 2022/23 was set using the previous year's figure for mandatory medium adaptations awarded however, this was before discretionary adaptations therefore, the target has not been met. During 2022/23, the numbers of mandatory medium adaptations have reduced in line with the increase in the numbers of Discretionary Adaptations following implementation of the new Discretionary Adaptations Policy which has removed the need to means test.

CHA032M - Total number of Mandatory Large Disabled Adaptations completed
(Target 8 – Actual 4)
We are completely reliant on the Occupational Therapist recommendation and their clients need, so it is always difficult to project the amount of different sized works we may receive. Large cases can take up to 15 months or longer to complete. Currently we have 10 cases in progress at different stages, some of these will complete in 2023/24.

CHA033M - Average number of days to complete a Mandatory Large Disabled adaptation
(Target 456 – Actual 502)
A legacy case which had been ongoing for a considerable period (prior to 2022/23) was completed in the 2022/23 reporting period. This had an adverse effect on completion target times. Should this legacy case be excluded from our actual figures then the average number of days to complete a mandatory large disabled adaptation would be 379, which is below our target of 456 days.

Sub Priority: Private Rented Sector
CHA035M - Number of homeless households assisted under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 to secure Private Sector Accommodation
(Target 64 – Actual 51)
51 households were recorded as being supported into private rented housing to either relief or prevent their homelessness. Availability of private rental homes is reducing and rent costs are going up, making renting privately unaffordable for many people. A report by the Bevan Foundation into availability of private rental homes found 59 homes available in Flintshire in February 2023 and 0 were charging the Local Housing Allowance rate, meaning they would be unaffordable for most people who are in receipt of benefits or on a low wage.

CPE002M - Number of inspections of House in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)
(Target 35 – Actual 24)

24 inspections were undertaken against the target of 35. Operational and statutory pressures, such as suitability checks for Ukrainian refugees and legislative changes in the Private Rented Sector, has affected the delivery of proactive work.

PRIORITY: GREEN SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT
<u>**Sub Priority: Carbon Neutrality / Renewable Energy**</u>
CPE004M - Council greenhouse gas emissions
(Target 36,960 – Actual 44,980)
As detailed in the Climate Change Programme Progress Report, all emissions targets were exceeded except supply chain which saw a fair increase due to the rise in cost of goods and services. This has skewed the progress made to reduce emissions over this financial year and does not give a clear picture of the progress made within other areas of the decarbonisation programme. Work is being carried out over 2023 to better understand our emissions from supply chain.

<u>**Sub Priority: Active and Sustainable Travel Options**</u>
CST003M - Develop a multi-modal transport hub at Garden City
(Target 1 – Actual 0)
The ability to progress the Garden City bus interchange has been prohibited due to time constraints within the grant conditions, along with the lack of progression relating to the 'Bus Only' link and land purchase. This resulted in the funding having to be returned to Welsh Government, however the funding to complete the land purchase has verbally been agreed to be carried forward.

<u>**Sub Priority: Circular Economy**</u>
CST004M - Percentage of waste reused, recycled, or composted
(Target 70% – Actual 60%)
Our overall recycling performance for Q4 has reduced since Q3 due to the reduced tonnage of waste streams such as garden waste which decreases during the winter months. The figure reported is the estimated year end recycling performance. Data will be submitted to Welsh Government for validation.

Following a second stage waste compositional analysis work completed in Q3 it has been identified that over 50% of waste in the residual bin is recyclable waste, with 30% being food waste. Due to this we are not able to achieve the national statutory target of 64% and are not on target to meet 70% by 2024/25. The Council's Waste Strategy is currently under review with the decision of implementing the most effective intervention of restricting the amount of residual waste permitted to be disposed of per week deferred to a later date.

CST005M - Average recycling rate across Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)
(Target 80% - Quarter 4 Actual 76%)
Quarter 4 recycling performance across HRCs (76%) has gone below 80%. This is due to the reduced tonnages of garden waste and DIY materials which are typically higher during the spring and summer months. When calculated for the whole of the year (2022/23), the overall recycling performance across

the HRC sites is above 80% as this calculates the peaks of summer and the lows of winter.

PRIORITY: ECONOMY
<u>**Sub Priority: Transport Connectivity**</u>
CST009M - Number of bus quality partnerships on the core network
(Target 1 – Actual 0)
The ongoing development of the Quality Bus Partnership has been put on hold. Transport For Wales are undertaking a Network review across North Wales and whilst the initial report was due in May 2021 this piece of work is delayed due to the consultation of the white paper produced by Welsh Government. This white paper sets out proposals for public transport bus services to better plan and grow the bus network. This will ensure it meets public needs, maximise the value we get for our investment in bus services and break our reliance on private cars.

<u>**Sub Priority: Reducing Worklessness**</u>
CPE012M - Number of individuals entering employment, learning, or volunteering
(Target 247 – Actual 118)
Into employment figures have remained below target in the final quarter of 2022/23 but consistent with the previous quarter. In total, 118 individuals entered employment, learning or volunteering during 2022/23. Client engagement has begun to improve, and the uptake in training and pathways has slowly started to improve, meaning that there has been a shift of people moving closer towards the labour market. There does, however, remain a cohort of clients who continue to require a great amount of support with their confidence and anxieties. These clients will continue to be supported with confidence building, volunteering, and employability skills courses to help them move forward. Going forward into the new CFW+ (Communities for Work Plus) programme, large scale job fairs and local recruitment events are planned to bring the labour market opportunities direct to the people of Flintshire with opportunities in their locality.

CPE013M - Number of individuals receiving support
(Target 600 – Actual 267)
During Quarter 4, 50 individuals received support from the C4W (Communities for Work) programme and were assigned an employment mentor. In total, 267 individuals were supported in 2022/23. Referrals have continued to filter through from Youth Justice, Social and Children's Services. Plans to engage with family liaison workers in school establishments have started with a pilot in Ysgol Gwynedd in Flint. Engagements are picking up after the COVID pandemic and workshops have now been developed for confidence building and interview skills, working with Theatr Clwyd to enable individuals on their journey into employment.

PRIORITY: EDUCATION AND SKILLS
<u>**Sub Priority: Educational Engagement and Achievement**</u>
CEY005M - Reduction in the number of fixed term exclusions
(Target 1,150 – Actual 1,677)
There has been a notable rise in the level of fixed term exclusion since schools reopened following the pandemic, particularly in secondary schools.

	Disruptive behaviour and verbal/physical violence towards pupils and adults account for the majority of incidences. **Sub Priority: Digital Learning Opportunities** *CAU010M - Number of adult community learning (ACL) sessions provided in Welsh* **(Target 5 – Actual 1)** Evening for Welsh learners with author Bethan Gwanas in partnership with Siop y Siswrn and ACL with 35 learners. Demand is currently low but increased opportunities are being planned for. *CAU012M - Number of digital learning sessions provided in Welsh* **(Target 5 – Actual 0)** Aura will work to address this through increased networking with Welsh language partners.
1.09	Due to unforeseen circumstances, the end of year performance for one measure was not provided for 2022/23: **Sub Priority: Learning Community Networks** **CAU016M - Number of courses accessed through Open Learn** The Open University (OU) Wales are unable to provide the required Open Learn data at present therefore, the Council is unable to report against the measure.

2.00	**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**
2.01	There are no specific resource implications for this report.

3.00	**IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**
3.01	**Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact**

Long-term	Throughout the End of Year Monitoring Report there are demonstrable actions and activities which relate to all the Sustainable Development Principles. Specific case studies will be included in the Annual Performance Report for 2022/23.
Prevention	
Integration	
Collaboration	
Involvement	

Well-being Goals Impact

Prosperous Wales	Throughout the End of Year Monitoring Report there is evidence of alignment with the Well-being Goals. Specific strategic and policy reports include impact and risk assessments.
Resilient Wales	
Healthier Wales	
More equal Wales	
Cohesive Wales	
Vibrant Wales	
Globally responsible Wales	

Council's Well-being Objectives

The Council undertook a review of its Well-being Objectives during the development of the Council Plan. The updated set of Well-being Objectives are a more focused set of six. The Well-being Objectives identified have associated priorities for which they resonate. See the full list below.

Priority	Well-being Objective
Poverty	Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs
Affordable and Accessible Housing	Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities
Green Society and Environment	Limiting the impact of the Council's services on the natural environment and supporting the wider communities of Flintshire to reduce their own carbon footprint
Economy	Enabling a sustainable economic recovery and growth
Personal and Community Well-being	Supporting people in need to live as well as they can
Education and Skills	Enabling and Supporting Learning Communities

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
4.01	The actions/measures detailed within the Council Plan are monitored by the respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees according to the priority area of interest.
4.02	Chief Officers and Senior Managers have contributed towards the reporting of relevant information.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 - Council Plan 2022-23 End of Year Performance Monitoring Report.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Council Plan 2022/23.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	**Contact Officer**: Sam Perry **Telephone**: 01352 701476 **Email**: sam.perry@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	**Council Plan:** the document which sets out the annual priorities of the Council. It is a requirement of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) 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. **An explanation of the report headings:** **Measures (Key Performance Indicators - KPIs)** **Actual (YTD)** – the year-to-date performance identified i.e., by numbers, percentages, etc **Target (YTD)** – The target for the year to date which is set at the beginning of the year. **Current RAG Rating** – This measures performance for the year against the target. It is automatically generated according to the data. • **Red** = a position of under performance against target • **Amber** = a mid-position where improvement may have been made but performance has missed the target; and • **Green** = a position of positive performance against the target.

Council Plan End of Year Performance Monitoring Report 2022/23
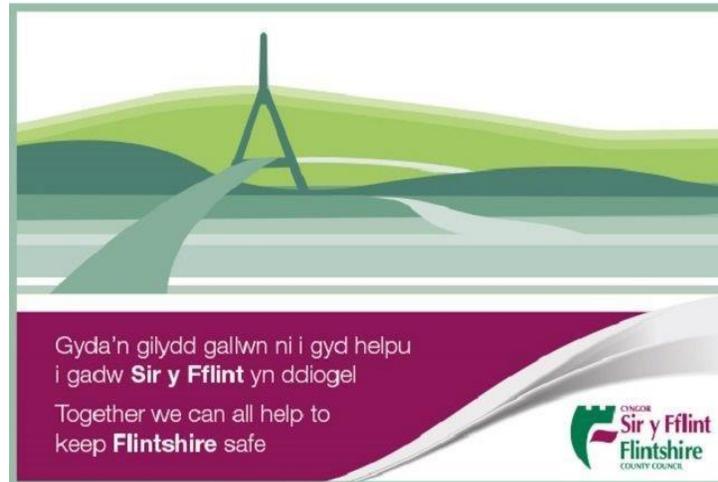
Gyda'n gilydd gallwn ni i gyd helpu i gadw **Sir y Fflint** yn ddiogel

Together we can all help to keep **Flintshire** safe

Contents

Tudalen 54

Analysis

Council Plan - Action RAG Status

4%

19%

77%

- Off Track
- Monitor
- On Track
- Missing Value
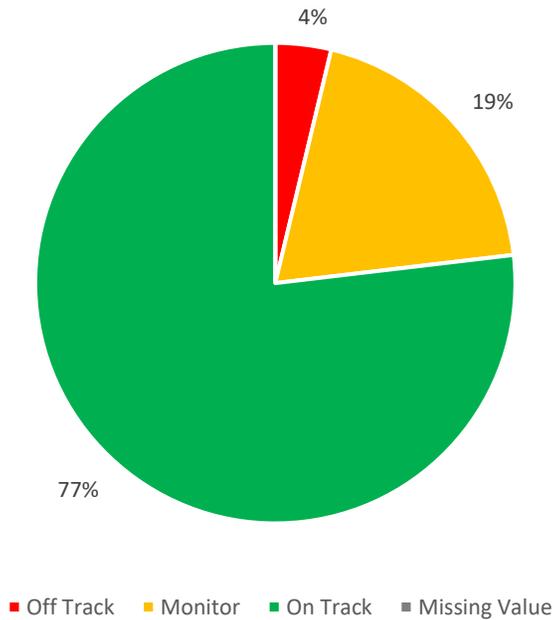
Council Plan - Measure RAG Status

1%

22%

13%

64%

- Off Track
- Monitor
- On Track
- Missing Value

Tudalen 55
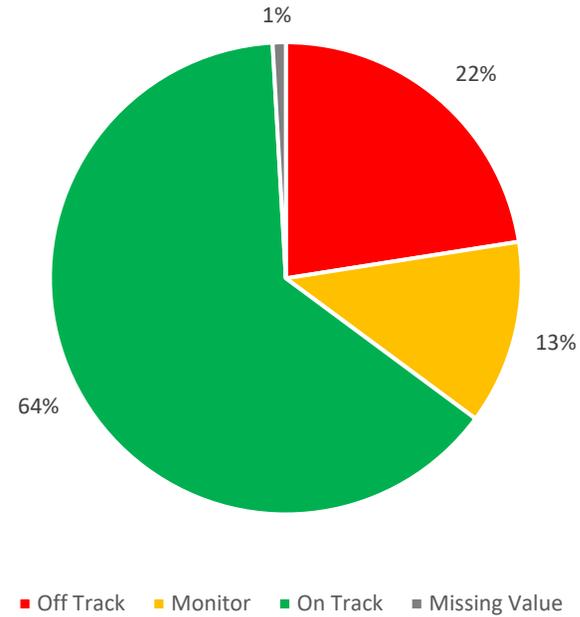
Key

▲ Red: Limited Progress – delay in scheduled activity and, not on track.

● Amber: Satisfactory Progress – some delay in scheduled activity, but broadly on track.

★ Green: Good Progress – activities completed on schedule and on track.

◆ Grey: Not Reported / Part Reported

Actions Off Track

Priority	Sub-Priority	Action	RAG
Affordable and Accessible Housing	Housing support and homeless prevention	Exploring opportunities to develop a young person's homeless hub offering accommodation and support services	▲
Green Society and Environment	Circular Economy	Achieving Welsh Government recycling targets	▲
		Developing and extending the Standard Yard Waste and Recycling Transfer Station	▲
Economy	Business	Supporting small and/or local businesses to engage with public sector procurement opportunities	▲
Personal and Community Well-being	A well connected, safe and clean local environment	Working with two local communities to inform a long-term vision and delivery plan for using the Flexible Funding Grant programme to achieve positive outcomes for people	▲
Education and Skills	Well-Being	Developing actions plans based on the findings, particularly in relation to Emotional Health and Wellbeing	▲

Tudalen 56

Measures Off Track

Priority	Sub-Priority	Measure	RAG
Poverty	Food Poverty	Number of residents supported by the 'Hospital to Home' meals service	▲
Affordable and Accessible Housing	Housing support and homeless prevention	Number of presentations to the homeless service	▲
	Housing Needs and Housing Options	Number of applicants rehoused via SARTH by All Housing Partners	▲
		Number of applicants rehoused via SARTH by Flintshire County Council	▲
	Social Housing	Number of Council Homes under construction	▲
		Number of Council Homes completed	▲
		Number of Affordable Homes under construction via NEW Homes	▲
		Number of Affordable Homes completed via NEW Homes	▲
		Number of Residential Social Landlord (RSL's) homes under construction	▲
		Total number of Mandatory Medium Disabled Adaptations completed	▲
		Total number of Mandatory Large Disabled Adaptations completed	▲
		Average number of days to complete a Mandatory Large Disabled adaptation	▲

Tudalen 57

Priority	Sub-Priority	Measure	RAG
	Private Rented Sector	Number of homeless households assisted under the Housing Wales Act 2014 to secure Private Sector Accommodation	▲
		Number of inspections of HMOs	▲
Green Society and Environment	Carbon Neutrality / Renewable Energy	Council Greenhouse gas emissions	▲
	Active and sustainable Travel Options	Develop Multi-modal transport hub at Garden City	▲
	Circular Economy	Percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted	▲
		Average recycling rate across Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)	▲
Economy	Transport Connectivity	Number of bus quality partnerships on the core network	▲
	Reducing worklessness	Number of individuals entering employment, learning or volunteering	▲
		Number of individuals receiving support	▲
Education and Skills	Educational Engagement and Achievement	Reduction in the number of fixed term exclusions	▲
	Digital Learning	Number of Adult Community Learning sessions provided in Welsh	▲
		Number of digital learning sessions provided in Welsh	▲

Tudalen 58

Poverty

Poverty Overall Performance

Poverty - Action RAG Status

4%

96%
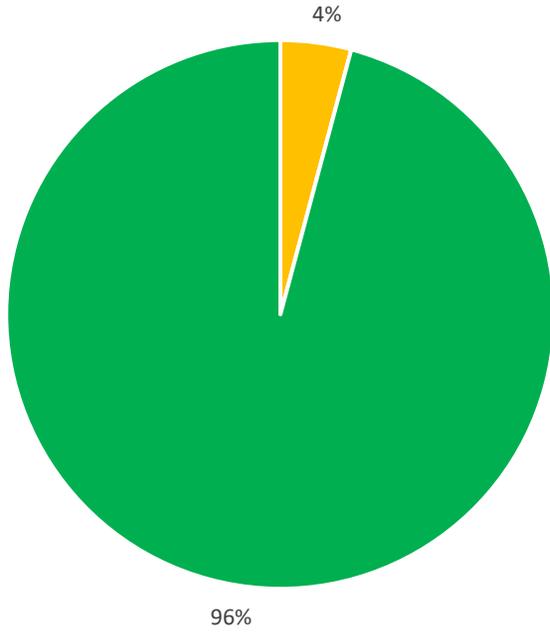
■ Off Track   ■ Monitor   ■ On Track   ■ Missing Value

Poverty - Measure RAG Status

5%

16%

79%
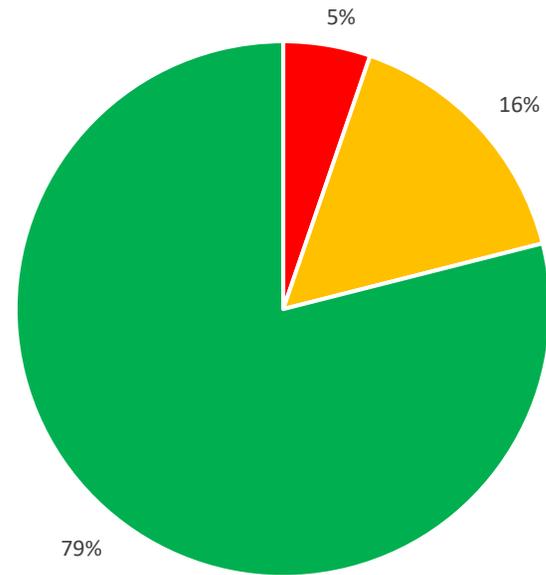
■ Off Track   ■ Monitor   ■ On Track   ■ Missing Value

Income Poverty 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Ensuring that take-up to benefit entitlements is maximised in a timely way by processing claims efficiently	100%	✔	We have carried out a thorough take-up campaign to ensure the Welsh Government Winter Fuel Payment Scheme 2022/23 was widely promoted and take-up was high. We ensured a variety of methods were used to reach as many people as possible. This included promotion by schools, members, emails to Flintshire residents via GovDelivery, Twitter and Facebook, as well as phone calls and letters to customers already identified as eligible. We have issued the £200 payment to 15,955 households totaling £3,191,000.
Continue to offer our community hub (Contact Centres) approach giving access to a range of programmes, services and agencies together in one place	90%	⭐	Our two community support hubs continue to be busy in Shotton and Holywell, providing support in the five key areas, food, income, mental health, digital and employment.
Maximising take up of the Discretionary Housing Payments scheme and other financial support	100%	✔	Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) funding continues to increase due to the additional financial pressures of rent and rising cost of fuel bills which has had an impact on tenants' ability to pay their rent. Welsh Government are continually encouraging Local Authorities to use DHP in the prevention of homelessness.
Maximising the number of people signposted for support to facilitate longer term change	100%	✔	Referrals continue to be received due to the continuation of the impacts of the cost of living. Ongoing advice and support forms part of the Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) application process even if a DHP is unsuccessful. It is envisaged that figures will continue to rise with the increased costs of energy bills and general cost of living expenditure.

Tudalen 61

Income Poverty 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA001M	Average number of calendar days to process new claims for housing benefit and council tax reduction	22.00	20.00	17.00	20 / 22.00	
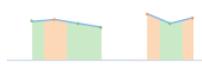
Speed of processing for new claims is slightly higher for Q4 than for Q3 and is also above target. We have had a reduced team for Q4 due to outstanding recruitment, and have also had to managed increased workloads across the team due to the going Winter Fuel Payment Scheme and the launch of the Energy Bill Support Scheme.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA002M	Average number of calendar days to process change in circumstances for housing benefit and council tax reduction	6.00	8.00	3.00	8 / 6.00	

Speed of processing for change of circumstances is on target for Q4.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA003M	Total spend of Discretionary Housing Payments (%)	100.00	100.00	130.00	100 / 100.00	

All of the Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) allocation was fully spent by supporting households with help towards housing costs to continue to mitigate and prevent potential homelessness situations due to increases in the cost of living.

Tudalen 62

Child Poverty 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Developing a network of school uniform exchanges across the county supported by enhanced web and social media promotion	30%	🟠	Regular meetings have been held between Education, Revenue and Benefits Officers to progress this work. A survey has been developed for all schools to participate in to enable the Council to better understand infrastructure need and what local provision is already in place. That survey is currently open to schools with a completion date of mid May. We are still awaiting however the outcome of a bid to the Welsh Government Circular Economy Fund to support the resourcing of a county wide uniform exchange infrastructure.
Encouraging take-up of the free school breakfast for year 7 pupils eligible for free school meals	100%	✔️	Welsh Government is currently conducting a policy review on this provision and local authority officers have been consulted as part of that. Funding is currently in place until the end of this academic year (July 2023). The Council has actively promoted this initiative with schools and currently 9 out of 11 secondary schools are making this offer. From April 2023 all secondary schools will be making this offer.
Ensuring children have access to staffed open-access playwork projects in local communities	100%	✔️	Completed for 2022/23. Recruitment for a supervisor to lead 2023/24 along with the lead officer for play development has been undertaken.
Ensuring children have access to well-maintained outdoor play areas which offer a varied and rich play environment	70%	⭐	Aura manages both the annual match-funding scheme (in its 12th year in 2022/23) for improvement works to children's play areas, together with the spend of the Council's capital allocation for play areas. In May 2022, Aura wrote to all 34 Town and Community Councils inviting expressions of interest in the 2022/23 match-funding scheme. 27 of the 34 Councils engaged with the scheme in 2022/23. Historically, the majority of match-funding projects are completed during Q4 or Q1 of the following financial year. This is due to the planning element which includes consultations with local ward members, delivery lead times for new play equipment and navigating the inclement weather of the winter months. At the end of Q4, 16 of the 27 match-funding schemes for 2022/23 had been completed (59%). The remaining 11 schemes have either been completed, or are due to be completed, during April / May 2023. From Aura's perspective, there is no risk associated with current progress and the green rating remains appropriate. Several of the match-funding schemes developed in 2022/23 are large projects which are also benefitting from receiving additional funds via the County Council's capital allocation for play areas. Both match-funding schemes and the use of the capital allocation is guided by the results of the independent play areas' survey completed in 2020 meaning that those sites of strategic importance, or most in need of investment, are being targeted. Three of the County's five destination sites - Cornist Park, Flint (match-funding and capital), Fron Park, Holywell (capital and s106) and Wepre Park (capital) - have benefitted from investment during 2022/23. This follows investment in the other two destination sites - Higher Common, Buckley and Maes Bodlonfa, Mold - in 2021/22.
Increasing usage of online resources for children and young people	100%	✔️	Aura continues to invest in digital resources in both English and Welsh for Children and Young People. This includes free online newspapers and magazines, and free access to Encyclopaedia Britannica Junior and Encyclopaedia Britannica Student. Free e-books and e-audio books for children and young people are also available to all library members: https://flintshire.borrowbox.com/product-group/39793/new-releases
Maintaining the network of seven libraries in partnership with Aura	100%	✔️	Seven libraries maintained at: Broughton, Buckley, Connah's Quay, Deeside, Flint, Holywell and Mold

Tudalen 63

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Making the processes for claiming free school meals as simple and straightforward as possible to increase the percentage of take-up against entitlement	100%	✔	Information about free school meals eligibility and application processes is available on the Council website. There is a dedicated email address and telephone number for any enquiries about applications. Schools are encouraged to share relevant information with their parent community. Our Connect Centres across the county can support families with the application process, including having an advisor sitting with the family to support them with their application. Officers continue to review the process to make the system more accessible.
Maximising the take-up of the school uniform grant	100%	✔	Schools have been encouraged to ensure parents are fully aware of the grant eligibility criteria and application processes.
Ensuring children have the opportunity to access meaningful community sports programmes (which impact on a range of issues including anti-social behaviour, child exploitation, drug and alcohol prevention and County Lines)	100%	✔	Working with a range of partners which include the Police, Youth Service, Youth Justice, SORTED, Streetgames and local communities to name only a fraction of who have been involved in the program. We have delivered 708 sessions within our communities and have had 15,130 attending over the period which has been a great success. The ASB (Anti Social Behaviour) has been lower within the areas and we have seen young people evolving into role models within the sessions. The sessions are free for all to attend and are situated in areas where ASB and/or deprivation is high.
Maintaining access to Free Swimming to help tackle health inequalities	100%	✔	The free swim program is for young people aged 16 years and under and a range of programs are offered from junior splash, disability sessions and girls only sessions. These sessions are available on a weekly bases within all swimming pools in Flintshire.
Working with partners to ensure children in areas of social deprivation have access to food, exercise and enrichment schemes during school holidays	100%	✔	Food was provided at each holiday play scheme throughout the summer.

Tudalen 64

Child Poverty 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU001M	Number of libraries open	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	
CAU002M	Usage statistics of online resources for children and young people	16,460.00	15,875.00	15,117.00	16,460.00	
CEY001M	Total number of children pre-registered for Summer Play Scheme	3,970.00	2,500.00	2,712.00	3,970.00	

Flintshire Play Development Summer Playschemes were a huge success in 2022 with 3,790 children registering to over 57 sites across the county allowing children the right to play in a safe and supervised environment. Our new digital registration system worked really well and allowed us to have a much more robust process of gathering data and personal information. The Welsh language was also promoted on all site with 56 out of the 57 noting that they had see children using the Welsh resources and therefore, hearing incidental Welsh being used.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CEY002M	Total number of children pre-registered for community and school play sessions/support	353.00	300.00	349.00	353.00	
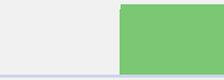
During 2022/23 Flintshire Play Development in partnership with Kicks for Kids have 5 community based sessions running each week with children having the benefit of learning new skills, socialising and building resilience. The school based sessions held in two ALN Schools and 1 PRU have proved successful with headteachers complimenting the work that the team has been doing in their settings.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CEY013M	Percentage of secondary school offering the free breakfast to those eligible year 7 pupils	82.00%	100.00%	100.00%	82.00%	

9 out of 11 secondary schools are participating in the free breakfast scheme for eligible year 7 pupils. The last two remaining schools will come on board from April 2023.

Tudalen 66

Food Poverty 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Continuing to develop delivery of a "Hospital to Home" meals service	60%	⭐	The hospital to home service is going well, helping to support residents to eat well when arriving home from either Mold or Deeside Community Hospitals.
Developing a "Well Fed at Home service"	80%	⭐	We will continue to increase awareness and promote the meals on wheels service to our residents, providing support with their meal orders etc.
Introducing a transported and delivered food service "Mobile Meals" to those who are vulnerable	90%	⭐	The successful Croeso Cynnes/Warm Welcome project came to an end on 31st March 2023. Well-Fed have delivered 4 roadshows in the Heights, Flint and Trelogan to launch the Meals on Wheels delivery service. Meals will be purchased and delivered to the community centre for the resident to collect to take home with them or enjoy together at the centre.

Food Poverty 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA005M	Numbers of residents enrolled in the "Mobile Meals" service	30.00	24.00	27.00	24 / 30.00	

Well Fed have launched the meals on wheels service in 3 of the Council's sheltered accommodation community centres. Residents were very impressed with the free meals they received during the Croeso Cynnes project over the winter months. Residents were pleased to see the menu had increased and they had the opportunity to purchase the meals to be collected when they attend the activities at the centre.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA006M	Number of residents supported by the "Hospital to Home" meals service	5.00	24.00	27.00	24 / 5.00	

The process is working well but the Initial take up has been low during the pilot. Further promotional work will be carried out to raise awareness of this service.

Tudalen 68

Fuel Poverty 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Engaging, supporting and referring vulnerable households to reduce fuel poverty and improve health and wellbeing	100%	✔	289 households were supported against a target of 200. The service provided advice to householders before and after energy efficiency equipment installation as well as energy advice, help and guidance for the general public.
Reducing the risk of fuel poverty for residents by increasing the energy efficiency of homes	100%	✔	1428 measures delivered against a target of 1200. The measure is made up of various component parts delivered by the Domestic Energy Efficiency Project team. Included within the statistic are work carried out on private and public housing stock for renewable heating, gas central heating, loft and cavity insulation, solar photo voltaic installations and Energy Performance surveys.

Tudalen 69

Fuel Poverty 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE001M	Total number of households receiving energy efficiency support	1,245.00	1,200.00	1,293.00	1.2k / 1,245.00	

This measure is made up of energy efficiency work fitted in private and public homes, alongside individual support provided to vulnerable households to help reduce Fuel Poverty.

Tudalen 70

Digital Poverty 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Increasing loans of devices through the Aura Digital Access Scheme	100%	✔	Achieved - 77 devices available for loan with 317 loans for the 2022/23 reporting year. Target for full year was 85. (2021/22 full reporting year saw total of 76 loans) Feedback from a service user: 'My experiences participating in this scheme and the impact it has had on me have been fruitful. I embarked upon this scheme in August 2022 and was able to secure an extension of 3 months in November. I have been able to access services such as bus timetables, essential weather reports and additional websites. It has brought things like wi-fi to my attention. The scheme has made a difference to my life and has brightened up many a winter's evening.'
Increasing take-up of digital learning opportunities supported by Aura	100%	✔	Aura libraries provide a wide selection of learning opportunities, examples include: Learn My Way ICT courses (various levels), Tablet training courses to accompany the Digital Loan Scheme Digital drop ins, IT 'buddy' sessions for troubleshooting/specific advice or support Family History sessions using library resources Find My Past and Ancestry.
Providing free of charge public access to the internet and devices where necessary at Flintshire Connects Centres, Aura library services and the four Leisure Centres	100%	✔	Free of charge public access to the internet and devices is available during normal opening hours.
Supporting people to use digital technology through promotion of suitable training to develop digital skills and confidence in the communities we serve	100%	✔	The Digital Flintshire Hub promotes a range of initiatives to help people to use digital technology now and in the future. The Hub includes resources to keep people safe online, training, health and well-being resources, digital events and activities. The Hub also provides information about the Council's ambitious plans contained in the Digital Strategy.

Tudalen 71

Digital Poverty 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU003M	Number of devices available for loan	77.00	77.00	77.00	77 / 77.00	
CAU004M	Percentage of libraries providing free of charge internet access	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100 / 100.00%	
CAU005M	Number of registered learners	224.00	75.00	69.00	75 / 224.00	
Full reporting year – 720 learners						
CAU006M	Number of sessions provided	1,174.00	225.00	210.00	225 / 1,174.00	
Full reporting year - 440 sessions						

Tudalen 72

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU007M	Total loans of devices	317.00	85.00	76.00	85 / 317.00	

During 2022-23, there were 77 devices available to loan. During Quarter 4, 22 devices were loaned. Overall, there was a total of 317 devices loaned which exceeded the target of 85.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CGV001M	People can access Council information digitally to develop and retain their digital skills – the number of online transactions across the Council	107,561.00	60,000.00	93,742.00	60k / 107,561.00	
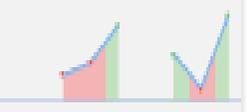
Online services are designed to be simple and easy to use. There is a wide range of online services for people to access on the Council's website to save them time contacting us in person, or by telephone. A variety of online services mean people can report, apply and pay for Council services at a time and place that is convenient to them, as well as providing opportunities to use their digital skills. The total number of transactions in 2022/23 was 107,561 with the Garden Waste subscription service being the most used accounting for 22% of all transactions. After this, benefit related transactions followed – Cost of Living Application, Winter Fuel Support Scheme, Uniform Grant and Free School Meals.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CGV002M	The number of eforms available online to enable people to apply, report and pay for Council services	157.00	160.00		160 / 157.00	

Online services provided by Flintshire County Council are designed to be responsive. This means digital services can be accessed 24/7 on any device chosen by the customer. Online services are also designed to be compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines which means access to services to all people, regardless of disability type or severity of impairment. The Council has 157 online forms providing a range of opportunities for customers to interact with services digitally.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CGV003M	The number of people subscribed to My Account	30,381.00	27,500.00	22,902.00	27.5k 30,381.00	

30,381 people have subscribed to My Account on the Council's website. My Account allows customers to access a range of information including who their local Councillor is, Planning, Waste and Recycling, Revenues and Benefits.

Tudalen 74

Affordable and Accessible Housing

Affordable and Accessible Housing Overall Performance

Tudalen 76

Affordable and Accessible Housing - Action RAG Status

3%

38%

59%

- Off Track
- Monitor
- On Track
- Missing Value
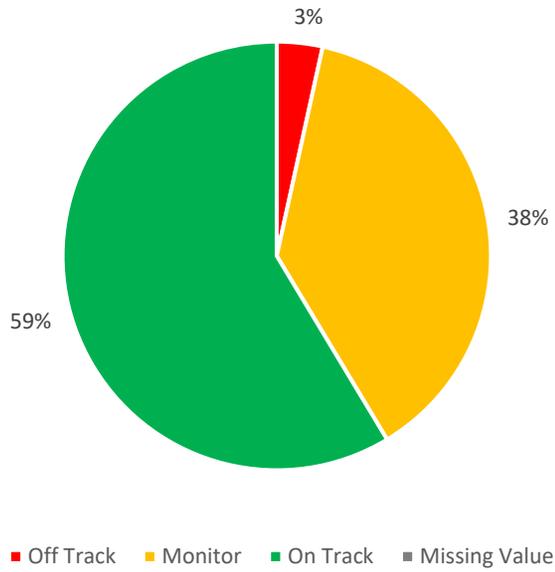
Affordable and Accessible Housing - Measure RAG Status

42%

48%

10%

- Off Track
- Monitor
- On Track
- Missing Value

Housing Support and Homeless Prevention 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Commissioning a wide range of housing related support that meets the needs of the people of Flintshire	100%	✔	All Domestic Abuse tender documents have been finalised and are awaiting approval from Cabinet to commence with the tendering process. A family supported accommodation has been decommissioned due to the property being sold. The provider is now delivering a floating support service for the families who have moved out of Plas Bellin and have been allocated properties through SARTH (Single Access Route to Housing) and also for other families coming through our Housing Support Gateway. In addition, the Housing Support Team have started consultations with all Floating Support providers so going forward the Housing Support Team will be able to recommission these services.
Developing and extending our Housing First and Rapid Rehousing approaches for those who do experience homelessness	100%	✔	Housing First Project continues to support up to 20 residents through the principles of Housing First. The service is currently undertaking an assessment with Cymorth Cymru as part of the accreditation process with very positive feedback provided to date. Final decision is expected in Quarter 1 of 2023. The R apid Rehousing Transition Plan is still in Draft but elected members have accepted and endorsed the Priority Areas and the Action Plan, and the 50% Homeless Direct Lets variation to the Common Allocations Policy remains in place. Flintshire County Council have been identified by Welsh Government as a partner for research into Allocations of Social Housing to inform the future direction of Social Housing Allocations Guidance for Wales alongside Rapid Rehousing.
Ensuring a multi-agency partnership approach to homeless prevention and develop a culture where homelessness is "everyone's business"	100%	✔	Engagement with partners through Multi Disciplinary Team activity and joint working continues to work well on complex cases. The Housing Support Forum provides a vehicle for the Housing and Prevention Service to engage with partners and tackle key challenges together. Further work with health partners is required. A regional event was planned for 9th March in partnership with North Wales Area Planning Boards, however this event was cancelled due to snow and hazardous conditions but has been rearranged for 04 May 2023, now with a bigger venue due to the significant interest generated.
Ensuring when homelessness does occur it is rare, brief and non-recurring	100%	✔	As much as can be done is being done by the homeless prevention and housing support services to reduce homelessness. Homelessness is however still increasing due to challenging conditions across the whole of Wales, many of which are associated with the housing crisis and the cost of living crisis. Moving people on from interim housing and enabling them to exit homelessness is difficult with significant barriers to securing housing. Most notable is the lack of 1 bedroom accommodation within both social housing and private rentals. Approximately 83% of the households in interim housing require 1 bedroom housing. When people do move on from interim housing and exit homelessness significant financial assistance and support is provided to ensure people are able to sustain their housing and avoid them becoming homeless again.
Exploring opportunities to develop a young person's homeless hub offering accommodation and support services	10%	▲	This is a long term action which has stalled as the priority is to identify a suitable location for a permanent Homeless Hub. Should a potential site for a young persons hub become available, capacity for design and explorative work will be identified.

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Promoting housing support and homeless prevention services with our residents and partners	80%	🟠	A successful Housing Support Forum was delivered with a wide range of partners in attendance. The Website was relaunched with a dedicated 'Housing Hub' which provides details of a wide range of housing support and homeless prevention information. New online access forms have been launched for the Housing Support Gateway to enable easier access for people to refer into services and be matched with support. A new Outcomes Framework pilot was completed with Welsh Government and several local commissioned services engaged in the Pilot. We had intended to deliver more outreach activities within the community to promote the various services available but due to service pressures we were unable to achieve all that had been planned.
Remodelling the "emergency beds" Homeless Hub accommodation offer and service delivery	25%	🟠	This is a long term action. Designs have been developed and a potential site has been identified. Discussions with local ward members for the site are planned for Quarter 1 of 2023. Exploration of funding for the Homeless Hub is underway.

Tudalen 78

Housing Support and Homeless Prevention 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA007M	Number of presentations to the homeless service	1,598.00	1,400.00	379.00	1.4k 1,598.00	

Presentation are up significantly from the previous year, this reflects the continued housing and cost of living crisis. More people are presenting as homeless or at risk of homelessness. There are fewer homes available in the private sector and many landlords are serving notices ahead of the implementation of the 6 month notice rules linked to Rent Homes Wales Act 2016 which apply from 01 June 2023.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA008M	Percentage of successful prevention outcomes for homelessness under Housing Wales Act 2014	59.25	65.00	63.00	65 59.25	

Causes of homelessness continue to be varied but high levels of private rental notices, relationship breakdown, asked to leave by family or friends remain the most common reasons for homelessness. There were 319 prevention outcomes reported in the year and of those 189 were positive. Negative outcomes were recorded as follows: 47 unsuccessful prevention. 3 refused assistance. 21 non co-operation. 37 application withdrawn. 19 loss of contact. 2 change in eligibility. 1 mistake of fact.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA009M	Percentage of successful relief outcomes for homelessness under Housing Wales Act 2014	44.26	45.00	57.00	45 44.26	

When considering the relief and discharge of full homeless duties there were a total of 357 outcomes recorded for the year and 158 of these were positive. This reflects 44.26% which is slightly below target. Opportunities to assist people to exit homelessness are increasingly challenging with few private rental properties being affordable and social housing supply limited. The homeless cohort continues to be predominantly single person households (approx. 84%) and there is minimal 1 bed accommodation available across the county.

Tudalen 79

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA010M	Number of households accommodated by the Council under Housing Wales act 2014 homeless duties	184.00	100.00	101.00	100 / 184.00	

At the end of the reporting period, there were 184 households in interim housing. This is a significant increase over the course of the year and reflects the ongoing pressures within the homelessness system. Annual target was to sustain a similar level of households in homeless accommodation. Whilst number of homeless households accommodated by the Council is a concern this is not unique to Flintshire. The breakdown of household types is as follows; Single Male 117, Single Female 38, Families 19, Other 10. Rough sleeping figures remain low (2).

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA011M	Average length of stay for those households in interim homeless accommodation under Housing Wales Act 2014	95.28	130.00	117.00	130 / 95.28	

Homeless accommodation includes those in temporary accommodation, homeless hub and also emergency accommodation (hotel or B&B). The high number of residents placed within emergency housing in the later part of the year is bringing the average figure down. Whilst the average length of stay reducing would usually be a positive outcome, the increase in numbers of households in homeless accommodation is a concern and the increased reliance on hotel and B&B create significant financial pressures. Financial support through the No-one Left Out grant for homeless accommodation has not increased in line with the increase in demand for accommodation.
The longest standing resident occupying homeless accommodation at year end had been in homeless accommodation for 472 days. Average length of stay by homeless accommodation type is as follows; temporary accommodation 150.62 days; homeless hub 126.04 days; emergency hotel & B&B 62.64 days.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA012M	Number of referrals received through the Housing Support Gateway	1,447.00	1,400.00	409.00	1.4k / 1,447.00	

Total referrals for housing related support through the Housing Support Gateway in Quarter 4 was 520. Our service area has continued promotional work and has finalised the development of our webpage on the Council's website. New referral pathways via the Housing and Prevention Service webpage has improved access to services for clients, which is evidenced by the increase in number of presentations to the service. Our IT system to manage referrals is now in its final stages of development which will enable us to report on more accurate data. This data also links into Housing Solutions (Homeless Team) data which shows a significant increase in Homeless presentations - In March 2022, there were 63 Section 62 assessments, compared with March 2023, where there were 127 Section 62 assessments undertaken. Housing Solutions Officers make up a high percentage of the referrals that we receive for support which explains the increase in referrals for housing-related support and supported housing.

Housing Needs and Housing Options 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Developing self-service approaches that enable people to identify their own housing options through online support	80%	🟠	Phase 2 of of this project is planned for 2023/24 which will offer customers further opportunity to communicate with the housing register team using a digital platform.
Piloting a risk assessment process to identify pre tenancy support needs to reduce risk of tenancy failure	60%	🟠	Officers continue to work with residents to address those issues that heighten the risk of tenancy failure. Packages of support have been developed to support positive tenancy start up and tenancy sustainment. A lot of activity has been geared towards the homeless cohort due to current focus on moving people of from homeless accommodation. Recent recruitment within the service have provided additional resource to continue this work.
Promoting the Single Access Route to Housing (SARTH), Common Housing Register, Affordable Housing Register and Housing Support Gateway within the community and with professionals	85%	🟠	A range of communication activities continue to be routinely delivered to promote our services and generate take up of services. Training for colleagues in other service areas has been delivered to promote the Common Housing Register and the Housing Support Gateway. Work has been completed on revamping both content and design on the website for both the Common Housing Register and Homelessness services. Phase 2 of of this project is planned for the start of the next financial year which will offer customers further opportunity to communicate with the housing register team using a digital platform. Training is being delivered on a regular basis to both internal and external colleagues and is being well received.
Reviewing our sheltered housing stock to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of current and prospective tenants	100%	✔️	The Council have now finalised the detailed option appraisals for each identified sheltered scheme/site. We have also completed further assessments in terms of condition of properties and our proposed investment costs to ensure compliance with the Welsh Housing Quality Standards, building safety compliance and energy efficiency. A report has been presented to Cabinet and Housing Scrutiny, detailing our approach to re-classification and further options appraisals as and when sheltered schemes are identified for review. A task and finish working group has now been established to finalise the findings and agree the next steps in terms of consultation with members and residents.

Housing Needs and Housing Options 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA013M	Number of applicants on the Common Housing Register	2,424.00	2,400.00	2,401.00	2.4k / 2,424.00	

There has been a 1.5% decrease in the number of applicants for Social Housing but the demand is still high compared to the number of properties available across all Housing Partners.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA014M	Customer satisfaction data for the Housing Register Service	52.27	40.00	32.00	40 / 52.27	

An online survey was issued in January to a sample of 300 applicants of which 64 responded. 24.38% of the applicants found it very easy to apply in the first instance and 23.36% found the rate of the service good. 52.27% of the applicants would like the opportunity to receive updates on their application via an online service. The responses will inform further online surveys and help inform how we engage digitally with our customers going forward.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA015M	Number of applicants rehoused via SARTH by All Housing Partners	534.00	610.00	149.00	610 / 534.00	

Lettings by Housing partners are as follows: Flintshire County Council 85; Clwyd Alyn 7; Wales and West Housing 25; Gwrp Cynefin 1.
It is noted that Lettings across all housing partners are lower than target and with fewer properties becoming available. The consequence is that the length of time applicants will wait to be rehoused will be longer. Also, there are fewer homes available through social housing providers which reduces the opportunities for the Council to prevent and relieve homelessness through positive move on into social housing.
The introduction of Renting Homes Wales Act 2016 on 01 December 2022, may have contributed to the lower numbers of lettings. Turn around of void properties may also have impacted on the number of Lettings.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA016M	Number of applicants rehoused via SARTH by Flintshire County Council	366.00	440.00	122.00	440 366.00	

85 applicants were rehoused by Flintshire County Council in the final quarter of 2022/23 and the total number of applicants rehoused for 2022/23 was 366.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA017M	Number of households rehoused with significant adaptations requirements	15.00	10.00	10.00	10 15.00	

This measure seeks to highlight the work of the specialist housing panel and the rehousing of households with significant property adaptation requirements. Due to their complexity of some applicants property need, the traditional route of the Common Housing Register and existing stock would not routinely meet the needs of this cohort of residents. The specialist housing panel therefore seeks to focus on those residents who without creative and innovative housing solutions, would fail to have their housing needs met. At the end of the reporting year there are 46 live applicants being reviewed by the specialist housing panel and 15 households have been successfully rehoused in the last 12months.

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Social Housing 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Creation of a new amalgamated Disabled Adaptations Team consisting of Privately rented/Owned properties and Council Housing stock	100%	✔	New staff members have now had their assimilation meetings with HR, management, union rep and a start date of 1st February 2023 has now been agreed by all parties.
Developing plans for the de-carbonisation of Council homes in line with Welsh Government guidance to ensure their thermal efficiency is optimised and the cost of heating homes are minimised	100%	✔	The Council is currently in the process of testing our draft strategy though our Decarbonisation Pilot works programme following the successful grant award (£3m) through the Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP) bid. The draft decarbonisation strategy will continue to be reviewed and updated and is nearing the final stages for sign off. The Council will ensure the strategy captures our aims and objectives in assuring our plans for decarbonisation are robust and correct for the tenants of Flintshire.
Ensuring that the Council's housing stock meets the Welsh Housing Quality Standard and achieves a minimum SAP energy efficiency rating of 65	100%	✔	The Council continues to target properties that do not meet the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) 65 rating through various improvement works. This includes, installation of efficient central heating systems, renewable technology (Solar Panels and Air Source Heating) and extensive external refurbishment contracts comprising of new windows, doors, loft insulation and roof coverings, the energy performance and thermal efficiency of our properties is addressed and improved. Our current average SAP rating for our entire stock is 73.5 We are currently moving towards incorporating our decarbonisation measures into our investment programmes of refurbishment works to our tenanted homes. The Council are currently waiting for the new standards and guidance (Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan and Welsh Housing Quality standards 2) to be published from Welsh Government, which will be incorporated into our investment programmes.
In partnership with Denbighshire CC, creating a new Dynamic Procurement System in order to ensure CPR's are met and provide a wider opportunity for tendering Disabled Adaptation projects	60%	🟠	Currently progressing the project with Denbighshire County Council and Procurement. Unfortunately, due to leave and workloads there has been some delay in progressing it.
Increasing the Council's housing portfolio by building social housing properties and affordable properties for North East Wales (NEW) Homes	80%	🟠	NEW Homes were originally looking to acquire an additional 5 properties at Maes Gwern this has since increased to 6. There has been a delay in the completion of designated homeless provision at Park Lane (4 units) and Duke Street (2 units). Progress has been slower than anticipated on both sites due to a number of issues, mostly contractor but with BT, Flintshire Street Naming and client preferred kitchen supplier as well. Completion was scheduled for the 3rd February for Duke Street and the Park Lane for the 28th of April and we are monitoring this closely It is anticipated that these will be completed circa Q1 of the 2023/23024 Financial year. The social homes at Mostyn (30 units) have also been delayed due to adverse weather and also sub-contractor issues. The Conuncil's Housing Management Team have visited this site and we are optimistic that they will be also be completed circa Q1 of the 2023/23024 Financial year. There are also 2 larger properties at Ash Grove which we hope to have completed circa Q1 of 2023/23024. NEW 5 additional properties located at Maes Gwern are shortly to be added to the NEW Homes portfolio.

Tudalen 84

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Listening to our tenants and working with them to improve our services, homes and communities	75%	★	An Action Plan will be developed following the outcome of the STAR survey to ensure services are tailored to the needs of tenant's priorities. Follow up on contact with tenants who have indicated an interest in being involved and devise matrix of areas for preferred involvement.
Supporting our tenants to access technology and create sustainable digital communities	50%	★	Residents enjoyed attending the digital courses delivered by Coleg Cambria as part of the Croeso Cynnes Project November 2022 to March 2023. They have been trained on how to use the device enabling them to keep in touch with family and access to money saving offers. Residents then have the opportunity to lone a tablet device using the Aura tablet loan scheme if they are unable to purchase their own.
Working with housing association partners to build new social housing properties and additional affordable properties	80%	●	We continue to work closely with our Housing Association partners. The next meetings have been arranged for April 2023. Regular review meetings are held both with the individual Associations at both a Housing strategy and at the Regional Strategic Lead level. This is in addition to quarterly meetings with the Housing associations and the Welsh Government. 8 units at Pen Y Coed, Drury were completed by Adra in April 2022. Wales and West completed 23 units at Bryn Awel hotel Mold together with 6 units at Northop Chapel United reform church, Northop.
Working with residents to ensure our communities are well managed, safe, and sustainable places to live	75%	★	Developing digital solution through Total Mobile to ensure that Housing Officers are better equipped to support tenants by having a greater presence on their patch area. Identifying support needs at an earlier stage and referring to Tenancy Sustainment and other support agencies where appropriate.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA018M	Number of Council Homes under construction	38.00	77.00	77.00	77 38.00	

There has been a delay in the completion of designated homeless units at Park Lane (4 units) and Duke street (2 units). Progress has been slower on both sites due to several issues, mostly contractor related but also connected to BT, Flintshire Street naming and client preferred kitchen supplier. We are closely monitoring progress and anticipate that that these units will be completed circa Q1 of the 2023/2024 financial year. The Social homes at Mostyn (30 units) have also been delayed due to adverse weather conditions, Way Leave issues and sub contractor issues. We remain optimistic that these units will also be completed circa Q1 of the 2023/2024 financial year. In addition, there are 2 larger properties at Ash Grove which also should complete in 2023/2024.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA019M	Number of Council Homes completed	0.00	36.00	0.00	36 0.00	

There has been a delay in the completion of designated Homeless units at Park Lane (4 units) and Duke street (2 units). Progress has been slower on both sites due to several issues, mostly contractor related but also connected to BT,   Flintshire Street naming and client preferred kitchen supplier. We are closely monitoring progress and anticipate that that these units will be completed circa Q1 of the 2023/2024 financial year. The Social homes at Mostyn (30 units) have also been delayed due to adverse weather, Way Leave issues and sub contractor issues. We remain optimistic that these units will also be completed circa Q1 of the 2023/2024 financial year. In addition, there are 2 larger properties at Ash Grove which also should complete in 2023/2024.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA020M	Number of Affordable Homes under construction via NEW Homes	6.00	21.00	0.00	21 6.00	

We have re designated a potential site at Pandy, Oakenholt to a different Tenure mix. A fresh Planning Application will be required. The targets for 2023/2024 will be updated to reflect the change.

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Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA021M	Number of Affordable Homes completed via NEW Homes	0.00	5.00	4.00	0.00	

This target will be reviewed and updated for the next financial year 2023/2024.The acquisition of six properties should complete in the first quarter of 2023/2024

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA022M	Number of Residential social landlords (RSL's) homes under construction	22.00	150.00		22.00	

There has been a delay in some of the larger sites being developed including Northern Gateway (100 units) and 66A Mold Road, Mynydd Isa (56 units) due to contractors withrawing from contracts which they deemed to have become unviable due to increased costs. the Contractor for Northern Gateway has recently entered Administration. The full Welsh Government grant of £11.2 million from Welsh Government was secured.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA023M	Number of Residential Social Landlord (RSL's) homes completed	43.00	41.00		43.00	

We are pleased to report that in these challenging times that 43 homes have been completed.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA024M	To deliver the Welsh Housing Quality Standard to all Flintshire County Council stock by December 2022	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	

The Council successfully complied with the Welsh Housing Quality Standards to all housing stock on the 31st December 2021. We have continued to maintain this standard to our tenanted homes and will now move into the maintenance phase of these standards. We are now working with Welsh Government and our supply partners in readiness for the new WHQS 2.0 standards that will be shared with the Council in 2023.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA025M	Achieving a SAP rating of 65 or above will be one of the key measures to determine whether or not the WHQS standard has been attained	100.00	100.00	100.00	100 / 100.00	

The Council continues to target properties that do not meet the SAP 65 rating through various improvement works. Installation of efficient central heating systems, renewable technology (Solar Panels and Air Source Heating) and extensive external refurbishment contracts comprising of new windows, doors, loft insulation and roof coverings, the energy performance and thermal efficiency of our properties is addressed and improved.
Our current average SAP rating for our entire stock is 73.5
All properties now comply with the SAP 65 rating and we are currently moving towards incorporating our decarbonisation measures into our investment programmes of refurbishment works to our tenanted homes.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA026M	Total number of Small Disabled Adaptations completed	987.00	320.00		320 / 987.00	

We are completely reliant on the Occupational Therapist recommendation and their clients need, so it is always difficult to project the amount of different sized works we may receive.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA027M	Average number of days to complete a Small Disabled adaptation	7.00	28.00		28 / 7.00	

These are the small adaptations that are classed as priority. They are to prevent risk, hospital admissions, for example, grab rails, hand rails etc.

Tudalen 88

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA028M	Total number of Discretionary Medium Disabled Adaptations completed	59.00	40.00		40 / 59.00	

We are completely reliant on the Occupational Therapist recommendation and their clients need, so it is always difficult to project the amount of different sized works we may receive. Discretionary adaptations have increased due to the change in DFG policy and removal of a limit to discretionary works.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA029M	Average number of days to complete a Discretionary Medium Disabled adaptation	131.00	122.00		122 / 131.00	

This is an amalgamated figure of all medium sized adaptations completed, discretionary and mandatory. Unfortunately some mandatory medium cases have had delays when processing the means testing, however now that means testing for all medium adaptations has been removed 23/24 target figures should hopefully be met.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA030M	Total number of Mandatory Medium Disabled Adaptations completed	47.00	60.00		60 / 47.00	

We are completely reliant on the Occupational Therapist recommendation and their clients need, so it is always difficult to project the amount of different sized works we may receive. The target for 2022/23 was set using the previous year's figure for mandatory medium adaptations awarded however, this was before discretionary adaptations therefore, the target has not been met. During 2022/23, the numbers of mandatory medium adaptations have reduced in line with the increase in the numbers of Discretionary Adaptations following implementation of the new Discretionary Adaptations Policy which has removed the need to means test.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA031M	Average number of days to complete a Mandatory Medium Disabled adaptation	131.00	122.00		122 / 131.00	

This is an amalgamated figure of all medium sized adaptations completed, discretionary and mandatory. Unfortunately, some mandatory medium cases have had delays when processing means testing, however, now that means testing for medium adaptations has been removed the 23/24 target figures should hopefully be met.

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Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA032M	Total number of Mandatory Large Disabled Adaptations completed	4.00	8.00		8 / 4.00	

We are completely reliant on the Occupational Therapist recommendation and their clients need, so it is always difficult to project the amount of different sized works we may receive. Large cases can take up to 15 months or longer to complete, currently we have 10 cases in progress at different stages, some of these will complete in 2023/24.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA033M	Average number of days to complete a Mandatory Large Disabled adaptation	502.00	456.00		456 / 502.00	

A legacy case which had been ongoing for a considerable period (prior to 2022/23) was completed in the 2022/23 reporting period. This had an adverse effect on completion target times. Should this legacy case be excluded from our actual figures then the average number of days to complete a mandatory large disabled adaptation would be 379, which is below our target of 456 days.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA034M	Total number of Disabled Adaptations completed	1,097.00	428.00		428 / 1,097.00	

We are completely reliant on the Occupational Therapist recommendation and their clients need, so it is always difficult to project the amount of different sized works we may receive.

Private Rented Sector 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Developing a "landlord offer" that encourages landlords to work with the Council to raise standards of property management and condition of homes where needed	90%	🟠	The Landlord Hub section of the Councils Website is now in its final stages of development and due to be launched in Quarter 1 of 2023/24. Continued use of Welsh Government Homeless Prevention Grant has enabled us to sustain the landlord offer relating to rent rescue packages for failing tenancies, including support for landlords who have experienced significant interest rate hikes and have had to increase rents due to their cost pressures. Advice and guidance with the implementation of the Renting Homes Wales Act 2016 is extended to landlords routinely by the Bonds Scheme Officers. The Council are unable to sign up to the Welsh Government Leasing Scheme due to staffing pressures.
Engaging with private sector tenants, giving them a voice and responding to their needs	100%	✔	We continue to work with regional partners and TPAS Cymru to develop a Private Rented Sector Forum to provide opportunity for residents to engage with services and promote opportunities for engagement with residents who live in private rented sector homes. An online event was held online on the 01 March 2023, and residents who attended the event helped develop a Factsheet about the Renting Homes Wales Act 2016 as this was an issue they had identified as creating uncertainty and confusion for private renters. Their feedback has helped shape the content of the form and they have identified further subject ideas for future factsheets.
Improving access to private sector properties for those who are homeless, at risk of homeless and in housing need	60%	🟠	Market conditions mean that this task is increasingly challenging to deliver on. Many landlords are serving notices in order to sell their properties. Whilst we have a wide range of financial incentives to encourage landlords to consider residents who are open to the Councils Housing Support and Homeless Prevention services, as Contract Holders, the lack of housing and the increasing costs to rent privately is creating additional barriers to being able to improve access to the private rented sector.
Mapping Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) across Flintshire to ensure legal minimum housing standards are met and to improve residents' quality of life	67%	🟠	The target for this activity was amended from 40 to 35 HMO's to inspect due to the fact that the programme of work commenced during quarter two of 2022/23, following new members of staff joining the team.
Working in partnership with landlords and private sector agents to better understand their needs	100%	✔	The Landlord Forum continues to be delivered online in partnership with National Residential Landlords Association. The last Forum focused on damp and disrepair as this is a topic landlords had requested advice and guidance on. Over 40 landlord attended the Forum. Financial Hardship and Cost of Living issues were identified as another concern for landlords and the Landlord Forum in May 2023 will have a range of guest speakers to help raise awareness of support services that can assist residents and help sustain their accommodation which is positive for landlords.

Tudalen 91

Private Rented Sector 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CHA035M	Number of homeless households assisted under the Housing Wales Act 2014 to secure Private Sector Accommodation	51.00	64.00	62.00	64 / 51.00	

51 households were recorded as being supported into private rented housing in order to either relief or prevent their homelessness. Availability of private rental homes is reducing and rent costs are going up, making renting privately unaffordable for many people. A report by the Bevan Foundation into availability of private rental homes found 59 homes available in Flintshire in February 2023 and 0 were charging the Local Housing Allowance rate, meaning they would be unaffordable for most people who are in receipt of benefits or on low wage.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE032M	Number of inspections of HMOs	24.00	35.00	18.00	35 / 24.00	

24 inspections undertaken from the target of 35. Operational and statutory pressures, such suitability checks for Ukrainian refugees and legislative changes in the Private Rented Sector, has affected the delivery of proactive work.

Empty Properties 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Bringing empty homes back into use thorough the Empty Homes Loan Scheme	100%	✔	This is on-going and this financial (2022/23) year we have approved £200,000 in house into home loans, with a further 3 in the application stage.
Exploring opportunities to develop a project management service for non-commercial landlords to encourage take up of the Empty Home Loan Scheme	100%	✔	This is on-going. We are waiting on a meeting to put the project management service to a test by undertaking a full refurbishment.
Exploring opportunities to maximise housing and revitalise our towns through the redevelopment of the High Street	100%	✔	A number of regeneration schemes have been awarded Welsh Government 'Transforming Towns - Place Making Grant' for 2022-23 and the Regeneration team has worked with property owners and developers to secure funds, start and progress work on site and claim grant funds at the end of March 2023. Amongst grant funded projects (which property owners have invested a minimum of 30% capital funding themselves) one scheme has also applied for and been awarded repayable loan funding as part of a funding investment package alongside non-repayable grant funding. Work is ongoing into the next financial year regarding recent and new enquiries from property owners and developers about regeneration grant and loan funding available to them to support the regeneration of high streets in town centres, and facilitating the development and delivery of new regeneration projects. An application for Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF) was submitted by the Council's Regeneration team, which has been successful at stage 1 (of 2) to secure funds to implement a Town Centre Investment programme comprising 8 projects across 7 towns in Flintshire. In quarter 1 of 2023-24, stage 2 SPF funding application will be developed and submitted. The outcome of this funding application is expected by end June/ early July 2023.
Targeting 'problem' empty homes in our communities and use enforcement powers where appropriate to improve our communities and increase housing supply	100%	✔	Enforcement powers have been used to successfully take 2 long term empty properties through the enforced sale procedure and they are now back in use. Empty Homes has passed over the 3rd property to the solicitors and its due to be sold at auction in the next 2 months.

Empty Properties 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE003M	Percentage of empty private properties brought back into use	2.20	1.10	3.60	1.1 / 2.20	

Based on Council Tax figures of 500 when the housing strategy plan was produced in 2019, we have brought 11 properties back into use with the assistance of loans, enforcement and encouragement which equates to 2.2% for the financial year 2022/23.

Tudalen 94

Green Society and Environment

Green Society and Environment Overall Performance

Green Society and Environment - Action RAG Status

0% 8%

31%

61%

■ Off Track ■ Monitor ■ On Track ■ Missing Value
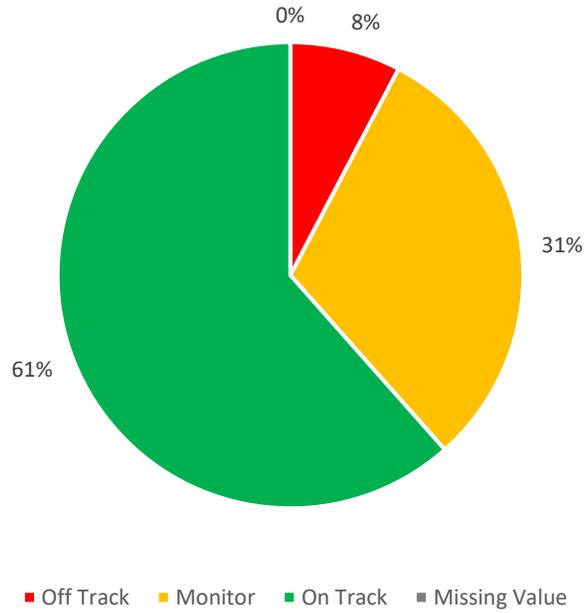
Green Society and Environment - Measure RAG Status

45%

55%

■ Off Track ■ Monitor ■ On Track ■ Missing Value

Tudalen 96
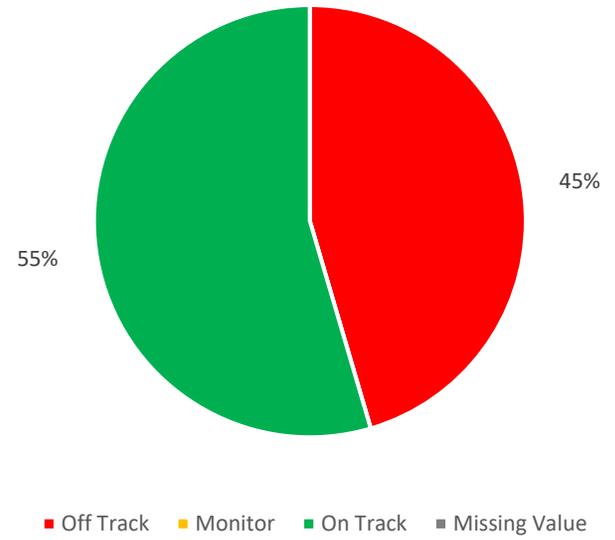
Carbon Neutrality 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Developing plans towards net zero carbon for our assets in line with Welsh Government guidance	100%	✔	Non-domestic Energy team continue to build plans and business cases for building assets to improve energy efficiency and further reduce carbon emissions.
Gathering information on annual Council greenhouse gas emissions to submit to Welsh Government and the Carbon Programme Board	100%	✔	Data has been submitted to Welsh Government, and the latest progress report has been presented to Climate Change Committee, Governance & Audit Committee, Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.
Reviewing the procurement policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from suppliers	60%	★	A draft procurement policy to map ambitions from 2023 to 2027 is scheduled for Cabinet approval in Q1 of 2023/24. Contained with the new procurement policy is a key objective for Procurement to work with contractors, partners and service providers to support them to reduce their carbon footprint and to become carbon neutral by 2030. To ensure carbon reduction is embedded into future Procurements, a new role has been created in the Procurement service to lead on carbon reduction. The vacancy is currently being advertised.
Working with Flintshire's leisure and culture trust partners to reduce carbon emissions	100%	✔	Partners are involved in relevant Climate Change Programme Working groups. Meetings have been scheduled with both Aura and Newydd to calculate carbon footprints and develop carbon reduction plans.

Carbon Neutrality 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE004M	Council Greenhouse gas emissions	44,980.00	36,960.00		36,960 / 44,980.00	.

As detailed in the Climate change programme progress report, all emissions targets were exceeded except supply chain which saw an increase due to the rise in cost of goods and services. This has skewed the progress made to reduce emissions over this financial year and does not give a clear picture of the progress made within other areas of the decarbonisation programme. Work is being carried out over 2023 to better understand our emissions from supply chain.

Tudalen 98

Climate Change and Adaption 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Assessing the feasibility of schemes within land assets for resisting flood and drought while enhancing biodiversity and increasing carbon storage	60%	★	Non-domestic Energy team continue to build plans and business cases for building assets to improve energy efficiency and further reduce carbon emissions.
Carrying out flood investigations and alleviation works where appropriate	50%	●	First phase reports have been received on both of the flood investigation priority projects and these will inform the scoping and commissioni9ng of the next phases.
Reviewing the Council's Flood Risk Management Strategy	25%	●	Welsh Government have confirmed that the deadline for updating Flood Risk Management Strategies has been put back to spring 2024. Consultants Waterco have been commissioned to assist the Council in producing its strategy, and the scoping meeting took place on 20.04.23. An initial engagement plan will be put together to gain insights into the flood risk priorities to be addressed through the strategy, involving workshops with Members and key stakeholders
Reviewing the Council's Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment	95%	●	Further consultation on revisions to Technical Advice Note 15 (TAN15) Development and Flood Risk have resulted in the need to review the draft SFCA already produced to see if there is any further implications or work required. Consultation comments on the latest changes to the TAN were submitted to Welsh Government on 17th March 2023, following consideration of the comments at the Planning Strategy Group. Final consideration will be given to the draft SFCA prior to its finalisation and submission to Welsh Government

Tudalen 99

Fleet Strategy 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Converting the authority's fleet to electric and alternative fuels (hydrogen etc)	10%	★	We continue to explore the feasibility of the electric vehicle charging infrastructure across our assets. Further to the 2 EV buses already delivered, and the 2 EV recycling vehicles that are due imminently, we have recently taken delivery of 3 medium-sized electric cars which have been deployed to children's services. The service area has subsequently requested a further 3 additional vehicles to support their service. The fleet workshop team are due to complete EV/HYBRID vehicle Maintenance courses which will be delivered locally by Deeside college.

Tudalen 100

Fleet Strategy 2022/23						
Measure	**Measure Description**	**Actual**	**Target**	**Last Year**	**Performance**	**Performance Trend**
CST001M	Introduce electric vehicles into the recycling fleet	5.00	2.00		2 5.00	.

Further to the 2 EV buses already delivered, and the 2 EV recycling vehicles that are due imminently, we have recently taken delivery of 3 medium-sized electric cars which have been deployed to Children's Services. The service area has subsequently requested a further 3 additional vehicles to support their service. The fleet workshop team are due to complete EV/HYBRID Vehicle Maintenance courses which will be delivered locally by Deeside college.

Tudalen 101

Green Environment 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Delivering an increase in canopy cover as part of the Urban Tree and Woodland Plan	100%	✔	Progressing well against key objectives in the plan with 22/23 targets met: Tree planting: 118 standard trees and 2482 whips (creating over 500m of new hedgerows) across 16 sites in Flintshire
Delivery of green infrastructure projects under the Local Places for Nature grant funding stream	100%	✔	All grant aided targets under the local places for nature scheme have been delivered. Over £500k of funding applied for and delivered with a total of 95 GI (Green Infrastructure) interventions with wildflower sites and tree sites combined.
Enhancing the natural environment through the delivery of the Section 6 Environment Act Wales biodiversity duty	100%	✔	The 2022/23 actions within the Section 6 Plan were delivered. Highlights include: • Greener development conference hosted in November 2022 with approximately 150 delegates • Approximately 30 Flintshire County Council members attended a biodiversity training session in January 2023 • 79 new wildflower sites created spring 2023 which equates to 3.9Ha • 3 Town Centre Green Infrastructure Masterplans were developed • Collaboration with 17 schools for biodiversity improvements • Flintshire swift recovery project: a total of 126 nest chambers were erected • A total of 95 Green Infrastructure (GI) interventions with wildflower sites and tree sites combined • Conservation grazing enabled at Bettisfied, Greenfield valley • Community growing space created, 2 Ponds restored. • Habitat management works 5 + sites

Tudalen 102

Green Environment 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE005M	Number of Green infrastructure improvement projects and planting	95.00	10.00		95.00	

95 GI intervention projects completed

Tudalen 103

Green Access 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Delivering the Rights of Way Improvement Plan with a focus to ensure improved access for all and the promotions of Walking for Health	100%	✔	All targets for 2022/23 have been delivered. Key highlights include: • Delivered the WG Access Improvement Grant - £64K. Completed 3,000 sqm of surface improvements • Supported the Ramblers Association Cymru and their Path for People Project to work with Llanfynydd local community to improve their local path network and environment • Improved the Rural Walks booklet with new accessible routes • Intergenerational/educational walks with Mountain Lane C.P. School undertaken • Achieved the target of 5 LEMO's (Legal Event Modification Orders) for 2022/23 in the Annual Delivery Plan • 77 New Footpath signs were installed on the roadside over the last 12 months • 33 new kissing gates installed as part of the Access Improvement Grant • 704 issues resolved in 2022/23, a 59% increase on 2021/22
Exploring opportunities to develop the Flintshire Coast Park through the production of a scoping study	100%	✔	Scoping study has been completed and was reported to Cabinet in November 2022.

Tudalen 104

Green Access 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE006M	Completion of the Coast park Scoping Study	100.00	100.00		100.00 (100)	

Completed study and reported to Cabinet in Nov 22

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE007M	Number of Kissing Gates and barriers removed from Public Rights of Way	33.00	30.00		33.00 (30)	

Completed 33 kissing gate installations and resolved 704 issues on the network

Tudalen 105

Renewable Energy 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Agreeing appropriate investment strategy for future renewable energy developments	40%	🟠	Welsh Government Energy Service have provided guidance on next step renewable energy schemes on our land assets. The feasibility of these needs to be assessed on a site-by-site basis in conjunction with the Capital Works programme. Resource to progress and manage this has been approved within MTFS (Medium Term Financial Strategy) and a vacancy business case is being developed to progress this action within 2023.
Assessing the feasibility of renewable energy and land assets and link to wider carbon ambitions	40%	🟠	Welsh Government Energy Service have provided guidance on next step renewable energy schemes on our land assets. The feasibility of these needs to be assessed on a site-by-site basis in conjunction with the Capital Works programme. Resource to progress and manage this has been approved within MTFS (Medium Term Financial Strategy) and a vacancy business case is being developed to progress this action within 2023.

Renewable Energy 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE004M	Council Greenhouse gas emissions	44,980.00	36,960.00		36,960 44,980.00	·

As detailed in the Climate change programme progress report, all emissions targets were exceeded except supply chain which saw an increase due to the rise in cost of goods and services. This has skewed the progress made to reduce emissions over this financial year and does not give a clear picture of the progress made within other areas of the decarbonisation programme. Work is being carried out over 2023 to better understand our emissions from supply chain.

Tudalen 107

Active and Sustainable Travel Options 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Developing the County's electric car charging network	100%	✅	A total of four electric charge points have been installed on the recently constructed Park & Ride facility on Zone 2 Deeside Industrial Park. A further 17 publicly accessible charging points have now been implemented within nine Flintshire car parks. This work is now complete and charge points are fully operational. Welsh Government annual grant application submitted for purposes of identifying future economically viable sites - conformation of funding awaited. Completion of study will enable the Council to quantify funding required to expand strategic network of chargers.
Promoting active travel and further develop the Council's cycleway network	100%	✅	The Active Travel Core allocation has been fully spent and all the initiatives have now been delivered.
Promoting multi modal transport journeys and the development of strategic transport hubs	80%	🟠	Works to progress multi-modal transport projects have progressed throughout the year which incorporates a programme of Active Travel schemes, including the A550 Penyffordd to Hope shared use path, a shared use facility in the Wepre Ward of Connah's Quay, A further shared use facility in Buckley (linking into previously delivered Safer Routes Scheme) and a significant shared use facility along the A5104 Saltney. In addition, a number of feasibility studies have been completed to support future funding applications. The Active travel schemes and studies implemented calculate to £1.2million pounds of funding. Two electric bus vehicles have now been delivered and arrangements are currently being progressed for their use. Attempts to secure funding for the construction of Deeside Station have been unsuccessful, for the second time. Locations of strategic transport Hubs are currently being reviewed as part the Council's integrated transport strategy review. Consideration will also need to be given to the outcome of the ongoing Welsh Government Bus Reform.
Promoting the use of public transport through the further development of the Council's core bus network	75%	🟠	A number of improvement schemes have been undertaken aimed at improving journey times on the Council's Core Bus Network. Welsh Government funding has been secured this financial year to undertake further infrastructure improvements. The progression of a multi-modal transport infrastructure scheme from Queensferry roundabout to Shotton is currently underway. The '1 Bws' ticket has also been introduced in North Wales in partnership with Local Authorities, Operators and Transport for Wales (TfW). Viability of the Core Network has also been promoted via the introduction of Local Travel Arrangements (LTA's) and Flecsi Services.

Tudalen 108

Active and Sustainable Travel Options 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CST002M	Introduce Electric Charging points at key locations across the County	21.00	17.00	4.00	17 / 21.00	

A total of four electric charge points have been installed on the recently constructed Park & Ride facility on Zone 2 Deeside Industrial Park. A further 17 publicly accessible charging points have now been implemented within nine Flintshire car parks. This work is now complete and charge points are fully operational. Welsh Government annual grant application submitted for purposes of identifying future economically viable sites - conformation of funding awaited. Completion of study will enable the Council to quantify funding required to expand strategic network of chargers

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CST003M	Develop multi- modal transport hub at Garden City	0.00	1.00	0.00	1 / 0.00	

The ability to progress the Garden City bus interchange has been prohibited due to time constraints within the grant conditions, along with the lack of progression relating to the Bus Only link and land purchase. This resulted in the funding having to be returned to Welsh Government, however the funding to complete the land purchase has verbally been agreed to be carried forward.

Tudalen 109

Circular Economy 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Achieving Welsh Government recycling targets	75%	▲	While the statutory recycling target for 2022/23 is 64%, we aspire to meet the target of 70% ahead of 2024/25. Following the impact of the pandemic we had started seeing residual waste tonnages decrease closer to pre-pandemic levels, along with some recycling materials such as glass and food waste. This is improving our overall recycling performance in comparison to 2021/22; however, further improvement needs to be made to achieve national targets (64% 2021/22 & 70% 2024/25) as the current waste strategy is not supporting this. A review of the waste strategy is currently ongoing as recent compositional analysis of the residual waste bins shows that a high proportion of waste put in them could be collected via the weekly recycling service. Residents of Flintshire have been asked to support the Council in achieving these targets by making use of the recycling containers provided. Evaluation of any improvement will be reviewed in September 2023.
Developing and extending the Standard Yard Waste & Recycling Transfer Station	50%	▲	The project to redevelop the Standard Yard materials recovery facility (MRF) in Buckley is ongoing and currently subject to review following a recent tendering exercise to procure the construction of the facility. Due to the commercial sensitivities around the tenders, the details of the procurement exercise cannot be shared publicly. However, there are a number of national issues in the construction industry, which are impacting the project, including supply chain delays and shortages, costs of materials, inflation costs and energy prices. Additionally, and although planning consent for the site was granted over 12 months ago, there are also still a number of outstanding matters to resolve with the site in relation to environmental permitting, utilities, SUDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems), and legal traffic regulation orders, all of which are likely to take some time to resolve. The review will involve an independent assessment of the options available to the Council for future operational depots and examine all aspects of the project, including technical, economic, financial, legal, and environmental considerations. In the meantime, arrangements are in place with a third-party contractor to provide a bulking and storage facility for the local authority for recyclable material and material recovery.
Promoting the option to reuse and repair unwanted items at Household Recycling Centres by partnering with local Charities or social enterprises	25%	🟠	A funding bid to introduce a reuse initiative across all Household Recycling Centers was submitted to Welsh Government for Circular Economy Funding in June 2022 following an unsuccessful bid to the Landfill Tax Communities Fund. The outcome of that bid is still yet to be determined; however, working with Welsh Government colleagues we are hopeful of a positive outcome in 2022/23
Support and promote Re-Use and Repair initiatives in pertnership with Refurbs Flintshire	100%	✅	The Repair and Reuse Centre, with café, was successfully opened in 2021. Since that time the café has become well established with customer throughput increasing. A comprehensive programme of upcycling workshops, repair sessions and reuse initiatives are in place each month and are well attended. Further session such as developing IT skills and energy efficiency workshops have also taken place to further benefit the community. A designated webpage is being created on the councils' website to promote these, along with promotion via social media
Support local businesses in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient	100%	✅	In partnership with FCC, Deeside Decarbonisation Forum delivered 5 network events throughout the year and engaged with 210 business delegates. The events are designed to share best practice within private sector decarbonisation work programmes and encourage business collaboration across Flintshire.

Tudalen 110

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Working in partnership, actively support and engage with community led groups by developing recycling initiatives	50%	⭐	Options are being developed to undertake a pilot scheme introducing a recycling initiative whereby if a specified community could improve their recycling performance, then the benefits seen, such as financial savings, would be invested back into community groups to develop environmental improvements. The service undertook a food waste minimisation campaign into the new year and supported the national 'Be Mighty, Recycle' food waste campaign, which is being extended with grant funding to increase awareness. A leaflet with the council tax bill went out in March informing residents of the 70% target for recycling to be achieved, along with the financial impacts if it is not.

Tudalen 111

Circular Economy 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CST004M	Percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted	60.00	70.00	62.00	60.00 / 70	
CST005M	Average Recycling rate across Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)	76.00	80.00	80.02	76.00 / 80	
CST006M	Introduce an electronic labeling system for waste collection services	1.00	1.00		1.00 / 1	

Our overall recycling performance for Q4 has reduced since Q3 due to the reduced tonnage of waste streams such as garden waste which decreases during the winter months. The figure reported is the estimated year end recycling performance. Data will be submitted to Welsh Government for validation.
Following a second stage waste compositional analysis work completed in Q3 it has been identified that over 50% of waste in the residual bin is recyclable waste, with 30% being food waste. Due to this we are not able to achieve the national statutory target of 64% and are not on target to meet 70% by 2024/25. The council's waste strategy is currently under review with the decision of implementing the most effective intervention of restricting the amount of residual waste permitted to be disposed of per week deferred to a later date.

Quarter 4 recycling performance across HRCs (76%) has gone below 80% due to reduced tonnages of garden waste and DIY materials which are typically higher during the spring and summer months. When calculated for the whole year (2022/23), the overall recycling performance across the HRC sites remains above 80% as this calculates the peaks of summer and the lows of winter.

An electronic labelling system (known as RFID) has been fully introduced on the garden waste subscription service. This allows data to be gathered on which bin has subscribed to the service, when the bins have been emptied and where they are located within the county with the purpose of improving vehicle efficiencies and identify bin presentation rates, amongst other benefits.

Economy

Economy Overall Performance

Tudalen 114

Economy - Action RAG Status

4%

31%

65%
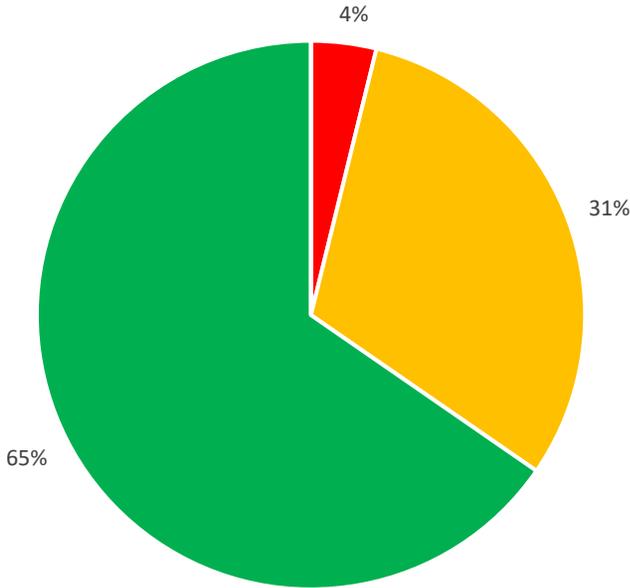
■ Off Track ■ Monitor ■ On Track ■ Missing Value

Economy - Measure RAG Status

30%

70%

■ Off Track ■ Monitor ■ On Track ■ Missing Value

Town Centre Regeneration 2022/23

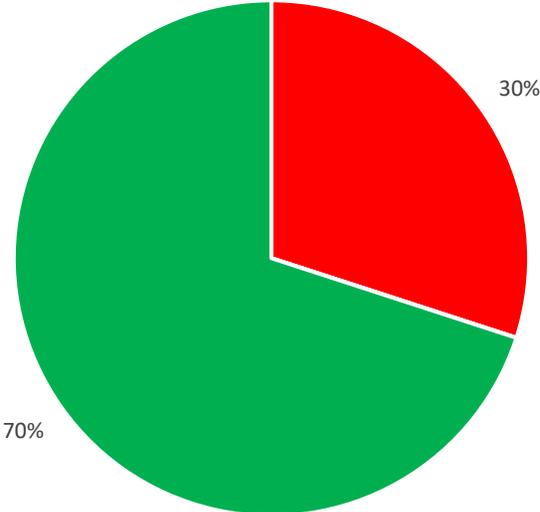| Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Encouraging and supporting investment in town centre properties especially to facilitate more sustainable uses	100%	✔	Enquiries for property owners and developers for grant and loan investment have been received throughout the last quarter (January - March 2023). Site meetings have been held with all individuals who enquired and are eligible for Welsh Governments' Transforming Towns 'Place Making Grant' and 'Property Development Grant', to discuss project development and application criteria/ process. There has been a good number of enquiries from services looking to have a presence in the high street in the future which would help to diversify the use of town centre high streets - most noticeably for Holywell town centre. The council's regeneration team has facilitated these enquiries and fed in the needs of service users/ service providers to the Place Making Plan development work being undertaken currently.
Improving the environment in town centres	100%	✔	A number of actions have been completed over the last quarter (January - March 2023) which contribute towards improving the environment in town centres, these include: 1) Consulting local people in Buckley, Holywell and Shotton about their town centre environment/ future needs and improvements (as part of Place Making Plan development work); 2) Securing funds for new regeneration projects and continuing to deliver existing town centre regeneration projects; 3) Development of 3 town centre 'Green Infrastructure Audits' commissioned, 2 of which have been fully completed and 1 to be completed by May 2023; 4) Development of a project to target improvements to green and blue spaces within Flintshire town centre - submitted as part of a stage 1 funding application to seeking Shared Prosperity Funding application. 5) Environmental Quality Audits completed for Buckley, Holywell and Shotton (as part of a wider Commercial Assessment piece of work) to inform emerging Place Making Plans.
Monitoring the health and vitality of town centres to support effective management and business investment decisions	100%	✔	A number of datasets/ information have been monitored and analysed as part of the Council's monitoring of the health and vitality of town centres these include: 1) Annual vacant property data (derived from non-domestic rates records) was fully analysed in March 2023, 2) Footfall in the town centres where footfall devices are installed and operational, and reports completed using online dashboards/ statistics; 3) Number of empty properties added to the council's vacant property enforcement action plan amongst other data which has been analysed for the emerging Place Making Plans for the towns of Buckley, Holywell and Shotton. A SWOT analysis and commercial assessment for each town centre using data such as rental yields, property sale prices, spend data for people shopping in the town centre has been included. The findings of the data gathering and analysis will feature on the Council's website (regeneration pages) within the coming months - as part of new information that will be shared and communicated. The information gathered throughout 2022-23 regarding the health and vitality of town centres has been communicated to Welsh Government and also informed the 'evidence of need' for a funding application developed to seek UK Government's Shared Prosperity Funding for a town centre investment programme.
Supporting the growth of community enterprises in town centre locations	90%	★	Enquiries about investment in community buildings/ facilities have continued to be received during the last quarter (January - March 2023). Interested parties have been supported to explore funding opportunities and support available to them directly via the Council's Regeneration Team as well as being signposted to other colleagues and external organisations for support. The growth and diversification of community enterprises is part of the proposed Town Centre Investment Programme, a funding application for which has been submitted to seek Shared Prosperity Funding, and one of eight strands to the proposed programme specifically aims to support businesses and community enterprises to develop and grow including areas of support such as reviewing their business performance, development and business plans, skills development and communications/ marketing. It is anticipated the outcome of this funding application will be known by the end of June / early July 2023.

Tudalen 115

Business 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Engaging town centre small businesses and improve support packages available to them	100%	✔	18 enquiries were received from town centre small businesses during the last quarter from across a number of towns in Flintshire, all of which were related to available funding and investment opportunities. 7 of these enquiries are interested in potentially pursuing an application for the new Welsh Government pilot 'Property Development Grant' and 2 have progressed applications via the Welsh Government Transforming Towns Place Making Grant funding scheme. A number of town centre business owners in Buckley, Holywell and Shotton participated in the online and face-to-face consultation events held in February and March 2023 in relation to town centre Place Making Plans. More engagement with businesses is planned for May and June 2023, relating to sharing emerging consultation findings/data relating to Place Making activity and funding and investment opportunities available to them.
Increasing the scale and impact of the social business sector	100%	✔	During the reporting period, the Social Enterprise (SE) Officer, supported 11 organisations to register as Social Enterprises within the county working in partnership with the Flintshire Social Enterprise Stakeholder group which consists of 7 Flintshire based Social Enterprises. The SE Officer has developed an innovative online based Social Impact Toolkit which has identified £2,807,122.27 worth of social impact within Flintshire.
Supporting growth of the local and regional food and drink business sector through marketing and collaborative projects	100%	✔	Support has been provided to local food and drink groups by hosting a series of networking events such as Meet the Producer and Taste North East Wales Programme, strengthening links between food and drink producers and the tourism sector. Support has been provided to the Mold Food and Drink Festival organisation committee with a successful return of the festival after a two-year break due to the pandemic. The event attracted thousands of people over the weekend and over 100 exhibitors showcased their products with the the majority being from North East Wales (a focus was on local this year). A range of Flintshire County Council services played a pivotal role in supporting the festival organisers. Food and Drink Sector Readiness for National Park Status – Scoping and feasibility study. A development project which gave opportunities for food and drink businesses, networks and relevant organisations to contribute to some early research that may shape the future of support for the food and drink sector in North East Wales. This engagement with the food and drink sector made the research more accurate and reflective of both the current situation and their development needs for the future.
Supporting local businesses in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient	100%	✔	In partnership with FCC, Deeside Decarbonisation Forum delivered 5 network events throughout the year and engaged with 210 business delegates. The events are designed to share best practice within private sector decarbonisation work programmes and encourage business collaboration across Flintshire.
Supporting recovery of the County's street and indoor markets	100%	✔	A weekly average of 70 regular street traders attended Mold (64) and Holywell (6). In addition, 60 casual traders were accommodated throughout the year around the towns. Mold indoor market has an average occupancy rate of 80% with regular enquiries to occupy the Market Hall. The service successfully delivered Mold and Holywell Easter and Festive Markets drawing hundreds of visitors on each occasion. In addition, the Market Team developed and delivered a range of attractions during school and bank holidays (children's characters; musicians; face-painters etc.) bringing footfall in to the towns and encouraging families to attend the markets.

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Supporting recovery of the tourism and hospitality sectors and rebuild confidence in the industry	100%	✔	Development of a Flintshire Tourism Ambassador Scheme which provides a series of online learning modules to enhance knowledge of the visitor offer has been offered in Flintshire and the wider North Wales region, free of charge. This includes walking and great outdoors, heritage and culture, towns and shopping, sustainable and food tourism. There are 3 levels of awards – bronze, silver, and gold, depending on the number of modules completed. Support has been provided to local tourism business groups with their programme of networking activities. Flintshire County Council was involved in organising a series of 6 familiarization trips for the tourism sector in North East Wales. These were designed to highlight interesting and key destinations to local tourism businesses. The trips enabled businesses to share the knowledge and encourage visitors to delve deeper into local history, culture, landscapes, attractions and hospitality venues. Over 60 businesses and 170 people attended in total. The overall aim of the North East Wales Heritage Audit project was to highlight the vast amount of interpretative material that has been produced and to make it easily accessible to tourism providers, local communities and business who want to strengthen their sense of place. This project has strengthened links between heritage and the tourism sector. A Heritage Showcase event was held at Ruthin Gaol on 28 March 2023. Over 120 people attended the event with 19 stalls representing 22 groups and societies.
Supporting small and/or local businesses to engage with public sector procurement opportunities	25%	▲	Opportunities to deliver supply chain events did not present themselves during 2022/23. However, the planning and development of the supply chain and social responsibility events are progressing well with Flintshire County Council capital works and Theatr Clwyd to deliver a series of 'Meet the Buyer' sessions in 2023/24.

Business 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE008M	Number of small or micro businesses receiving support	352.00	300.00	2,495.00	300 / 352.00	

352 businesses were supported with general advice, expansion, work force development, finance finding and signposting to relevant organisations.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE009M	Number of social enterprises receiving support	71.00	45.00	41.00	45 / 71.00	

71 businesses were supported (60 existing businesses plus 11 new businesses started during 2022/23) Delivered 146 businesses support advisory sessions.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE010M	Number of local businesses supported to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient	78.00	30.00	10.00	30 / 78.00	

78 businesses supported via Deeside Decarbonisation Network. 5 sessions delivered throughout 2022/23 engaging 210 delegates.

Transport Connectivity 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Developing and delivering transport infrastructure improvements as part of North Wales Metro programme and the Council's Integrated Transport Strategy	60%	🟠	Progression of the North Wales Metro and in-year transport schemes have been restricted due to ongoing land negotiations, supplier availability and restrictions associated with the pandemic. In particular, concerns regarding the ability to progress the Garden City bus interchange, have now been raised with Welsh Government due to unresolved land issues and due to time constraints within the grant conditions, funding had to be returned to Welsh Government. The progression of a multi-modal transport infrastructure scheme from Queensferry roundabout to Shotton is currently ongoing for which consultation is now complete. Internal review of feedback received has been completed, however due to the change in 20mph legislation, discussions with Transport for Wales (TFW)and Sustrans are being held to ensure that no further scheme amendments are required prior to construction starting.
Ensuring Flintshire strategic transport priorities are well-represented in the Regional Transport Plan from the forthcoming Corporate Joint Committee development	35%	🟠	Following the publication of Welsh Government's New Wales Transport Plan, we are in the process of reviewing our own Integrated Transport Strategy. Once complete, this will form the basis of Flintshire's forthcoming Regional Transport Plan submission which will be undertaken by a North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC). Local Member Workshops are scheduled for later this year to commence the process of review. A paper is scheduled to go to Informal Cabinet on 9th May 2023

Tudalen 119

Transport Connectivity 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CST008M	Number of schemes delivered through the Welsh Government Active Travel Fund	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	

All three Active Travel schemes have now been delivered

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CST009M	Number of bus quality partnerships on the core network	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	

The ongoing development of the Quality Bus Partnership has been put on hold. Transport For Wales are undertaking a Network review across North Wales and whilst the initial report was due in May 2021 this piece of work is delayed due to the consultation of the white paper produced by Welsh Government. This white paper sets out proposals for public transport bus services to better plan and grow the bus network. This will ensure it meets public needs, maximise the value we get for our investment in bus services and break our reliance on private cars.

Tudalen 120

Digital Infrastructure 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Connecting further rural communities to improved digital infrastructure	25%	🟠	The service lost its sole specialist officer delivering this work stream and was unsuccessful in recruiting a replacement before the external funding for the role expired. Following a successful budget pressure bid for 2023/24 onwards the role of Digital Connectivity Project Officer has been designed and awaits evaluation. The new role will be the operational lead for encouraging the development of digital connectivity infrastructure (outside of Council business operations) and in encouraging greater adoption of new technologies by communities and businesses.
Starting delivery of the local plans within the North Wales Growth Deal for digital infrastructure	100%	✔️	The digital projects with the Growth Deal capital portfolio are progressing through the Treasury Green Book development process as planned. Market engagement is underway for the Last Few Percent project, Outline Business Cases have been drafted for investment in mobile and fibre infrastructure and a Business Justification Case has been drafted for investment in new wireless connectivity infrastructure. Extensive business and stakeholder engagement is underway and the project leads are liaising closely with UK and Welsh Government and telecommunications companies to ensure investment is effective and dovetails with wider plans.

Local Development Plan (LDP) Targets 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Ensuring timely adoption of the LDP once Inspector's Report received	100%	✔	The final binding Inspectors' Report was received on 15 December 2022 which marks the close of the Examination of the Local Development Plan (LDP) by the Inspectors. The LDP was adopted by formal Council resolution at County Council on 24 January 2023 which was well within the required 8 week period.
Maintaining and updating the LDP Housing Trajectory in line with planning decisions made	100%	✔	The adoption of the Local Development Plan (LDP) enables the Council to maintain and update the housing trajectory. Officers are continuing to undertake annual housing land monitoring each April in order to inform future updates of the housing trajectory as part of the first Annual Monitoring Report to be submitted to Welsh Government in October 2024.
Making decisions at Planning Committee in line with the adopted LDP	100%	✔	The Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 24 January 2023 and now forms the statutory development plan for making decisions at Planning Committee or delegated decisions. From the date of adoption the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) ceased to have effect and decisions on all planning applications have been made in line with the LDP.
Monitoring overall Plan performance via the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and submit to Welsh Government	100%	✔	The adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) contains a monitoring chapter which provides the basis for monitoring plan performance through an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The first AMR will be prepared and submitted to Welsh Government in October 2024, a full 12 month period following adoption.
Referencing the Local Development Plan growth strategy in early work on a North Wales Strategic Development Plan (SDP)	75%	🟠	The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee has been convened and has met on several occasions with the Council represented by the Leader and Chief Executive. Much of the early work has been to agree staffing, procedures and governance structures as well as establishing the requirements for various sub committees, one of which will oversee the development of an Strategic Development Plan (SDP). Adoption of the Flintshire Local Development Plan at County Council on 24 January 2023, aligns with the stage reached by the CJC and with the SDP, and as such can make an early input into the consideration of the structure and format of an SDP, and what the main sub regional issues are that the plan needs to deal with.

Local Development Plan (LDP) Targets 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE011M	Number of calendar weeks for the adoption of the Local Development Plan following receipt of the Inspector's report	8.00	8.00		8 8.00	.

The LDP (Local Development Plan) was adopted on 24 January 2023 by the Council, within the 8 week period specified following receipt of the Inspector's Report.

Tudalen 123

Spending Money for the Benefit of Flintshire 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Continuing to generate social value outcomes through the Council's procurement activities	50%	★	Generating social value outcomes through the Council's procurement activities is standard practice and remains a key priority. The performance data for the remaining six months (Q3 and Q4) of the financial year 2022/23 is under review and will be provided upon completion.
Generating local spend to support economic growth through the inclusion of social value measures in procurement activity	50%	★	In the financial year 2022/23, for the remaining six months of the year including Q3 and Q4, approximately £1,816,460 of local spend was generated subject to verification. For the total financial year, the total spend is approximately £4,014,022. NB: Flintshire define 'Local' as the area of Flintshire and also the Mersey Dee Alliance which includes Wrexham, Wirral, Cheshire West and Chester.
Reviewing the Social Value Strategy to identify further opportunities to maximise social value across the Council, its services and expenditure	25%	●	The core priority for generating social value remains on the Council's commissioning and procurement activity. In the reporting period, there have been no further opportunities identified to maximise social value across the Council owing to insufficient capacity and resource. A recent Social Value Performance Report for 2021/22 and the first six months of 2022/23 was presented to Cabinet in January 2023. As part of the recent report to Cabinet, an action plan has been endorsed by Members, which sets out to secure a sustainable programme work. The action plan that will be actioned in 2023/24 will cover areas of policy and process that will be reviewed with a view to making improvements, for example, by simplifying the social value commissioning and procurement process, developing new ways of working that embed social value across the organisation, and developing resources to support commissioning officers and contract managers. The action plan will ease capacity within the service and allow other opportunities to generate social value to be explored, as highlighted within the strategy. A Social Value Leads Implementation Group with Members representing each of the authorities' service areas has been developed since the report presented to Chief Officer Teams and Cabinet Members in January 2023 to progress the action plan.

Tudalen 124

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Supporting supply chain partners to measure and convert their social value offerings through procurement commitments, into real and tangible benefits for local residents and communities.	50%	🟠	Supporting the Council's supply chain partners to measure and convert their social value offerings through procurement commitments is standard practice. The programme continues to experience a high number of delays in receiving social value performance updates from suppliers delivering goods, works and services across the Council's service areas. For many contracts registered on the Councils social value performance reporting system named Impact Reporting, suppliers have provided little or no updates despite being prompted to do so by the programme and or relevant contract management team. In some instances, these contracts have ended leaving the authority open to legal challenge. Though the risk of this is relatively minor, the programme team are challenged with both capacity and the resource required to make contact with suppliers in efforts to backdate performance data. This will continue to be reflected in the quarterly and annual performance reports. The main challenge of this is insufficient contract management and limited capacity within the programme to prompt suppliers to provide updates given the high number of contracts which now include social value. In the recent Social Value Performance Report for 2021/22 and the first six months of 2022/23 presented to Cabinet in January 2023, the Council Plan target for the number of pounds of social value generated has already been surpassed for the financial year 2023 in the first and second quarters. This provides reassurance that despite the challenges highlighted, the Council Plan targets continue to be fulfilled with support from the service. As part of the recent report to Cabinet an action plan has been endorsed by Members which sets to secure a sustainable programme of work. The action plan will cover areas of policy and process that will be reviewed with a view of making improvements which include contract management, in efforts to ensure commissioning and contracts officers are accountable for monitoring social value performance as part of their own contracts where applicable. This will further support the challenges which have been detailed. A Social Value Leads Implementation Group with Members representing each of the authorities' service areas has been developed since the report presented to Chief Officer Teams and Cabinet Members in January 2023 to progress the action plan.

Spending Money for the Benefit of Flintshire 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CGV004M	Number of contracts delivering community benefits	54.00	60.00	13.00	60 / 54.00	

In the first six months of 2022/23, 90% of the target for the number of contracts supported to include social value had already been achieved (that was 54 contracts supported within the first two quarters, with an annual target of 60 contracts to be supported). Whilst the figures for quarters 3 and 4 of 2022/23 are still to be fully processed, checked, and verified, it is anticipated that the annual target will have been achieved and good performance in generating social value from the Council's commissioning and procurement activities is expected to have continued to the end of 2022/23.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CGV005M	Monetary value of community benefits as measured against the Flintshire Themes Outcomes and Measures (TOMs) Framework	3,156,253.00	2,400,000.00	1,949,258.56	2.4M / 3,156,253.00	

The Council Plan target for the pounds of social value generated was achieved and surpassed within the first six months of the year (with over £3m of social value generated within the first six months of 2022/23). Whilst the figures for quarters 3 and 4 of 2022/23 are still to be fully processed, checked, and verified, it is anticipated that good performance in generating social value from the Council's commissioning and procurement activities is expected to have continued to the end of 2022/23.

Tudalen 126

Reducing Worklessness 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Co-ordinating a multi-agency approach to support businesses to recruit people from disadvantaged groups	25%	🟠	During the final quarter of the year, employment pathways took place which was determined by the current need in the labour market. The demand for CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) training from both clients and employers was high and a Health and Safety Level 1 in construction took place along with a Social Care and Support worker pathway in partnership with Flintshire County Council and DASU (Domestic Abuse Safety Unit). The number of vacancies in these sectors remains extremely high and with the offer of bespoke training for clients it is hoped that they will go on to fill employment opportunities in these sectors. Supporting recruitment and engagement events continued during quarter 4 with a Communities For Work presence at a Parent and Carer event in Connah's Quay. The purpose of the event was to support parents, grandparents and guardians who require work to fit around their childcare commitments. A mini job fair was also held at Mold Jobcentre.
Deliver mentoring and wider support programmes to assist disadvantaged people to re-engage with the labour market	25%	🟠	During Quarter 4 a number of events and employment pathways took place to encourage the engagements of participants to the programme. For example Health and Safety in construction, CSCS card initiative developed to encourage people into this sector as there is a demand in the local labour market. Recruitment and engagement events took place during this quarter targeting parents/carers also a mini job fair held at Mold Jobcentre.

Tudalen 127

Reducing Worklessness 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE012M	Number of individuals entering employment, learning or volunteering	118.00	247.00	39.00	247 / 118.00	

Into employment figures have remained below target in the final quarter of 2022/23 but consistent with the previous quarter. In total, 118 individuals entered employment, learning or volunteering during 2022/23. Client engagement has begun to improve and the uptake in training and pathways has slowly started to improve meaning that there has been a shift of people moving closer towards the labour market. There does remain a cohort however, of clients who continue to require a great amount of support with their confidence and anxieties. These clients will continue to be supported with confidence building, volunteering, and employability skills courses to help them move forward. Going forward into the new CFW+ (Communities for Work Plus) programme, large scale job fairs and local recruitment events are planned to bring the labour market opportunities direct to the people of Flintshire with opportunities in their locality.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CPE013M	Number of individuals receiving support	267.00	600.00	86.00	600 / 267.00	

During Quarter 4, 50 individuals received support from the C4W (Communities for Work) programme and were assigned an employment mentor. In total, 267 individuals were supported in 2022/23. Referrals have continued to filter through from Youth Justice, Social and Children's Services. Plans to engage with family liaison workers in school establishments have started with a pilot in Ysgol Gwynedd in Flint. Engagements are picking up after the COVID pandemic and workshops have now been developed for confidence building and interview skills, working with Theatr Clwyd to enable individuals on their journey into employment.

Personal and Community Wellbeing

Personal and Community Wellbeing Overall Performance

Tudalen 130

Personal and Community Wellbeing - Action RAG Status

6%

94%

■ Off Track ■ Monitor ■ On Track ■ Missing Value
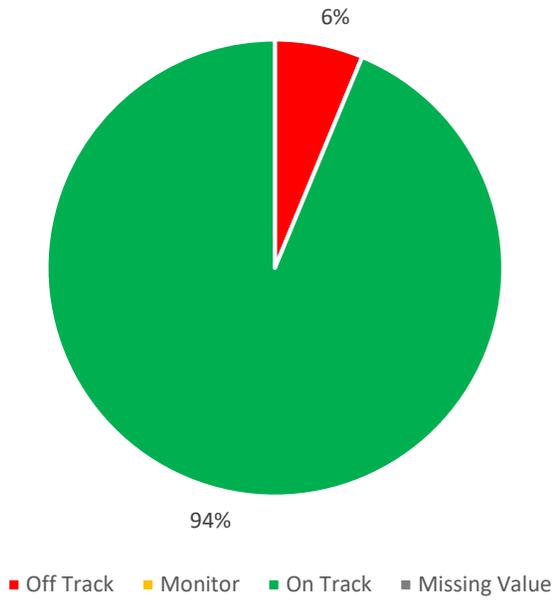
Personal and Community Wellbeing - Measure RAG Status

16%

84%

■ Off Track ■ Monitor ■ On Track ■ Missing Value
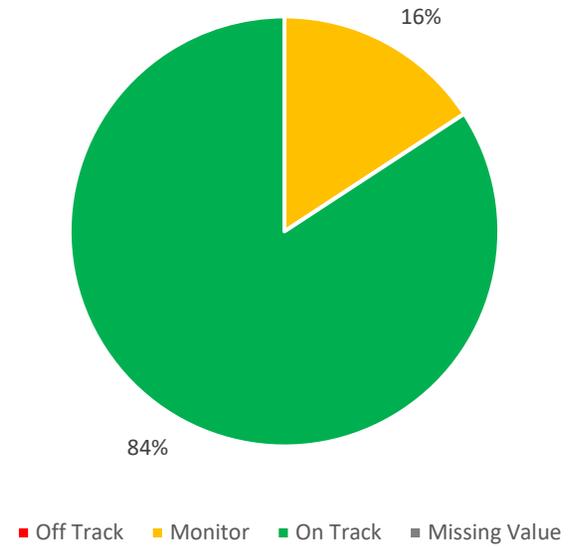
Independent Living 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Working in Partnership with the Community Mental Health Support Service to develop clear pathways for individuals needing access to Mental Health Services	100%	✔	Social Services and Housing are working closely to create a small team who can improve access to housing support for people with mental health problems. This will be grant funded and will give people the support they need to find and maintain tenancies. We are in the recruitment phase and have agreed the pathways the team will adopt. These are likely to be operational half way through the forthcoming year.
Continuing to grow the Microcare market, utilizing one Development Officer post	100%	✔	We have expanded the Micro-Care market by a further 9 providers. This includes 2 Micro-Carers who are directly commissioned by the council, which is a ground-breaking development for the use of Micro-Carers across Wales. There has been the first development of a daycare service provided by a Micro-Care enterprise in Flintshire, and other models of care have been established for those with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, dementia and mental health conditions. There are currently 10 people being worked with to become a Micro-Care enterprise in this financial year.
Developing a plan to provide additional placements for step down care within our in-house provision	100%	✔	Marleyfield House is fully operational and plans for the new Croes Atti development in Flint that will provide additional step down capacity is on schedule through the planning and development process.
Developing an Early Years Strategy to ensure that all our children ages 0-7 have the best possible start in life and are able to reach their full potential	95%	★	Due to long term sickness, the Strategy is due to be presented at the Early Years Board in May 2023 for final comments and sign off. The Strategy will be adopted as of June 2023 and will be a 10 year Plan requiring collaboration and partnership working across the whole Early Years system to ensure effective outcomes for all children.
Plan for the relocation of Tri Ffordd supported employment project to a central site in Mold	100%	✔	The project remains broadly on schedule. A planning application was submitted on 9th December and is yet to be formally approved. The Stage 2 cost plan was submitted in December according to the programme schedule. The Stage 3 cost plan will be completed by end of April and Stage 4 design will commence following this date. There is an element of regarding the financial aspect of the project, pending outstanding application to Welsh Government for grant funding. Construction is scheduled to start in July if the programme remains on schedule.
Supporting people to achieve their mental well-being outcomes by promoting personal and community well-being through open access courses delivered by the Learning Partnership	100%	✔	Some courses are now being delivered as community groups, enabling the participants to engage in their local community and to develop the group. Individuals have been identified who would benefit from support to access community activities in their local community and this support has been provided by the Training Support Worker.

Independent Living 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS001M	Number of Microcare providers	31.00	34.00	24.00	34 / 31.00	

The overall target was to recruit 10 additional Micro-Carer's this financial year, achieving 9 with another 10 currently going through the process. 2 have left during the year due to personal reasons and alternative career options.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS002M	Number of Microcare customers	188.00	34.00		34 / 188.00	

Most people who receive services through a Micro-Care service do so via a direct payment from the Council, giving them choice and control over the commissioning of their own care. We have exceeded our target for packages of care delivered through Micro-Care; the data is an estimate based on returns from 22 Micro-Care providers.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS003M	Direct Payments as a % of home-based services	41.00	38.00	39.00	38 / 41.00	

This measure reflects the percentage of services delivered to support people in their homes which are delivered through a direct payment, giving individuals more choice and control over when and how they receive their support.

Tudalen 132

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS004M	Percentage of urgent requests for equipment that meet or exceed the national 1 Day response standards	100.00	98.00	100.00	98 / 100.00	

Equipment is managed by the North East Wales Community Equipment Service. The National standard for urgent requests is 90% within one day. 5,807 items of urgent equipment were processed, all within the one day timescale.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS005M	Percentage of requests for equipment that meet or exceed the national 7 Day standard	100.00	80.00	100.00	80 / 100.00	

The North East Wales Community Equipment Service continue to provide 100% of equipment requests within the seven day national standard; 7,650 items of equipment were delivered under the 7 day standard.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS006M	Percentage of equipment that is re-used	93.00	70.00	92.00	70 / 93.00	

The standard of 70% is set nationally by the "National Minimum Standards for Community Equipment Services in Wales". However, the North East Wales Community Equipment Service (NEWCES) consistently achieve better than what is requested, with an average of approximately 90% re-use of equipment rather than throwing it away. By doing this there is a yearly cost avoidance of over £2 million.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS007M	Number of courses delivered by the Learning Partnership	70.00	50.00		50 / 70.00	

Courses are well attended. Some courses are now being delivered as weekly community groups by the Learning Partnership i.e. Mindfulness, needle-felting

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS008M	Number of attendees for courses delivered by the Learning Partnership	300.00	180.00		180 300.00	

The number of attendees for the courses has increased over the year from 71 in the May-August period to 92 in January to March period.

Tudalen 134

Safeguarding 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Continuing to promote the corporate e-learning package	100%	✔	67% of Social Services staff have completed the e-learning module. This figure has reduced due to the high turnover of staff across social services. 87% of Social Services staff have now completed the e Learning training, up from 57% at the mid year point. Corporate Safeguarding e-learning has been added to the Council's mandatory training list for all Council staff, with a refresher date of 3 years. A Task and Finish group has been drawn together to plan for the promotion of safeguarding through National Safeguarding Week.
Preparing for the implementation of the new Liberty Protection Safeguarding procedures	100%	✔	The UK Government recently announced that they do not intend to bring forward the necessary legislation to implement the Liberty Protection Safeguards (the LPS) within this Parliament. This means that Welsh Government cannot bring forward its own regulations to implement the LPS in Wales. Despite this decision, the Welsh Government has confirmed that it remains committed to providing funding to protect the rights of those who lack mental capacity under the current Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) system to ensure that that these rights are protected ahead of any future implementation of the LPS. Flintshire County Council will submit its bid for the next instalment of this funding in May 2023.

Safeguarding 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS009M	The percentage of adult safeguarding enquiries that met the 7 day timescale	87.00	93.00	92.00	93 / 87.00	

895 safeguarding reports for adults have been received in the year; 140 more than in the previous year, an increase of 18%. Referrals are also more complex than previously. Of the reports that resulted in Section 126 investigation (Social Services and Well-being (Wales) 2014 Act) being undertaken, 87% of these enquiries met the national timescale. The Safeguarding Unit continue to prioritise safeguarding reports on a case by case basis to ensure people are safeguarded.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS010M	The percentage of reviews of children on the Child Protection Register due in the year that were carried out within the statutory timescales	98.00	98.00		98 / 98.00	

The Children's Safeguarding Unit continue to maintain consistency in holding case conferences within statutory timescales, working with increasing numbers on the child protection register. The main theme in the few reviews which have fallen out of timescale for Q4 is linked to tracking of younger family members, and ensuring their reviews are completed relative to the time of their birth rather than in collaboration with other older siblings.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS011M	The percentage of Pre-birth assessments completed within timescales	100.00	93.00		93 / 100.00	

Since October we have an external agency team at the front door which has increased our capacity and support to enable us to complete assessments within timescales.

Tudalen 136

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS012M	The percentage of children who were reported as having run away or gone missing from home who were offered a return interview	100.00	100.00	100.00	100 100.00	
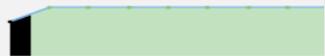
All children/young people are offered a 'Return Home Interview' by our Missing Children Coordinator. We do have a small number of young people who decline the service.

Tudalen 137

Direct Provision to Support People Closer to Home 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Continuing to grow our in-house fostering service to support more looked after children	100%	✔	We have increased our in-house fostering service this year with the recruitment of three new fostering families, and 11 connect person carers, who are caring for children from their own extended family.
Continuing to grow our in-house homecare service to support more people to live at home	100%	✔	Staff recruitment has seen an upturn since the start of the year and as a result the homecare service is able to support an increasing number of people to live in their own homes.
Developing an action plan to recommission our advocacy service for adults	100%	✔	An action plan is in place and pre-tender actions are now completed, although there has been a delay in the process due to the joint purchaser requiring additional resources to match fund. Contract terms now need to be developed in order for the tender to go out.
Setting up a registered Children's Home to help avoid the need for residential placements outside Flintshire	100%	✔	The new Flintshire children's residential facilities (Ty Nyth, Y Derwen, Bromfield Park and Chevrons Road) are all going through the final stages of registration with Care Inspectorate Wales.

Tudalen 138

Direct Provision to Support People Closer to Home 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS013M	Rate of people over 65 helped to live at home per 1,000 population	32.50	34.00	33.00	34 / 32.50	

This measure includes individuals who are supported within their community through reablement services, domiciliary care, day services and occupational therapy, and therefore are not requiring a residential care placement.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS014M	Number of new foster carer approvals in the year	14.00	5.00	8.00	5 / 14.00	

The general carer recruitment continues to be a challenge which all the other Welsh Local Governments are reporting also, connected persons numbers (11 during year) have increased meaning more children and young people are being placed with family.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS015M	People with a learning disability accessing Project Search to improve their employability skills	16.00	12.00	6.00	12 / 16.00	

The two Project SEARCH schemes (18-25 and the scheme for 25+) have progressed through the 22/23 year. The 18-25 scheme has had to find an alternative host business for the third rotation (April 23 onwards) due to the original host business changing the scope of their business operations. Recruitment for the intake for the 23/24 year in currently underway.

Tudalen 139

Local Dementia Strategy 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Establishing a Dementia Strategy Project Board and increasing engagement from citizens with lived experience of dementia	100%	✔	

Tudalen 140

Local Dementia Strategy 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CSS016M	Number of people supported through the Dementia Strategy	810.00	810.00	600.00	810 / 810.00	

The Flintshire Dementia Strategy was implemented in 2021, aligned to the North Wales Regional Strategy. All local authority, health board and third sector service providers are currently working towards the new All Wales Dementia Care Pathway Standards.

Tudalen 141

A well-connected, safe and clean local environment 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Protecting residents and our environment from pollution and other public health and safety hazards by achieving the Streetscene Standard	100%	✔	The service continues to support communities by delivering on Streetscene Standards with a generic workforce, whilst responding to an increase in demand due to adverse weather conditions.
Working in partnership, actively support and engage with community led groups by developing Local Environmental Quality initiatives	100%	✔	An excellent quarter once again with extremely positive work being carried out in Flintshire. There has been a lot of community engagement, member engagement, and working in partnership with internal and external colleagues. Local schools have been excited to come on board and tackle issues, local members are looking to pave the way forward with hot spot areas and work is being shared internally with colleagues across several service areas which is great in making more people aware of the issues being faced. Many successful campaigns and meetings have taken place again during the last quarter, progress has been made with local landlords regarding Duty of Care issues and this has been very encouraging to move forward in tackling the issues. There continues to be lots of engagement with Local Members, Community Groups and School Children. There has been lots of positive events and feedback from people we have engaged with. Work streams are a result of both pro-active and re-active engagement and both elements are keeping the post holder very busy. A really pleasing and encouraging 3 months work.
Working with two local communities to inform a long term vision and delivery plan for using the Flexible Funding Grant programme to achieve positive outcomes for people	10%	▲	The Friends of the Holway have opened their own Warm Hub where residents can attend to meet with others and received free refreshments, supporting the Croeso Cynnes/Warm Welcome Project which has been and great success. We will continue to work with Friends of the Holway to arrange and hold future events for the residents. This is part of a wider Holywell Plan and is currently in early development stages.

Tudalen 142

A well-connected, safe and clean local environment 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CST010M	Achieve minimum level of agreed Streetscene standards	85.00	85.00	85.00	85 / 85.00	

The service continues to support communities by delivering on streetscene standards with a generic workforce, whilst responding to increasing in demand due to adverse weather conditions.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CST011M	Number of targeted environmental educational campaigns	4.00	2.00	3.00	2 / 4.00	

In early January, a presentation was made to a Flintshire County Council Landlords Forum to educate them about Duty of Care relating to waste disposal. Support was offered in the form of multilingual recycling leaflets and posters to be accessed from a newly developed website. On 20 March 2023, a joint initiative was carried out with a local PCSO and Queensferry CP School. The school children became mini police officers for the day and completed pocket notebooks in relation to fly tipping, dog fouling and littering. The Mini Police group are going to contact Transport for Wales regarding a flytip on their land. The school will also take part in the 'Bag it Bin it' campaign encouraging dog owners to be responsible and clear up after their dogs. On 22 March 2023, we attended an Upcycled Fashion Week at Ysgol Gwenffrwd in Holywell. We were asked to be judges at the event and it was really encouraging to see the enthusiasm and creativity from the children. Litter Picking Kits were awarded as prizes for the winners. On 23 March 2023, we attended Westwood CP School in Buckley, where thee is an ongoing issue with fly tipping on an area by the school grounds. A door knocking campaign will take place in the area and a banner is to be created for the school fencing. Working with landlords we will hope to seek a joint resolution.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CST012M	Number of community engagement events to promote improved Local Environmental Quality	5.00	2.00		2 5.00	

On 31 January 2023, there was a Walkabout with Cllr and area coordinator for Broughton Cllr Gee, this highlighted issues with dog fouling on the football pitch. The community has been encouraged to adopt the 'Bag it Bin in' campaign to highlight the issues. The campaign will take place alongside the Scouts and Football Club and a date needs to be agreed.

On 27 February 2023, there was a householder visit with the Antisocial Behaviour Team regarding side waste procedure. Education given and designated bags for litter picks. Also, investigated further the bins at local properties as some locations had 2 bins.

On 15 March 2023, along Leyland Drive and Belmont Drive Estate in Saltney Ferry, a walkabout was conducted with housing officers and local Cllrs to develop an Environmental Improvement Plan for the area.

On 21 March 2023, during a visit to Clwyd Alyn Estate in Flint, residents were encouraged to reuse, recycle and repair. The visit was part of the 'Not Up My Street' Campaign, a joint initiative with Benthyg Cymru, Refurbs Flint, Abbey Upcycling HFT. The Chief Executive from Keep Wales Tidy joined us along with Cornist Park Primary School.

A litter picking event took place as part of a 'Spring Clean Cymru'. A similar event took place with Penyffordd Community Litter Pick, we engaged with residents about the 'Not up my Street' and the 'Bag it Bin' campaigns. Litter picking kits were provided and recycling containers passed on to the residents. Flint litter picking group collected a fantastic bag of litter during the 'Spring Clean' and this proved them to be the top group and worthy winners.
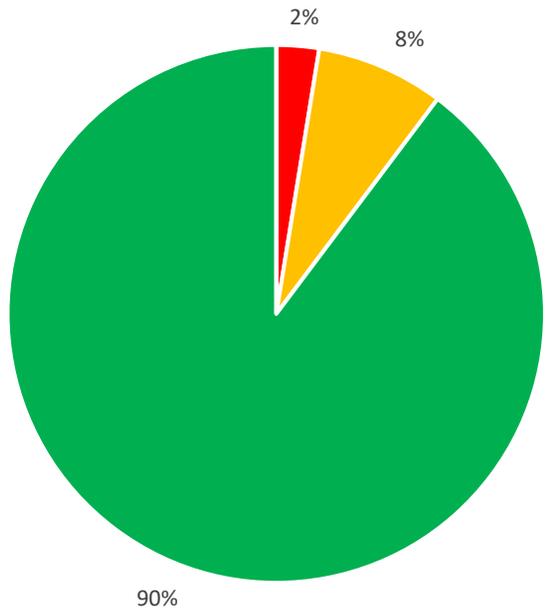
Tudalen 144

Education and Skills

Education and Skills Overall Performance
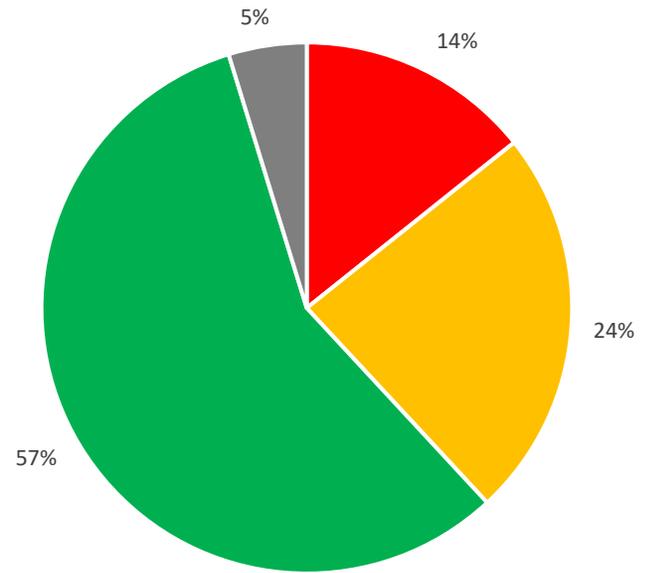
Tudalen 146

Education and Skills - Action RAG Status

2%
8%
90%

■ Off Track   ■ Monitor   ■ On Track   ■ Missing Value

Education and Skills - Measure RAG Status

5%
14%
24%
57%

■ Off Track   ■ Monitor   ■ On Track   ■ Missing Value

Educational Engagement and Achievement 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Embedding the revised processes and procedures in relation to attendance and exclusion, using data to better inform and target interventions at both a pupil and school level	100%	✔	The revised Engagement Service processes have been defined and are being rolled out across the service. The implementation is being monitored and reviewed along with the impact of revised models of working.
Maintaining support for settings and schools with the rollout of the revised curriculum for pupils from 3-16 which better prepares them for their future lives and employment	100%	✔	All primary schools have implemented Curriculum for Wales 2022 from September 2022. All secondary schools are on track to implement Curriculum for Wales from September 2023. The regional school improvement service GwE and local authority advisers continue to provide universal and targeted support to schools.
School employees continuing to access the GwE professional learning offer and engage in cluster working	100%	✔	Flintshire schools continue to engage positively with the GwE professional learning offer as identified in their individual school improvement plans. Cluster working is well established. Schools are further developing opportunities for collaborative professional development through the Schools Partnership Programme for primary schools and Alliances in the secondary sector.
Working with schools to support development and implementation of flexible and bespoke educational packages to improve attendance and engagement	100%	✔	Funding has been directed to schools this year instead of being retained by the Council to support the implementation of flexible educational packages for their pupils. Schools have collaborated in some instances to commission specific courses of interest for groups of pupils or used funding for individuals to increase their levels of engagement. Levels of attendance remain lower than pre-pandemic but access to the direct funding has enabled schools to make provision decisions based on the needs of their particular pupils.

Tudalen 147

Educational Engagement and Achievement 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CEY003M	Percentage of schools maintaining progress against key milestones in implementation of the new curriculum	100.00	100.00	100.00	100 / 100.00	
CEY004M	Reduction in the number of permanent exclusions	27.00	25.00	9.00	25 / 27.00	

There is a slight increase compared with the target. We continue to see the impact of the Covid legacy with a small number of learners presenting in a way that has led to permanent exclusion.

| CEY005M | Reduction in the number of fixed term exclusions | 1,677.00 | 1,150.00 | 1,025.00 | 1150 / 1,677.00 | |

There has been a notable rise in the level of fixed term exclusion since schools reopened following the pandemic, particularly in secondary schools. Disruptive behaviour and verbal/physical violence towards pupils and adults account for the majority of incidences.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CEY006M	Percentage of pupil attendance in secondary schools	87.80	89.00	88.78	87.80 / 89	

The levels of school attendance remain lower than pre-pandemic levels on a national level. There are learners who continue to struggle struggling with routine and an increasing level presenting with anxiety and mental health difficulties.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CEY007M	Percentage of pupil attendance in primary schools	92.40	93.00	92.70	92.40 / 93	

The attendance at primary schools was close to target. As with secondary schools, there are a number of learners who have struggled to re-engage with their learning following the pandemic. Schools and Council services are working to support re-engagement.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CEY008M	Percentage of students taking a Level 3 qualification in STEM subjects	23.00	23.00		23.00 / 23	

Ensuring students have appropriate choice and support in taking a Level 3 qualification across STEM subjects has continued. This is now evaluated as well embedded in the curriculum offer. STEM subjects include Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Medical Science. Biology was the most popular option choice from the sciences.

Tudalen 149

Digital Learning Opportunities 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Continuing to increase the range of digital material hosted on the North East Wales Archive website and other digital services to encourage greater participation	100%	✔	NEWA (North East Wales Archive) continues to expand the range of digital material hosted on its website and has recently purchased a new scanner with grant funding to increase its capacity to digitise the collection. During this reporting year, the number of digitised items has nearly doubled from 6,613 in March 2022 to 12,856 in March 2023.
Continuing to monitor schools' provision for learners who are 'digitally disadvantaged'	100%	✔	Schools have been sent model collection templates to review the number and range of devices they have for supporting pupils. Schools have received funding via the national HwB programme from May 2023, specifically for digitally disadvantaged pupils.
Embedding the delivery plan for Integrated Youth Services by maintaining focus on increased digital engagement	100%	✔	Youth Services have maintained a presence online for some services as well as establishing social media channels. The service continues to explore a digital presence to compliment face to face delivery but overwhelmingly, in-person delivery has been asked for by young people when consulted.
Increasing take-up of digital learning opportunities supported by Aura	100%	✔	Aura libraries provide a wide selection of learning opportunities, examples include: Learn My Way ICT courses (various levels), Tablet training courses to accompany the Digital Loan Scheme Digital drop ins, IT 'buddy' sessions for troubleshooting/specific advice or support Family History sessions using library resources Find My Past and Ancestry.
Providing community training for online learning platforms in a partnership with Aura and Adult Community Learning	100%	✔	Aura continues to provide online training opportunities to communities through the Adult Community Learning Programme. Examples throughout the reporting year have included Mindfulness, Disability Awareness, Autism Awareness and Safeguarding.
Supporting schools and wider education services to increase their digital offer for children and young people	100%	✔	The Hwb Programme Board continues to monitor the Portfolio's work in supporting schools to increase the digital offer for schools. All activity for Welsh Government requirements have been completed in relation to the national roll out of the Hwb Transformation programme. Regular and constructive meetings are held with Welsh Government colleagues. The Portfolio is currently in the process of recruiting a Digital Learning Adviser to provide additional capacity for this work moving forward.
Supporting schools to maximise their available hardware via the national Hwb programme and to ensure sustainable funding plans in place	100%	✔	With the support of the Council's Finance team, all schools have made the scheduled savings this financial year to build a sustainability pot for future hardware replacement, in line with Welsh Government expectations. The Portfolio team has facilitated the purchase of all equipment for schools, including resources for refugees.
Upskilling employees within the Education and Youth Portfolio through access to the GwE professional learning offer and other appropriate training opportunities	100%	✔	The GwE bulletin will be circulated to Portfolio staff from April 2023. All central staff now have the ability to log on via Eventbrite to access professional development being offered by the regional school improvement consortia. Updates for school facing portfolio staff on digital learning completed in April 2023.

Tudalen 150

Digital Learning Opportunities 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU008M	Number of Adult Community Learning attendees	720.00	450.00	408.00	450 / 720.00	
CAU009M	Number of Adult Community Learning sessions provided in English	440.00	250.00	210.00	250 / 440.00	
CAU010M	Number of Adult Community Learning sessions provided in Welsh	1.00	5.00	0.00	5 / 1.00	

Evening for Welsh learners with Author Bethan Gwanas in partnership with Siop y Siswrn and ACL with 35 learners. Demand is currently low but increased opportunities are being planned for.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU011M	Number of digital learning sessions provided in English	52.00	25.00	21.00	25 / 52.00	

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU012M	Number of digital learning sessions provided in Welsh	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	

Aura will work to address this through increased networking with Welsh language partners.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU013M	Number of learners registered for digital learning opportunities	81.00	75.00	69.00	81.00	

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Learning Environments 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Commissioning a contractor and start design and development process for Drury CP and Penyffordd CP	100%	✔	Contractors have been commissioned to start the design development process for Drury CP and Penyffordd CP.
Consult on increasing capacity of Drury CP and Penyffordd CP schools through the School Organisation Code	100%	✔	Consultation has been completed. Final notification of determination to increase capacity was confirmed by Cabinet on 12 January 2023.
Progressing the development of a new premises plan for the North East Wales Archive	100%	✔	The premises plan has been developed to deliver a new Archive building on the preferred site next to Theatr Clwyd. It meets industry standards for Archives and will be highly energy efficient, operating at Net Zero Carbon. It will provide future storage capacity for the service and negate the need to pay for external storage elsewhere. The plan has been reviewed and amended in light of increasing inflationary cost pressures in the construction sector to try and balance building requirements within the available funding envelope.
Seeking Council approval to progress B and B Wales Government 21st Century Schools Investment Programme	100%	✔	The Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme represents the largest strategic investment in Welsh educational infrastructure since 1960s. The Programme is designed to be delivered over a number of waves, or 'bands' of investment, currently in Band B (2019-2024) the Council has agreed with Welsh Government a total investment of circ.85 million. 3 projects identified within Band B have been completed, 4 are in either the initial scoping phase, design development or construction.
Starting construction of the proposed 3-16 campus at Mynydd Isa	100%	✔	Following the successful navigation through Council, Welsh Government business case and Mutual Investment model (MIM) processes, design development and financial close, the Council through its delivery partner Robertson Construction Group is now in construction phase to deliver a new build Primary School for 600 Full time pupils and 43 Nursery Pupils and a Secondary School for 700 pupils, as a campus arrangement on the existing Argoed High School site.

Learning Environments 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU014M	Percentage of community space used in re-developed Flint Library and Wellbeing Hub	78.00	75.00	75.00	75 / 78.00	

The community rooms continue to be well used, and the community kitchen is also being utilised. We are also delivering several of our activities in the main library area including the Warm Welcome Hub.

Tudalen 154

Learning Community Networks 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Continuing to consolidate the joint working between Flintshire County Council and Denbighshire County Council through the North East Wales Archive to provide a sustainable and resilient service	100%	✔	North East Wales Archive is now firmly established as a joint service between Flintshire and Denbighshire County Councils under the current arrangement of a Memorandum of Understanding. The staff from both councils work effectively as a single team across two sites, sharing expertise and improving the service delivery for customers. Good examples of this include staff working across both sites, not just their home site where necessary, to ensure resilience of service delivery and the significant increase of digitised items for customers to access via the internet. The appointment of a new Engagement Officer is helping to broaden the outreach of the service into communities to promote the Archive and what it can offer.
Developing a Delivery Plan for Adult Community Learning to increase engagement and improve skills within local communities	100%	✔	The North East Wales Adult Learning Partnership has successfully implemented the delivery plan for 2022-2023. All activity is monitored through the Partnership's Curriculum and Quality Groups and regular reports provided to the termly meetings of the Management Group. Work is now underway to complete the annual Self Assessment and complete the Quality Improvement Plan for September 2023. The Partnership has also made maximum use of additional grant funding that has been made available by Welsh Government during the year for Engagement activities.
Developing a Supporting Learners strategy to increase levels of engagement and provide appropriate progression routes to further engagement, study or employment	100%	✔	Supporting learners strategy is in place.
Expanding the adult learning offer to reflect national, regional and local priorities in order to provide the skills required through partnership planning	100%	✔	The North East Wales Adult Community Learning Partnership has well embedded processes in place now to ensure provision reflects national, regional and local priorities. Opportunities are provided for adult learners to provide feedback and to identify skills needs. The Curriculum group is well established and includes a wide range of partnership representatives. There is an increased focus on ensuring appropriate progression within the learner journey. The Partnership has made effective use of additional Welsh Government funding for engagement activities during the year.
Working in partnership with Aura to provide Alternative Provision to young people excluded from school to help gain meaningful qualifications	100%	✔	The 'Learning through Leisure' course has continued to run and proved successful for a number of learners across the secondary school network. The outcomes for learners will be known later in the academic year.
Working in partnership with Open University Wales to support and signpost library users to Open Learn courses and subsequent learning pathways with Open Learn Champions in each library	50%	🟠	Aura have Open Learn Champions in all 7 libraries and learners are being referred to Open Learn courses. Currently Open University Wales is unable to provide statistics for individual learning pathways.
Working with Adult Community Learning and Flintshire Learning Recovery & Wellbeing Network Partners to share best practice and maximise opportunities for learning within the community with opportunities to be available in all Aura libraries	100%	✔	Aura has supported 720 learners, providing 440 sessions throughout the reporting year. Examples for 2022-23 include: Nutrition and Fitness Courses, Reach and Reset (exercise for over 60's), Chair Aerobics, Family Fitness in schools, Family History, Food Safety, Mental Health First Aid, Emergency First Aid, Beauty Courses, Employability Sessions for Ukrainian Refugees, Learn My Way ICT courses. Sample feedback from participants: 'extremely interesting course, well presented and in a convivial atmosphere', 'This course has opened up new opportunities for me to learn and meet like-minded people'. 'Thoroughly enjoyed the course and experience', 'This session gets me out and moving and I have made new friends - more please' and 'Doing these classes together has enabled us to learn as a family and get fitter together'.

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Learning Community Networks 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU015M	Number of Adult Community Learning sessions provided	440.00	255.00	210.00	255 / 440.00	

Aura is a lead provider in the NE Wales Adult Community Learning partnership, offering a wide range of courses to adults aged 19 and over. The provision is to support people to engage in learning, to gain new skills and hobbies, and to enable people to gain qualifications and find employment and to provide pathways into particular roles and sectors

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU016M	Number of courses accessed through Open Learn		50.00		50	

Actual unavailable. OU Wales is currently unable to provide figures for the number of individual learning pathways following a referral by Aura.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CAU017M	Number of libraries offering learning and development opportunities	7.00	7.00	7.00	7 / 7.00	
CAU018M	Percentage of Aura libraries offering an Open Learn Champion	100.00	100.00	100.00	100 / 100.00	

Tudalen 156

Specialist Educational Provision 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Developing a strategic proposal for the next phase of the Additional Learning Needs provision which increases the level of in-house provision and seeks to reduce the reliance on out of county provision	80%	🟠	The outcomes from the feasibility study undertaken around specialist provision has been shared with Council senior leaders and captured as part of the Capital Assets Programme for future consideration. The Welsh Government grant funding has been targeted at primary specialist provision. A modular building expansion has been identified as a viable development to increase capacity and this option is being progressed to support capacity issues in the shorter term.
Further defining and embedding the menu of outreach support and training to be offered to schools via Plas Derwen Pupil Referral Unit	60%	🟠	Work has continued on the development of the offer that schools can access from Plas Derwen. This has not been developed as fully as expected over the year due in part to the significant changes in leadership which resulted in a new headteacher and a reduced senior leadership team. The provision was also inspected by Estyn and a priority focus has been on the recommendations from the inspection.
Implementing Year Two of the Transformation Plan for children and young people with additional learning needs, in line with Welsh Government legislation and associated guidance	100%	✔	The Council has responded proactively to the duties placed on it as part of the Welsh Government Additional Learning Needs Implementation Programme. Systems have been put in place to support schools and the Council to meet the requirements including those for post 16 learners. Estyn has reported positively about the progress and processes in response to the reforms in schools which have been inspected recently and some reports made positive reference to the support offered by the Council.

Specialist Educational Provision 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CEY009M	Percentage of schools maintaining progress against key milestones in the ALN reforms	100.00	100.00	85.00	100.00	

All schools are implementing the new systems brought in by the revised additional learning needs legislation.

Tudalen 158

Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Continue to improve the Welsh language skills of employees in schools to more effectively support learners and the delivery of the curriculum	100%	✔	51 members of staff have received training delivered by the Welsh Advisory Service between January and March 2023 - focus on TA training, staff new to school and delivering Welsh via a thematic approach (Foundation learning). Further training opportunities are being made available for the summer term - focus on language and methodology in the outdoors and within Foundation learning. 100% of those attending noted in their evaluations that the training was consistent with the stated objectives. Example of feedback following one course: 'The course has given me some fantastic ideas to take back and the confidence in knowing that oracy is the focus.' 7 teachers continue on the Welsh in a Year Sabbatical course, with an additional 5 teachers from Flintshire carrying out the intermediate course. These 5 will continue with the higher level course in the summer term. All staff have received bespoke support from the Welsh Advisory Service - preparing them for the 1 day a week at their own school working on specific action plan linking to the school priorities regarding Welsh. We have not yet received the figure for the number of staff who've carried out the national online Welsh language courses, specifically for teachers and Headteachers. The Local Authority will receive the number via GwE.
Continuing to increase the capacity and take up of Welsh medium education to achieve Welsh Government targets	100%	✔	The Welsh in Education Strategic 10 year plan was approved by Welsh Government. The 5 year action plan has been developed and continues to be refined as required. The actions identified contribute to the work programme of the Welsh in Education Strategic Forum and its three sub groups for Standards, Provision and Workforce. Regular updates are provided to termly Forum meetings.
Embedding the role of the Integrated Youth Provision Welsh language coordinator	100%	✔	This is completed. The officer is in post.
Ensuring all digital and face to face youth and play provision has an increasing bilingual offer which supports the expansion of the Council's Welsh Language immersion programme	100%	✔	Although this is at 100%, it is ongoing and will grow as the team grows. The overall plan is to increase the immersion programme, which will naturally mean a growth of the bilingual programme as this is a key strategy for our work. We are supporting clubs to have Welsh corners, are leading projects on Welsh culture, are developing partnerships with the URDD to deliver Welsh provision and running a Welsh medium transition club through the play workers.
Extending the range of youth services which can be delivered bilingually to encourage young people to retain and use their Welsh language skills into early adulthood	100%	✔	Flintshire Youth Services continues to work hard to promote the Welsh Language through our services offered to Young People. Our youth clubs still play a vital role in our achievement of this with their positive attitudes to the promotion of including the Welsh language in their activities. Our core team also have a vital role with the encouragement of the Welsh language and are actively assessing the best methods to use to promote the language.

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Providing targeted support and intervention to schools to raise standards and promote bilingualism	100%	✔	10 schools targeted for Cymraeg Campus Bronze award and 5 schools targeted for the Silver award have received bespoke support from the Welsh Advisory Service. Each of these schools are working on specific targets in response to the Cymraeg Campus questionnaire. Progress has been made by each of the school however, only 3 have been successfully verified for the Bronze award and 4 successfully verified for the Silver award by the end of March 2023. It is anticipated the other 7 will be verified for the Bronze award and additional two schools will be verified for the Silver award during the summer term 2023. 6 schools and one federation have been identified for targeted support for the Bronze award in 2023/24. These have been invited to visit a school that has already reached this standard to observe good practice. These have been planned for March 2023 and where necessary, will continue into April 2023. It is expected that they will compile a 'next steps' action plan following their visit and this will form the baseline for any bespoke support provided by the Welsh Advisory Service in 2023/24.

Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CEY010M	Number of pupils in year 1 in Welsh medium education	120.00	130.00		130 / 120.00	

This is the number of pupils in year 1 across the 5 Welsh medium primary schools in the local authority.

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CEY011M	Number of Year 11 pupils studying Welsh	102.00	103.00		103 / 102.00	

This is the number of pupils in year 11 at the one secondary Welsh medium provision in the local authority.

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Well-Being 2022/23

Action	Percentage Complete	RAG	Comment
Consolidating the Inspire Youth Work Hospital Project which provides support to young people at risk of self-harming behaviour	100%	✔	Action complete. Flintshire Council Council Integrated Youth Provision has seconded a youth worker to work alongside Wrexham Youth Service to ensure that young people in Flintshire are supported when referred onto the Inspire programme and when exiting hospital. Furthermore, the school immersion workers also support young people who are displaying mental health risk factors and seek to support young people prior to needing hospital treatment, or are available to support young people on return to school. The seconded youth worker, along with the Inspire workers in Wrexham work with young people in small groups, on an individual basis, and also in an Inspire Youth Club.
Developing action plans based on the findings, particularly in relation to Emotional Health and Wellbeing	10%	▲	Schools are on track to complete the action plans in accordance with the academic year 22/23 (summer term) following the completions of their audits. This will enable any actions to form part of their development planning in the new academic year.
Improving awareness of trauma informed practice with schools and Education and Youth workforce	100%	✔	Training on Trauma Informed Practice was delivered by Dr Carol Harper through Trauma Informed Schools to 18 delegates from the Education and Youth Portfolio including Chief Officer, Senior Managers, Service Managers, Head Teachers and Senior School Leads. The YJS (Youth Justice Service) has also accessed additional training for 5 practitioners through the Trauma Recovery Model Academy on Trauma Informed Practice. The Senior Manager for Youth Justice has also presented at Education and Youth Portfolio Meetings on progress being made on our Trauma and ACE (TrACE) development plan.
Meeting the requirements under Well-being Whole School Approach Development Fund for employee training and pupil engagement	100%	✔	The grant spending plan was developed by the Emotional Health and Wellbeing multi-agency steering group to ensure the spend was targeted at the key areas of need. In line with the funding guidelines, the capacity of the Council's Counselling Service was increased and staff training and delivery of a range of learner interventions was provided focusing on an improvement in both learner and staff well-being.
Rolling out the National Framework for Embedding a Whole School Approach to Emotional Health and Wellbeing in all Flintshire schools	86%	⭐	86% of schools have engaged in active communication about the Framework for a whole school approach. This has been a combination of approaches over the year including emails, calls, meetings, briefings and use of the Teams channel. The schools that have not engaged (14%) will be followed up individually during April 2023.
Supporting all secondary schools to complete the School Health Research Network survey in 2022. Developing action plans based on the findings, particularly in relation to Emotional Health and Wellbeing	60%	⭐	Secondary schools have been supported to use their School Health Research Network data as part of their audit for the Whole School Approach to mental and emotional health. Schools have been requested to complete the audit by March 2023 and develop their plans in the summer term 2023.

Well-Being 2022/23

Measure	Measure Description	Actual	Target	Last Year	Performance	Performance Trend
CEY012M	Number of schools who have enrolled with the National Nurturing Schools Programme and completed the training	15.00	15.00	15.00	15 15.00	

Twelve primary schools and three secondary schools have now completed the Whole School Nurture Approach to Learning. Forty-one schools have recently attended training for Nurture Practitioners.

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Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn bwrpasol

CYNGOR
Sir y Fflint
Flintshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 19th September, 2023
Report Subject	Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 (Month 4)
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the first detailed overview of the budget monitoring position for the 2023/24 financial year.

The projected year end position is as follows:

Council Fund
- An operating deficit of £2.644m (excluding the impact of the pay award which will need to be met by reserves – currently estimated as £2.727m)

- A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31 March 2024 of £4.043m (after the estimated impact of pay awards)

Housing Revenue Account
- Net in-year revenue expenditure is forecast to be £0.065m lower than budget
- A projected closing balance as at 31 March, 2024 of £3.262m

Hardship Funding from Welsh Government helped secure £16m of direct financial help in 2022/23 for areas such as self-isolation payments, statutory sick pay enhancement, free school meals direct payments and winter fuel payments. However, this funding ceased on 31 March 2023.

The economic outlook remains challenging due to inflation levels remaining high. The impacts of this, together with continued increases in service demand is becoming increasingly hard to deal with as our funding fails to keep up with the scale of these pressures.

	To assist with managing these risks and mitigating the overall projected overspend, a moratorium through the review of non-essential spend and a vacancy management process continues.

RECOMMENDATIONS	
1	To note the report and the estimated financial impact on the 2023/24 budget.
2	To approve a budget virement of £0.400m from Localities within Older People's Services to the Residential Placements budget within Adults of Working Age (paragraph 1.05 refers).
3	To request a separate report from Housing and Communities Portfolio on the reasons for the significant projected overspend within the Homelessness Service and the mitigations being put in place.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	**EXPLAINING THE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24**
1.01	The report provides the first detailed overview of the budget monitoring position for the 2023/24 financial year (an interim report on known financial risks was reported in July) The projected year end position is as follows: **Council Fund** • An operating deficit of £2.644m (excluding the impact of the pay award which will need to be met by reserves – currently estimated as £2.727m) • A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31 March 2024 of £4.043m (after the estimated impact of pay awards) **Housing Revenue Account** • Net in-year revenue expenditure forecast to be £0.065m lower than budget • A projected closing balance as at 31 March, 2024 of £3.262m
1.02	Hardship Funding from Welsh Government helped secure £16m of direct financial help in 2022/23 for areas such as self-isolation payments, statutory sick pay enhancement, free school meals direct payments and winter fuel payments. However, this funding ceased on 31 March 2023.

| | 1.03 | **Table 1. Projected Position by Portfolio** |

The table below shows the projected position by portfolio:

Portfolio/Service Area	Approved Budget £m	Projected Outturn £m	In-Year Over / (Under) spend £m
Social Services	86.821	87.134	0.313
Out of County Placements	17.285	18.286	1.001
Education & Youth	9.902	9.832	(0.070)
Schools	114.081	114.081	0.000
Streetscene & Transportation	40.745	41.382	0.637
Planning Env & Economy	7.057	6.573	(0.484)
People & Resources	4.321	4.281	(0.041)
Governance	11.435	11.410	(0.025)
Assets	11.045	10.916	(0.128)
Housing & Communities	15.698	18.103	2.405
Chief Executive	1.608	1.614	0.006
Central & Corporate Finance	32.121	31.151	(0.970)
Total	**352.121**	**354.765**	**2.644**

1.04 The reasons for the projected variances are summarised within Appendix 1 and shows the detail of all variances over £0.050m and a summary of minor variances for each portfolio.

Significant Variances to highlight this month

1.05 **Social Services £0.313m**

The reasons for the variance are as follows:

Older People

- Localities (£0.741m) The Residential Care budget is projected to underspend by (£0.527m) due to client income from property recharges and expected reimbursements where decisions on deputyships are required and assets held in trust. Commissioned Homecare is (£0.257m) underspent caused by continued recruitment challenges within the care sector, although an improving picture from last year. Locality staffing and professional support budgets are overspent by £0.072m due to the loss of Health Equalities funding £0.030m, increased legal costs £0.029m and service level agreement increases of £0.013m. Day Care is underspending by (£0.029m).

- Resources & Regulated Services £0.077m – due to additional staffing and operating costs of £0.274m within In-House Residential Care and £0.082m within Extra Care. However, this is offset by an estimated underspend of (£0.184m) within In-house homecare due to vacancies as recruitment of home carers continues to be challenging and a projected underspend of (£0.095m) within Day Care as most day settings remain closed.

Adults of Working Age

- Resources & Regulated Services (£0.173m) – projected overspend of £0.244m within the Physically Disabled and Sensory Impaired (PDSI) service due to the increasing cost of care packages and an In-house Supporting Living overspend of £0.102m due to increased care hours and agency costs. Commissioned care packages for Learning Disability service are reporting a (£0.475m) underspend due to placement demand and Day Service is (£0.044m) underspent

- Residential Placements £0.588m – due to the overall cost of care packages for mental health placements. This is a volatile service with additional services needs identified during the year leading to increased costs.

Children's Services

- Family Group Meetings £0.050m Demand for the service is resulting in an increase for sessional worker hours.

- Integrated Working £0.059m - Cost pressures arising from contribution towards the Integrated Family Support service and a shortfall in Supporting People funding.

- Family Placement (£0.270m) – based on current demand for in-house Foster Placements and Special Guardianship Orders.

- Legal & Third Party £0.387m - due to the number of cases going through the courts and the use of external professionals £0.137m. Client Support and Section 17 costs are overspent by £0.232m. Direct payments are overspending by £0.019m due to demand.

- Residential Placements (£0.414m) The in-house residential care provision continues to expand with an additional group home planned to open this financial year. In-year costs for the service are being offset by a significant Welsh Government grant. The grant has been confirmed for 2023/24 and 2024/25 but is not expected to be extended beyond this time.

- Professional Support £0.813m. To support adequate levels of child protection, the established staffing structure needs to be a sufficient level to meet mandatory safeguarding standards. Vacancies are

	minimised and additional temporary posts are required to meet the challenges and demands of the service, the overspend resulting from such arrangements is £0.228m. Two managed agency teams are currently being contracted to support the service, reserves are being utilised to mitigate most of the costs, but there is an overspend of £0.341m as a result. Costs may change if there is a requirement to extend the contracts further. The Leaving Care budget, which supports young people who were LAC (looked after children), is overspending by £0.143m due to increasing number of care leavers. Some external service contracts are £0.102m overspent due to inflationary pressures. **Safeguarding & Commissioning** • Business Systems & Financial Assessments £0.060m – due to the implementation of a new ICT system requiring additional project management and development. • Charging Policy Income (£0.138m) – due to projected additional income received from service users who are to be charged a contribution for their care following a financial assessment. Minor variances account for the remainder totalling £0.015m. **Budget Virement** It is recommended that a budget amount of £0.400m is transferred from the Localities budget within Older People to the Residential Placements budget within Adults of Working Age. There are increasing numbers of deputyship requests and placements where a person's assets are held in trust within the Older People Localities service, which is resulting in greater income contributions, as most of the initial costs paid by the Council are reimbursed. In contrast the Mental Health Residential Placement budget is coming under greater financial pressure as demands for mental health services within Flintshire continually increase. A budget virement is recommended as this will mean the budgets for these services will closer reflect the expected outturn for each.
1.06	**Out of County Placements £1.001m** • Children's Services £0.775m - The service is facing continued high demand for placements together with supply market challenges and inflationary pressures with 21 new placements made in the year to date and contingency provision of £0.250m for new placements. • Education & Youth £0.226m - The service is facing continued high demand for placements together with supply market challenges and inflationary pressures with 17 new placements made in the year to date and contingency provision of £0.250m for new placements.
1.07	**Streetscene & Transportation £0.637m**

	- Service Delivery £0.382m – £0.200m relates to Alltami Depot maintenance and repair costs, and a combination of increases in NEWydd cleaning charges and security costs. The remaining £0.182m relates to increasing inflationary pressures and demand for temporary repairs on the road network because the available funding for investment in the highway network has reduced. - Highways Network £0.084m –Street lighting energy costs increase following the annual renewal of the contract on an all-Wales basis being higher than originally anticipated. - Regulatory Services £0.167m – Sustained high volumes of residual waste being collected, together with the reduction in income levels from both recyclate and electricity generation from gas and solar at the former landfill sites.
1.08	**Planning, Environment & Economy (£0.484m)** - Projected over recovery of Planning Fee income levels following receipt of a 'one off' large planning application fee (£0.300m) in the first quarter of the financial year within Development Management. - Vacancy savings across the Land Drainage Service (£0.265m) and Climate Change (£0.064m). - Estimated cost of further Ash Die Back works required to 31 March 2024 totalling £0.145m.
1.09	**Housing & Communities £2.405m** - Housing Solutions £2.407m This is mainly due to a projected overspend of £3.413m on temporary accommodation within Hotels and Bed and Breakfast provision, which is being offset by additional Housing Benefit income of (£0.562m). There are also other projected underspends and mitigation impacts within the wider Housing Solutions service amounting to a net figure of (£0.444m), including use of reserves, minor salary savings due to vacancies and use of Welsh Government grant income. As required by the Council's Finance Procedure Rules it is recommended that a separate report is prepared by the service to expand on the reasons for this significant overspend and the mitigations being put in place.
1.10	**Central & Corporate Finance (£0.970m)** - The Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA) is projecting an underspend of (£1.000m) due to the Council not taking out any new short or long-term borrowing and continuing to invest a significant amount of short-term cash flow funds gaining an investment return. This pattern has continued from the previous financial year and is partly due to continued high and increasing bank interest rates. - Minor variances account for the remainder of £0.030m.

1.11	**Tracking of In-Year Risks and Emerging Issues** Members were made aware when setting the budget that there were a number of open risks that would need to be kept under close review. An update on these is provided below.
1.12	**Council Tax Income** For 2023/24 up to July, the 'in-year' collection level is 38.32%, compared 38.42%, in the previous year. The marginal reduction in collections of 0.1% is to be expected as the rising costs-of-living are impacting on the ability of some households to make payment of council tax on time.
1.13	**Pay Award (Teacher and Non-Teacher)** NJC (Green Book) The latest pay offer for NJC (Green Book) employees for the current year (2023/24) has been rejected and Trade Union Members are currently being balloted for potential industrial action. The offer made is at a similar level to that awarded in 2022/23 with an increase on each scale point of £1,925. This equates to more than the 5% included in the 2023/24 budget. The amount of the final award in excess of the 5% will need to be funded from reserves in the current financial year. It will also have the impact of increasing the budget requirement for 2024/25. The estimated impact of the current pay offer is an additional £2.727m which is included in the forecast but may be subject to change. The assumptions for the 2024/25 pay award has been increased to 5% from the 3.5% previously included in the forecast. Teachers Pay Assumptions for teachers' pay calculations are in line with current awards by the Minister for Education and Welsh Language. They are an increase of 6.5% from September 2022 and an increase of 5% in September 2023. These have not been accepted by all teaching unions and a formal dispute is ongoing. The 2023/24 budget contained funding for a 5% pay award for Teachers from September 2022. The Minister has increased the pay award to 8%, with 1.5% being a non-consolidated payment, leaving a recurring element of 6.5% which is now included in the forecast. Grant funding has been made available by Welsh Government to fully fund the additional September 2022 pay award in financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24 (over and above the 5% originally awarded). Funding from 2024/25 onwards is still uncertain and the additional annual cost to the council for the shortfall of £1.118m has been included in the forecast. However, it is expected that Welsh Government will provide

	additional funding in the Revenue Support Grant to cover the shortfall in Council's budgets. Pay Modelling No figures are currently included for any impact of the pay modelling review which is needed to try and address the difficulties currently being experienced in recruitment and retention. It is due to be completed later this year.
1.14	**Waste Recycling Infraction Charge** The Council did not meet the statutory minimum target, (64%) in 2021/22, for the percentage of municipal waste which must be recycled, prepared for re-use and composted, as specified in Section 3 of the Waste (Wales) Measure 2010. Welsh Government can therefore take steps to impose a penalty on the Council by way of an infraction fine. A potential penalty of up to £0.663m has been confirmed so presents a significant financial risk to the Council. Discussions took place in March,2023 between Welsh Government (WG) and the Council as to the reasons for not achieving the target. The Council has subsequently been instructed by WG to engage with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and Local Partnerships to review our waste strategy and develop a new action plan. A report will go to the Committee cycle in November 2023. Depending on the outcome of the review, the Minister will take a decision at that point whether to levy the fine. Unfortunately, the statutory recycling targets have not been achieved in 2022/23 too (non-verified), which means that a further infraction fine could be levied of around £0.470m should WG choose to do so, and monitoring of the authority's recycling performance for 2023/24 to date shows that the rates of recycling and residual waste tonnages are not improving, which could lead to not achieving the targets in 2023/24 also.
1.15	**Homelessness** There is a significant and growing demand within the Homelessness service. The Council has a statutory duty to provide suitable temporary accommodation for Homeless persons and families who meet the Welsh Government eligibility criteria which are less stringent than in England. The growth in demand commenced in the second half of 2022/23 and has accelerated markedly since the start of 2023. One of the more significant influences of many is the sparsity of affordable accommodation in the private rented sector which is being influenced by the cost-of-living crisis and also an increase in the numbers of no-fault evictions as many private rented sector landlords are leaving the sector and seeking to sell their properties. There is also an acute shortage of suitable available accommodation within the Council's own HRA housing stock and with other Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) within the area. This is particularly the case for single persons below age 55 which make up the highest proportion of those who are currently homeless in Flintshire. The Flintshire position in

	terms of both demand and supply pressures is known to be consistent on both a regional and national basis within Wales.

The Council will continue to lobby Welsh Government via the WLGA in conjunction with other Welsh LA's who are experiencing these pressures to seek additional financial support.

WG are currently providing support via the No One Left Out grant for which the 2023/24 allocation is currently £0.382m. One favourable impact of the increase in costs and demand is the ability to recover additional Housing Benefit income over and above the amount budgeted which is currently helping to offset the projected overspend by £0.562m. |
| 1.16 | **Other Tracked Risks**

In addition, there are a number of risks being tracked which may be subject to change and these are summarised below. |
| 1.17 | **Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Impact**

Cabinet considered the latest projection for the MTFS in July which showed an additional budget requirement of £32.222m. Further work has been undertaken over the summer and an update on the latest position is detailed in a separate report on this agenda.

All Portfolios consider their financial position, the risks within their service and the impacts on the Medium Term on a monthly basis as part of their Portfolio Management Team meetings. |
| 1.18 | **Out of County Placements**

The risks include continued high demand for placements where children and young people cannot be supported within in-house provision, and market supply limitation factors and inflationary pressures leading to higher costs. An additional amount of £1m was approved in the 2023/24 budget to reflect this.

However, there remains a projected overspend for the current cohort of placements of circa £1.001m, although with 8 months of the year remaining this is likely to increase and a contingency of £0.500m is currently built into the outturn position for this, £0.250m for Children's Services and £0.250m for Education placements.

The service areas within this pooled budget will continue to do everything possible to manage these risks and additional investment has already been made to further develop in-house provision to help to mitigate against such financial pressures. |
| 1.19 | **Streetscene & Transportation**

Fleet Contract Renewal
The current fleet contract, which has been running for 7 years, is due for renewal from October 2023. Due to the current market conditions in re-procurement of contracts of this type, indications are that the cost of the new contract is going to be considerably more than what is currently being paid |

	due to us being protected from inflationary increases during the current contract life. Negotiations will be finalised this month ahead of the renewal date in early October and an update provided at Month 5.
	Sustainable Waste Management Grant (SWMG)
	The Minister for Climate Change has confirmed that the SWMG grant will be retained at the same level for this financial year. However, those local authorities that are not yet meeting the statutory recycling target of 70% will be required to use the grant to reach 70% and be required to demonstrate this. It has also been confirmed that the SWMG grant will likely become part of the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) funding from 2024/25. The current value of the grant is £0.742m per annum, but it is not yet confirmed whether the proportion that Flintshire will receive within the RSG settlement going forward will be similar to current levels.
1.20	**Harpur Trust vs Brazel Case** The potential financial impacts are still being determined in response to the Employment Appeal Tribunal (EAT) decision in the case of Harpur Trust v Brazel. The Supreme Court upheld the EAT judgment in the Brazel case in July 2022 which impacts on the calculation of holiday pay entitlements for staff who work for part of the year (i.e., term time). An approved carry forward from 2022/23 for £0.254m will provide some funding towards these costs.
1.21	**Achievement of Planned In-Year Efficiencies** The 2023/24 budget contains £9.265m of specific efficiencies which are tracked and monitored throughout the year. The Council aims to achieve a 95% rate in 2023/24 as reflected in the MTFS KPI's and fully achieved all efficiencies in the previous financial year It is projected that 99% of efficiencies will be achieved in 2023/24 and further details can be seen in Appendix 2.
1.22	**Unearmarked Reserves** The final level of Council Fund Contingency Reserve brought forward into 2023/24 was £9.508m as detailed in the 2022/23 outturn report (subject to Audit). The brought forward balance on the Hardship Reserve was £3.743m. Internal claims for Quarter 1 in 2023/24 relating to additional COVID-19 related costs totalling £0.023m for Holywell Leisure Centre have been approved with some other claims across various services being compiled for consideration. A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31 March, 2024 is £4.043m (after the estimated impact of final pay awards) and is shown in Appendix 3.
1.23	**Earmarked Reserves**

	A summary of earmarked reserves as at 1st April, 2023 and an estimate of projected balances as at the end of the financial year will be included in the Month 5 report.
1.24	**Housing Revenue Account** The 2022/23 Outturn Report to Cabinet on 18th July 2023 showed an un-earmarked closing balance at the end of 2022/23 of £3.786m and a closing balance of earmarked reserves of £2.690m.
1.25	The 2023/24 budget for the HRA is £39.418m which includes a movement of (£0.589m) from reserves.
1.26	Net in-year revenue expenditure forecast to be £0.065m lower than budget with a projected closing balance as at 31st March, 2024 of £3.262m. A breakdown of the variance is in Appendix 4.
1.27	The budget contribution towards capital expenditure (CERA) is £12.712m.

2.00	**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**
2.01	As set out within the report.

3.00	**IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**
3.01	The financial impacts as set out in the report are a combination of actual costs and losses to date and estimates of costs and losses for the future. There is the possibility that the estimates will change over time. The budget will be monitored closely, and mitigation actions taken wherever possible.

4.00	**CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT**
4.01	None specific.

5.00	**APPENDICES**
5.01	Appendix 1: Council Fund – Budget Variances Appendix 2: Council Fund – Programme of Efficiencies Appendix 3: Council Fund – Movement on Un-earmarked Reserves Appendix 4: Housing Revenue Account Variances

6.00	**LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**
6.01	Various budget records.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	**Contact Officer:** Dave Ledsham Strategic Finance Manager **Telephone:** 01352 704503 **E-mail:** dave.ledsham@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	**Budget:** a statement expressing the Council's policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them. **Council Fund:** the fund to which all the Council's revenue expenditure is charged. **Financial Year:** the period of twelve months commencing on 1 April. **Housing Revenue Account:** the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a local authority account showing current income and expenditure on housing services related to its own housing stock. The account is separate from the Council Fund and trading accounts and is funded primarily from rents and government subsidy. **Projected Outturn:** projection of the expenditure to the end of the financial year, made on the basis of actual expenditure incurred to date. **Regional Integration Fund (RIF):** funding provided by Welsh Government to encourage integrated working between local authorities, health and housing. **Reserves:** these are balances in hand that have accumulated over previous years and are held for defined (earmarked reserves) and general (general reserves) purposes. Councils are required to regularly review the level and purpose of their reserves and to take account of the advice of the Chief Finance Officer. **Revenue:** a term used to describe the day-to-day costs of running Council services and income deriving from those services. It also includes charges for the repayment of debt, including interest, and may include direct financing of capital expenditure. **Variance:** difference between latest budget and actual income or expenditure. Can be to date if reflecting the current or most up to date position or projected, for example projected to the end of the month or financial year. **Virement:** the transfer of budget provision from one budget head to another. Virement decisions apply to both revenue and capital expenditure heads, and between expenditure and income, and may include transfers from contingency provisions. Virements may not however be approved between capital and revenue budget heads.

Budget Monitoring Report

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Moratorium related variances (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Social Services						
Older People						
Localities	23.596	22.855	-0.741		The Older Peoples residential care budget is projecting an underspend of £0.527m, due to client income from property recharges and expected reimbursements where we are waiting on decisions for deputyships and assets held in trust. Commissioned homecare is £0.257m underspent caused by continued recruitment challenges to the care sector, although an improvement has been seen since last year. Locality staffing and professional support budgets are overspent by £0.072m due to a few reasons including loss of Health Inequalities Funding for £0.030m, increased legal costs £0.029m and increases to Service Level Agreements of £0.014m. Day care is underspent by £0.029m.	
Resources & Regulated Services	9.399	9.477	0.077		In-house residential care is expected to overspend by £0.274m due to staff and running costs. In-house homecare is predicted to underspend by £0.184m due to vacancies as recruitment of home carers continues to be challenging . The Extra Care budget is overspent by £0.082m due to staff costs and Day Care is underspent by £0.095m as most day settings are not open.	
Minor Variances	1.299	1.288	-0.011			
Adults of Working Age						
Resources & Regulated Services	33.469	33.296	-0.173		The Physically Disabled and Sensory Impaired (PDSI) budget is reporting a £0.244m overspend due to the costs of care packages. The in-house supported living service is £0.102m overspent due to care hours and agency costs, a £0.350m contribution from reserves is currently offsetting further costs. The care package costs for independently provided care for learning disabilities is a £0.475m underspend due to placement demand. The learning disability day service is £0.044m underspent.	
Residential Placements	2.207	2.794	0.588		This is the overall cost of care packages for mental health service users. This can be a volatile service and additional service needs can be identified during the year leading to increased costs.	
Minor Variances	5.019	5.003	-0.015			
Children's Services						
Family Group Meetings	0.122	0.172	0.050		Demand for the service is resulting in an increase in sessional worker hours	
Family Placement	3.175	2.906	-0.270		This is due to the current number of in-house Foster Carers within the service being less than the number which we have historically had.	
Integrated Working	0.206	0.265	0.059		Cost pressures are due to contributions towards the Integrated Family Support Service and a shortfall from Supporting People Funding	
Legal & Third Party	0.262	0.649	0.387		Legal costs are overspent by £0.137m due to the number of cases going through the courts and some use of external professionals. Client Support and Section 17 costs are overspent by £0.232m. Direct payments are overspending by £0.019m due to demand.	
Residential Placements	1.595	1.181	-0.414		The in-house residential care provision continues to expand with an additional group home planned to open this financial year, in year costs for the service are being offset by a significant Welsh Government grant. The grant has been confirmed for 2023/24 and 2024/25 but is not expected to be extended beyond this time	

Budget Monitoring Report

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Moratorium related variances (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Professional Support	5.951	6.765	0.813		To support adequate levels of child protection, the established staffing structure needs to be a sufficient level to meet mandatory safeguarding standards. Vacancies are minimised and additional temporary posts are sometimes required to meet the challenges and demands of the service, the overspend resulting from such arrangements is £0.228m. Two managed agency teams are currently being contracted to support the service, reserves are being utilised to mitigate most of the costs but there is an overspend of £0.341m as a result, costs may change if there is a requirement to extend the contracts further. The Leaving Care budget, which supports young people who were LAC (looked after children), is overspending by £0.143m due to increasing number of care leavers. The cost of some external service contracts are £0.102m overspent due to inflationary pressures.	
Minor Variances	0.694	0.706	0.012			
Safeguarding & Commissioning						
Business Systems & Financial Assessments	0.937	0.996	0.060		A new Social Services IT system is being implemented which requires additional project management and development costs	
Charging Policy income	-3.265	-3.402	-0.138		This is the income from service users who are charged a contribution towards the care they recieve	
Minor Variances	2.157	2.184	0.027			
Total Social Services (excl Out of County)	**86.821**	**87.134**	**0.313**			
Out of County						
Children's Services	12.281	13.056	0.775		The service is facing continued high demand for placements together with supply market challenges and inflationary pressures with 21 new placements made in the year to date and contingency provision of £0.250m for new placements.	
Education & Youth	5.004	5.230	0.226		The service is facing continued high demand for placements together with supply market challenges and inflationary pressures with 17 new placements made in the year to date and contingency provision of £0.250m for new placements.	
Total Out of County	**17.285**	**18.286**	**1.001**			
Education & Youth						
Integrated Youth Provision	0.947	0.877	-0.070		Mainly due to vacancy savings	
School Improvement Systems	1.836	1.756	-0.080		There has been a projected reduction in the Early Entitlement service in payments to settings due to demography. Top-up subsidy continuing and other Welsh Government grants, allowing core budget to be released within the service. There is also a reported £0.022m underspend within the School Improvement service. This is an underspend on the £0.028m pressure for the Digital Advisor post. The role has been appointed to, but is not starting until September 2023, creating a saving against the additional budget received.	
Business Change & Support	0.454	0.523	0.069		Overspend in the main relates to the cost of the annual Access System Licence fee £0.040m minor variances account for the remainder	
Archives	0.351	0.404	0.053		Overspend is due to increased recharge from Denbighshire CC towards costs of shared service	
Minor Variances	6.314	6.272	-0.041			
Total Education & Youth	**9.902**	**9.832**	**-0.070**			

Budget Monitoring Report

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Moratorium related variances (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Schools	**114.081**	**114.081**	**0.000**			
Streetscene & Transportation						
Service Delivery	9.808	10.190	0.382		A variance of £0.200m relates to Alltami Depot costs. The overspend is a combination of Cleaning Price increases from Newydd, Security (new tender costs increased) and Repair Contractors costs. An additional £0.182m is mainly due to a pot holes repairs backlog over the last 6 months resulting in increased costs within 2023/24	
Highways Network	8.514	8.598	0.084		This is due to increased Streetlighting Energy costs following the annual renewal of the contract being higher than projections.	
Regulatory Services	11.305	11.472	0.167		The overspend variance is due to sustained high volumes of residual black waste being collected, together with the reduction in income levels for both recyclable materials and a reducing return on electricity generation from gas and solar at the former landfill sites.	
Other Minor Variances	11.118	11.122	0.004			
Total Streetscene & Transportation	**40.745**	**41.382**	**0.637**			
Planning, Environment & Economy						
Development	0.024	-0.267	-0.290		Receipt of a one off high value Planning Fee (£0.300m for Northern Gateway)	
Access	1.544	1.689	0.145		Variance relates to estimated costs for Ash Die Back works	
Climate Change	0.165	0.102	-0.063		Staff savings from vacant posts	
Management & Strategy	1.354	1.088	-0.266		Staff savings from vacant posts	
Minor Variances	3.971	3.961	-0.010			
Total Planning & Environment	**7.057**	**6.573**	**-0.484**			
People & Resources						
HR & OD	2.239	2.187	-0.053		Staff savings from vacant posts	
Corporate Finance	2.082	2.094	0.012			
Total People & Resources	**4.321**	**4.281**	**-0.041**			
Governance						
Legal Services	0.942	1.120	0.178		Additional costs for locum services covering vacant posts	
Democratic Services	2.411	2.478	0.067		Backdated Superannuation costs and current level of Members Allowances	
ICT	5.143	5.193	0.050		In year pressure following the delay in Agile Apps Project requiring additional funding	
Customer Services	1.040	0.911	-0.129		Staff savings from vacant posts and higher than anticipated fee income levels	
Revenues	0.566	0.383	-0.183		Projected surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund	
Minor Variances	1.333	1.324	-0.009			
Total Governance	**11.435**	**11.410**	**-0.025**			
Assets						
CPM & Design Services	0.674	0.587	-0.087		Staff savings from vacant posts	
Minor Variances	10.371	10.330	-0.041			
Total Assets	**11.045**	**10.916**	**-0.128**			
Housing and Community						

Budget Monitoring Report

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Moratorium related variances (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Housing Solutions	2.233	4.640	2.407		The Housing Solutions service is currently reflecting a net projected overspend of £2.407m. This is mainly due to a projected overspend of £3.413m on temporary accommodation within Hotels and B and B provision, which is being offset by additional Housing Benefit income of -£0.562m. There are also other projected underspends and mitigation impacts within the wider Housing Solutions service amounting to a net figure of £0.444m, including use of reserves, minor salary savings due to vacancies and use of WG grant income	
Minor Variances	13.466	13.463	-0.002			
Total Housing and Community	**15.698**	**18.103**	**2.405**			
Chief Executive's	**1.608**	**1.614**	**0.006**			
Central & Corporate Finance	**32.121**	**31.151**	**-0.970**		The projection on the Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA) at Month 4 is an underspend of (£1.000m) where the Council has not taken out new short or long term borrowing and continues to invest a significant amount of funds. This pattern has continued from the previous financial year resulting in no short term borrowing costs being incurred and the Council generating increased income from investments, which have increased in line with rising bank interest rates.	
Grand Total	**352.121**	**354.765**	**2.644**			

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2023/24 Efficiencies Outturn Tracker - Month 4

	Efficiency Description	Accountable Officer	Efficiency Target	Projected Efficiency	(Under)/Over Achievement	Efficiency Open/Closed (O/C)	Reason for variation	Mitigating Action if Amber or Red
Portfolio			2023/24	2023/24	2023/24			
			£m	£m	£m			
Corporate								
Reduction In CLIA	Reduction in Pre Payments on Finance Leases / underspend on MRP	Chris Taylor	0.364	0.364	0.000	C		
Actuarial Review	Portfolios	Gary Ferguson	1.874	1.874	(0.000)	C		
NI Reversal	Portfolios	Rachel Parry Jones	0.474	0.474	0.000	C		
Total Corporate Services			**2.712**	**2.712**	**(0.000)**			
Chief Executives / Assets								
Transport Savings	Budget Reductions	Neal Cockerton	0.010	0.010	0.000	C		
Vacancy Savings	Removal of Vacant Post x2	Neal Cockerton	0.048	0.048	0.000	C		
3rd Sector Budget		Neal Cockerton	0.041	0.041	0.000			
Total Chief Executives			**0.099**	**0.099**	**0.000**			
People & Resources								
Modern Appentices HR&OD	Reduction in CoHort by 2 posts	Sharon Carney	0.072	0.072	0.000	C		
Vacancy Savings Corporate Finance	Removal of Vacant Post	Gary Ferguson	0.086	0.086	0.000	C		
Transport and Training Savings Corporate Finance	Budget Reductions	Gary Ferguson	0.016	0.016	0.000	C		
Total People & Resources			**0.174**	**0.174**	**0.000**			
Assets - ADMs								
Newydd	5% efficiency	Rachael Corbelli	0.019	0.019	0.000	C		
Newydd NI	National Insurance reduction	Rachael Corbelli	0.023	0.023	0.000	C		
Total Assets - ADMs			**0.042**	**0.042**	**0.000**			
Housing & Communities								
CTRS Reduction	Budget Reduction	Vicky Clark	0.147	0.147	0.000	C		
Total Housing & Communities			**0.147**	**0.147**	**0.000**			
Governance								
Members Support Budget	Removal of Vacant Post	Gareth Owen	0.016	0.016	0.000	C		
Members Allowances	Reduction in Take Up	Gareth Owen	0.060	0.060	0.000	C		
Central Despatch	Removal of Vacant Post	Gareth Owen	0.022	0.022	0.000	C		
Mold & Buckley Connects	Reduction of hours to Part Time	Gareth Owen	0.060	0.060	0.000	C		
Total Governance			**0.158**	**0.158**	**0.000**			
Planning, Environment & Economy								
Vacancy Savings	Removal of Vacant Post	Andrew Farrow	0.020	0.020	0.000	C		
Fee Income	Fee Income Target for HDC /Planning	Andrew Farrow	0.180	0.180	0.000	C		
Total Planning, Environment & Economy			**0.200**	**0.200**	**0.000**			
Streetscence & Transportation								
Enhanced Enforcement for Recycling		Katie Wilby	0.046	0.046	0.000	O	Side waste enforcement is already taking place with FPNs being issued, but the next steps for enforcing against those who do not habitually recycle will to take enforcment action if residents place recyclable waste in their black bin. To introduce this will first require a period of education and engagement. Additional x3 recycling officers are currently being recruited and, once appointed, the aim is for these officers to support with door-knocking campaigns and community events in advance of introducing enhanced enforcement	Likely introduction is January 2024.
Part night Street Lighting		Katie Wilby	0.018	0.000	(0.018)	O	Difficult to implement in year due to the consultation required, and the limited opportunity following previous roll-outs. This will also require investment to the equipment to allow the switch-offs	Discussions being held with an update to come how we can achieve this saving.
Review Provision of Public Conveniences		Katie Wilby	0.012	0.000	(0.012)	O	The efficiency is largely reliant on the review of sites following the implementation of the Local Toilet Strategy and capital investment in FY 24/25-26/27.	
Extend, Repair & Reuse Initiatives		Katie Wilby	0.010	0.000	(0.010)	O	When this was put forward, we stated that the initiative would be dependent on investment funding either from WG Circular Economy grant funding or capital programme. We are still awaiting the outcome of our bid to WG, which is now unlikely given the current economic climate. Without the grant funding the initiative cannot be introduced and the efficiency will not be met.	
Waste & Recycling Round Review		Katie Wilby	0.075	0.075	0.000	C		
In House Highways Service		Katie Wilby	0.025	0.025	0.000	C		
Review of Security Arrangements Alltami Depot		Katie Wilby	0.050	0.050	0.000	C		
Apprenticeship Trainee Scheme Reduction		Katie Wilby	0.035	0.035	0.000	C		

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	Efficiency Description	Accountable Officer	Efficiency Target	Projected Efficiency	(Under)/Over Achievement	Efficiency Open/Closed (O/C)	Reason for variation	Mitigating Action if Amber or Red
Portfolio			**2023/24 £m**	**2023/24 £m**	**2023/24 £m**			
Increase Car Parking Charges	Income Generation	Katie Wilby	0.187	0.187	0.000	C	Decision approved and new charges will come into effect from October 2023 (original date planned was July 2023). Additional initiatives e.g. Free after Three and extension to parking times will mean that the original efficiency will be difficult to achieve unless the utilisation levels increase beyond current levels.	
Introduce Car Parking Charges on all Council Owned Car Parks	Income Generation	Katie Wilby	0.035	0.000	(0.035)	O	Delays in being implemented.	
Fleet Workshop	Income Generation	Katie Wilby	0.010	0.010	0.000	C		
Training Facility	Income Generation	Katie Wilby	0.010	0.010	0.000	C		
Funeral Services	Income Generation	Katie Wilby	0.010	0.010	0.000	C		
Total Streetscene & Transportation			**0.523**	**0.448**	**(0.075)**			
Social Services								
Contribution to Regional Team	Reduction in Contribution	Neil Ayling	0.050	0.050	0.000	C		
Reduced Contribution to EDT	Contract Costs Reduced	Neil Ayling	0.011	0.011	0.000	C		
Retendering of HFT	Contract Costs Reduced	Neil Ayling	0.040	0.040	0.000	C		
Total Social Services			**0.101**	**0.101**	**0.000**			
Education & Youth								
Central Management Budget	Vacant Post	Claire Homard	0.060	0.060	0.000	O		
ALN Advocacy	Offset costs from LAEG ALN Grant	Claire Homard	0.020	0.020	0.000	O		
ALN Legal	Offset costs from LAEG ALN Grant	Claire Homard	0.010	0.010	0.000	O		
ALN Resource Provisions	Offset costs from LAEG ALN Grant	Claire Homard	0.100	0.100	0.000	O		
Early Years Entitlement	Budget Reductions	Claire Homard	0.095	0.095	0.000	O		
Youth Club Buildings	Building Closure	Claire Homard	0.017	0.017	0.000	O		
Youth Services	Vacant Posts (1 FTE 1 PT)	Claire Homard	0.056	0.056	0.000	O		
Youth Justice	Offset costs from Grant	Claire Homard	0.016	0.016	0.000	O		
Total Education & Youth			**0.374**	**0.374**	**0.000**			
Schools								
3% Reduction in Delegated Funding		Claire Homard	3.103	3.103	0.000	O		
NI Reversal (Schools & Teachers)		Claire Homard	0.857	0.857	0.000	O		
Actuarial Review		Claire Homard	0.776	0.776	0.000	O		
Total Schools			**4.736**	**4.736**	**0.000**			
Total 2023/24 Budget Efficiencies			**9.265**	**9.190**	**(0.075)**			

	%	£
Total 2023/24 Budget Efficiencies	**100**	**9.265**
Total Projected 2023/24 Budget Efficiencies Underachieved	**-1**	**(0.075)**
Total Projected 2023/24 Budget Efficiencies Achieved	**99**	**9.190**
Total 2023/24 Budget Efficiencies (Less Previously agreed Decisions)	**100**	**0.000**
Total Projected 2023/24 Budget Efficiencies Underachieved	**0**	**0.000**
Total Projected 2023/24 Budget Efficiencies Achieved	**0**	**0.000**

Movements on Council Fund Unearmarked Reserves

	£m	£m		
Total Reserves as at 1 April 2023	19.162			
Less - Base Level	(5.769)			
Total Reserves above base level available for delegation to Cabinet		13.393		
Less - COVID-19 Hardship Funding Allocation		3.743		
Less - Children's Services Legal Costs		0.142	Brought Forward	9.508
Add - Transfer to Reserve Budget 2023/24		0.006		
Less - Clwyd Theatr Cymru (Month 2)		0.100		
Less - estimated impact of the pay award		2.727		
Less - Month 4 projected outturn		2.644		
Total Contingency Reserve available for use		**4.043**		

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Budget Monitoring Report
Housing Revenue Account Variances

MONTH 4 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Housing Revenue Account					
Income	(38.829)	(38.477)	0.352	There is a net pressure relating to void properties of £0.338m. This relates to costs such as void rent loss, council tax charges and service charges and is net of additional income relating to new build properties and voids moving to target rent. We are anticipating a variance of approximately £0.021m on garage rents. Other minor variances of (£0.007m).	
Capital Financing - Loan Charges	7.010	7.010			
Estate Management	3.125	2.891	(0.234)	Projected vacancy savings of approximately (£0.239m) which is being offset by agency costs of £0.120m. Additional allocation of Housing Support Grant (£0.120m). Other minor variances of £0.005m.	
Landlord Service Costs	1.617	1.544	(0.072)	Projected vacancy savings of approximately (£0.150m). We are also forecasting an increase in fleet costs of £0.024m and materials and hire of £0.059m. Other minor variances of (£0.005m).	
Repairs & Maintenance	12.150	12.067	(0.083)		
Management & Support Services	2.678	2.650	(0.028)	Projected vacancy savings of approximately (£0.058m). Other minor variances of £0.030m.	
Capital Expenditure From Revenue (CERA)	12.712	12.712			
HRA Projects	0.126	0.126	(0.000)		
Contribution To / (From) Reserves	(0.589)	(0.589)			
Total Housing Revenue Account	**(0.000)**	**(0.065)**	**(0.065)**		

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CYNGOR
Sir y Fflint
Flintshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 19th September 2023
Report Subject	Capital Programme Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 4)
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report summarises changes made to the Capital Programme 2023/24 since it was set in January 2023 to the end of Month 4 (July 2023), along with expenditure incurred to date and the projected outturn at this early stage of the year.

The Capital Programme has seen a net increase in budget of £36.586m during the period which comprises of:-

- Net budget increase in the programme of £18.557m (See Table 2 - Council Fund (CF) £16.066m, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) £2.491m;
- Introduction of Carry Forwards from 2022/23 of £18.029m (All CF)

Actual expenditure was £16.215m (See Table 3).

Capital receipts received in the first quarter of 2023/24 total £0.651m.

This provides a revised projected surplus in the Capital Programme at Month 4 of £1.953m (from an opening funding surplus of £1.302m) for the 2023/24 – 2025/26 Capital Programme, prior to the realisation of additional capital receipts and/or other funding sources.

	RECOMMENDATIONS
	Cabinet are requested to:
1	Approve the overall report.
2	Approve the carry forward adjustments, as set out at 1.14.
3	Approve the additional allocations, as set out in 1.16.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE 2023/24 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING POSITION – MONTH 4
1.01	**Background** Council approved a Council Fund (CF) Capital Programme of £33.041m and a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme of £29.457m for 2023/24 at its meeting on 24 January 2023.
1.02	For presentational purposes the Capital Programme is shown as a whole, with sub-totals for the Council Fund and HRA. The HRA programme is 'ring fenced' and can only be used for HRA purposes.
1.03	**Changes since Budget approval** Table 1 below sets out how the programme has changed during 2023/24. More detailed cumulative information relating to each Portfolio is provided in Appendix A:-

Table 1

REVISED PROGRAMME	Original Budget 2023/24	Carry Forward from 2022/23	Changes - This Period	Revised Budget 2023/24
	£m	£m	£m	£m
People & Resources	0.350	0.150	(0.058)	0.442
Governance	0.357	0.294	0.530	1.181
Education & Youth	3.696	8.462	1.087	13.245
Social Services	3.680	0.171	2.210	6.061
Planning, Environment & Economy	0.040	1.018	1.232	2.290
Streetscene & Transportation	1.500	5.756	9.398	16.654
Housing and Communities	1.660	0.186	0.986	2.832
Capital Programme and Assets	21.758	1.992	0.681	24.431
Council Fund Total	33.041	18.029	16.066	67.136
HRA Total	29.457	0.000	2.491	31.948
Programme Total	**62.498**	**18.029**	**18.557**	**99.084**

1.04	**Carry Forward from 2022/23** Carry forward sums from 2022/23 to 2023/24, totalling £18.029m (all CF), were approved as a result of the quarterly monitoring reports presented to Cabinet during 2022/23.
1.05	**Changes during this period** Funding changes during this period have resulted in a net increase in the programme total of £18.557m (CF £16.066m, HRA £2.491m. A summary of the changes, detailing major items, is shown in Table 2 below:-

Table 2

CHANGES DURING THIS PERIOD	Para	£m
COUNCIL FUND		
Increases		
Local Transport Grant	1.06	8.314
Education & Youth	1.07	1.087
Children's Services	1.08	1.179
Services to Older People	1.09	1.000
Other Aggregate Increases		4.544
		16.124
Decreases		
Other Aggregate Decreases		(0.058)
		(0.058)
Total		**16.066**
HRA		
Increases		
Energy Schemes	1.10	2.924
Other Aggregate Increases		0.215
		3.139
Decreases		
Other Aggregate Decreases		(0.648)
		(0.648)
Total		**2.491**

1.06	It is usual in the early part of the financial year to receive notification of funding allocations that were not available at budget setting time. This is the case with the, Active Travel, Road Safety, and Safe Routes grants from Welsh Government (WG). These grants will provide a range of transportation schemes across the County.
1.07	Introduction of WG funding relating to schools Community Focus Grant and Additional Leaning Needs along with funding from Sports Council Wales.
1.08	Introduction of WG funding in relation to the Childcare and Early Years Capital Small Grants funding and Early Years Wraparound schemes.
1.09	In addition to the above the Council also received funding for the Housing with Care Fund and the Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund, both in relation to Croes Atti Newydd Residential Care.
1.10	Award of Optimised RetroFit grant funding from WG has been introduced within the programme.

1.11	**Capital Expenditure compared to Budget**
	Expenditure incurred as at Month 4, across the whole of the Capital Programme was £16.215m. The breakdown of expenditure is analysed in Table 3, along with the percentage spend against budget.
	This shows that 16.36% of the budget has been spent (CF 16.77%, HRA 15.50%). Corresponding figures for Month 4 2022/23 were 15.51% (CF 10.73%, HRA 29.61%).
1.12	The table also shows a projected underspend (pending carry forward and other adjustments) of £3.129m on the Council Fund and a break-even position on the HRA.

Table 3

EXPENDITURE	Revised Budget	Cumulative Expenditure Month 4	Percentage Spend v Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance Budget v Outturn (Under)/Over
	£m	£m	%	£m	£m
People & Resources	0.442	0.000	0.00	0.442	0.000
Governance	1.181	0.530	44.88	1.038	(0.143)
Education & Youth	13.245	1.570	11.85	13.048	(0.197)
Social Services	6.061	0.303	5.00	4.724	(1.337)
Planning, Environment & Economy	2.290	(0.048)	-2.10	1.782	(0.508)
Streetscene & Transportation	16.654	4.162	24.99	16.608	(0.046)
Housing & Communities	2.832	0.587	20.73	2.832	0.000
Capital Programme & Assets	24.431	4.158	17.02	23.533	(0.898)
Council Fund Total	67.136	11.262	16.77	64.007	(3.129)
Disabled Adaptations	1.100	0.178	16.18	1.100	0.000
Energy Schemes	5.235	1.272	24.30	5.235	0.000
Major Works	1.714	0.313	18.26	1.714	0.000
Accelerated Programmes	0.595	0.103	17.31	0.595	0.000
WHQS Improvements	13.436	2.559	19.05	13.436	0.000
Modernisation / Improvements	2.200	0.000	0.00	2.200	0.000
SHARP Programme	7.668	0.528	6.89	7.668	0.000
Housing Revenue Account Total	31.948	4.953	15.50	31.948	0.000
Programme Total	**99.084**	**16.215**	**16.36**	**95.955**	**(3.129)**

1.13	Details of the variances for individual programme areas are listed in Appendix B, which includes the reasons, and remedial actions which may be required, where those variances exceed +/- 10% of the revised budget. In addition, where carry forward into 2024/25 has been identified, this is also included in the narrative.
1.14	**Carry Forward into 2024/25**
	During the quarter, carry forward requirements of £3.129m (all CF) have been identified which reflects reviewed spending plans across all programme areas. These amounts can be split into two areas, those

	required to meet the cost of programme works and/or retention payments in 2024/25.	
1.15	Information relating to each programme area is contained in Appendix B and summarised in Table 4 below: **Table 4**	

CARRY FORWARD INTO 2024/25	Month 4 £m
Governance	0.143
Education & Youth	0.197
Social Services	1.337
Planning, Environment & Economy	0.508
Streetscene & Transportation	0.046
Capital Programme & Assets	0.898
Council Fund	**3.129**
TOTAL	**3.129**

1.16	**Additional Allocations** Additional allocations have been identified in the programme in this quarter as follows: - Hybrid Meeting Room - £0.055m for the purchase of equipment to be utilised in the Delyn Room in order to facilitate both in-person and remote meeting attendees. This can be funded from within the current 'headroom' provision.
1.17	**Savings** No savings have been identified in the programme in this quarter.
1.18	**Funding of 2023/24 Approved Schemes** The position at Month 4 is summarised in Table 5 below for the three year Capital Programme between 2023/24 – 2025/26:-

Table 5

FUNDING OF APPROVED SCHEMES 2023/24 - 2025/26	£m	£m
Balance carried forward from 2022/23		(0.937)
Increases		
Surplus in 2023/24 to 2025/26 Budget	(0.365)	
		(0.365)
Decreases		
Actual In year receipts	(0.651)	(0.651)
Funding - (Available)/Shortfall		**(1.953)**

1.19	Capital receipts received in the first quarter of 2023/24, total £0.651m. This gives a revised projected surplus in the Capital Programme at Month 4 of £1.953m (from an opening funding surplus of £1.302m) for the 2023/24 – 2025/26 Capital Programme, prior to the realisation of additional capital receipts and/or other funding sources.
1.20	**Investment in County Towns** At its meeting on 12th December 2017, the Council approved a Notice of Motion relating to the reporting of investment in county towns. The extent and format of the reporting was agreed at the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14th June 2018.
1.21	Table 6 below shows a summary of the 2022/23 actual expenditure, the 2023/24 revised budget and budgets for future years as approved by Council at its meeting of 24th January, 2023. Further detail can be found in Appendix C, including details of the 2023/24 spend to Month 4.

Table 6

INVESTMENT IN COUNTY TOWNS	2022/23 Actual £m	2023/24 Revised Budget £m	2023 - 2025 Budget £m
Buckley / Penyffordd	0.745	5.739	9.302
Connah's Quay / Shotton	2.225	1.385	0.000
Flint / Bagillt	2.135	3.915	4.800
Holywell / Caerwys / Mostyn	4.195	6.576	0.000
Mold / Treuddyn / Cilcain	5.713	24.413	3.783
Queensferry / Hawarden / Sealand	0.520	3.024	0.000
Saltney / Broughton / Hope	1.250	0.287	25.000
Unallocated / To Be Confirmed	0.980	4.625	9.600
Total	**17.763**	**49.964**	**52.485**

1.22	The inclusion of actuals for 2022/23 and approved schemes for future years allows a slightly fuller picture of investment plans. However, expenditure which has occurred in years prior to 2022/23 has not been included, and the expenditure and budgets reported should be considered in that context.
1.23	There are two significant factors which increase allocations to areas, which are homes developed under SHARP, and new or remodelled schools. The impact of these can be seen in the detail shown in Appendix C.
1.24	Some expenditure cannot yet be allocated to specific towns as schemes are not yet fully developed or are generic in nature and not easily identifiable to one of the seven areas. As such schemes are identified the expenditure will be allocated to the relevant area.
1.25	Information on the split between internal and external funding can be found in Appendix C.
1.26	In addition to the information contained in Appendix C, there is also considerable capital expenditure on the HRA Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS), which was originally outside the scope of this analysis. A summary is provided in Table 7 below, albeit using a slightly different catchment area basis.

Table 7

WHQS Programme	2022/23 Actual £m	2023/24 Budget £m
Holywell	3.380	4.210
Flint	1.450	1.390
Deeside & Saltney	2.250	1.390
Buckley	1.060	1.390
Mold	3.000	3.451
Connah's Quay & Shotton	1.970	1.390
Total	**13.110**	**13.221**

1.27	The 2021 Prudential Code introduced a new requirement that monitoring of prudential indicators should be reported quarterly as part of capital monitoring. This update is provided in Appendix D.

2.00	**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**
2.01	Financial implications - As set out in the body of the report.
2.02	Personnel implications - None directly as a result of this report.

3.00	**IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**
3.01	The legacy impacts of the pandemic along with the supply and demand of materials, leading to cost increases, higher tender prices and project delays will continue to be monitored closely during the year. Due to the re-profiling of schemes from 2022/23 and resources available to manage and deliver schemes, the levels of planned expenditure in 2023/24 may be affected, resulting in a high level of carry forward requests to re-phase budgets into the 2024/25 programme. Grants received will also to be closely monitored to ensure that expenditure is incurred within the terms and conditions of the grant. The capital team will work with project leads to report potential risks of achieving spend within timescales and assist in liaising with the grant provider. The Council has a prudent policy of allocating its own capital receipts to fund capital projects only when receipts are received rather than when it is anticipated the receipt will be received, and this position continues to be the case. In line with current policy no allowance has been made for these receipts in reporting the Council's capital funding position.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	No consultation is required as a direct result of this report.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix A: Capital Programme - Changes during 2023/24
5.02	Appendix B: Variances
5.03	Appendix C: Investment in Towns
5.04	Appendix D: Prudential Indicators – Quarter 1 2023/24

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Capital Programme monitoring papers 2023/24.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	**Contact Officer:** Chris Taylor, Strategic Finance Manager **Telephone:** 01352 703309 **E-mail:** christopher.taylor@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	**Budget Re-profiling:** Capital schemes are very dynamic and a number of factors can influence their timing and funding. Budget re-profiling assures that the correct resources are available in the correct accounting period to finance the actual level of expenditure. **Capital Expenditure:** Expenditure on the acquisition of **non-current assets** or expenditure which extends the useful life of an existing asset **Capital Programme:** The Council's financial plan covering capital schemes and expenditure proposals for the current year and a number of future years. It also includes estimates of the capital resources available to finance the programme. **Capital Receipts:** Receipts (in excess of £10,000) realised from the disposal of assets. **Carry Forward:** Carry forward occurs when schemes due to be completed in a given financial year are delayed until a subsequent year. In this case the relevant funding is carried forward to meet the delayed, contractually committed expenditure.

CERA: Capital **E**xpenditure charged to **R**evenue **A**ccount. The Council is allowed to use its revenue resources to fund capital expenditure. However the opposite is not permissible.

Council Fund (CF): The fund to which all the Council's revenue and capital expenditure is charged.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA): The fund to which all the Council's revenue and capital expenditure relating to its housing stock is charged.

MRA: Major Repairs Allowance. A general capital grant from WG for HRA purposes.

Non-current Asset: A resource controlled (but not necessarily owned) by the Council, from which economic benefits or service potential are expected to flow to the Council for more than 12 months.

Section 106: Monies are received from developers/contractors pursuant to Section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990. These sums are available for use once the relevant terms of the individual agreement have been met. The monies are most commonly used for educational enhancement, play areas, highways and affordable housing.

Target Hardening: Measures taken to prevent unauthorised access to Council sites.

Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB), commonly referred to as Supported Borrowing - Each year Welsh Government provide Councils with a Supported Borrowing allocation. Councils borrow to fund capital expenditure equivalent to that annual allocation, Welsh Government then include funding to cover the revenue costs associated with the borrowing for future years within the Revenue Support Grant. The Council decides how this funding is spent.

Unsupported (Prudential) Borrowing: Borrowing administered under the Prudential Code, whereby Authorities can set their own policies on acceptable levels and types of borrowing. The Prudential Framework allows Authorities to take out loans in response to overall cash flow forecasts and other factors provided they can show that the borrowing is to meet planned capital expenditure in the current year or the next three years.

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CAPITAL PROGRAMME - CHANGES DURING 2023/24

	Original Budget 2023/24	Carry Forward from 2022/23	Changes (Current)	Revised Budget 2023/24
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Council Fund :				
People & Resources				
'Headroom'	0.350	0.150	(0.058)	0.442
	0.350	**0.150**	**(0.058)**	**0.442**
Governance				
Information Technology	0.357	0.294	0.530	1.181
	0.357	**0.294**	**0.530**	**1.181**
Education & Youth				
Education - General	0.650	6.999	0.936	8.585
Primary Schools	1.000	0.813	(0.524)	1.289
Schools Modernisation	1.546	0.000	(0.651)	0.895
Secondary Schools	0.000	0.560	1.326	1.886
Special Education	0.500	0.090	0.000	0.590
	3.696	**8.462**	**1.087**	**13.245**
Social Services				
Services to Older People	1.250	0.097	1.000	2.347
Learning Disability	2.430	0.000	0.031	2.461
Children's Services	0.000	0.074	1.179	1.253
	3.680	**0.171**	**2.210**	**6.061**
Planning, Environment & Economy				
Closed Landfill Sites	0.000	0.250	0.000	0.250
Engineering	0.000	0.383	0.000	0.383
Energy Services	0.000	0.000	0.207	0.207
Ranger Services	0.000	0.035	0.105	0.140
Town Centre Regeneration	0.000	0.320	0.858	1.178
Private Sector Renewal/Improv't	0.040	0.030	0.062	0.132
	0.040	**1.018**	**1.232**	**2.290**
Streetscene & Transportation				
Waste Services	0.000	3.805	0.217	4.022
Cemeteries	0.000	0.259	0.000	0.259
Highways	1.500	1.640	0.867	4.007
Local Transport Grant	0.000	0.006	8.314	8.320
Solar Farms	0.000	0.046	0.000	0.046
	1.500	**5.756**	**9.398**	**16.654**

	Original Budget 2023/24	Carry Forward from 2022/23	Changes (Current)	Revised Budget 2023/24
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Housing & Communities				
Affordable Housing	0.000	0.000	0.700	0.700
Disabled Facilities Grants	1.660	0.186	0.286	2.132
	1.660	**0.186**	**0.986**	**2.832**
Capital Programme & Assets				
Administrative Buildings	0.663	0.325	0.034	1.022
Community Asset Transfers	0.000	0.597	0.227	0.824
Leisure Centres & Libraries	0.395	0.419	0.259	1.073
Play Areas	0.200	0.376	0.161	0.737
Theatr Clwyd	20.500	0.275	0.000	20.775
	21.758	**1.992**	**0.681**	**24.431**
Housing Revenue Account :				
Disabled Adaptations	1.100	0.000	0.000	1.100
Energy Schemes	2.311	0.000	2.924	5.235
Major Works	1.836	0.000	(0.122)	1.714
Accelerated Programmes	1.121	0.000	(0.526)	0.595
WHQS Improvements	13.221	0.000	0.215	13.436
Modernisation / Improvements	2.200	0.000	0.000	2.200
SHARP Programme	7.668	0.000	0.000	7.668
	29.457	**0.000**	**2.491**	**31.948**

Totals :

Council Fund	33.041	18.029	16.066	67.136
Housing Revenue Account	29.457	0.000	2.491	31.948
Grand Total	**62.498**	**18.029**	**18.557**	**99.084**

PEOPLE & RESOURCES

Capital Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
'Headroom'	0.442	0.000	0.442	0.000	0	0.000		Corporate provision - to be allocated as requested and approved.	Any unspent allocation will be the subject of a carry forward request at outturn.
Total	**0.442**	**0.000**	**0.442**	**0.000**	**0**	**0.000**			

GOVERNANCE

Capital Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Information Technology	1.181	0.530	1.038	(0.143)	-12	0.000	£0.088m replacement server technology for remote access solutions have been reviewed, expected to last another 12 months before needing to be replaced. £0.055m environmental monitoring systems replacement delayed until decision on datacentre relocation.	**Carry Forward** - Request approval to move funding of **£0.143m** to 2024/25.	
Total	**1.181**	**0.530**	**1.038**	**(0.143)**	**-12**	**0.000**			

Variance = Budget v Outturn

EDUCATION & YOUTH

Capital Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Education - General	8.585	1.056	8.388	(0.197)	-2	0.000	Joint archive scheme unlikely to commence in 2023/24.	**Carry Forward** - Request approval to move funding of **£0.197m** into 2024/25.	
Primary Schools	1.289	0.135	1.289	0.000	0	0.000			
Schools Modernisation	0.895	0.083	0.895	0.000	0	0.000			
Secondary Schools	1.886	0.323	1.886	0.000	0	0.000			
Special Education	0.590	(0.027)	0.590	0.000	0	0.000			
Total	**13.245**	**1.570**	**13.048**	**(0.197)**	**-1**	**0.000**			

Variance = Budget v Outturn

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SOCIAL SERVICES

Capital Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Services to Older People	2.347	0.185	1.010	(1.337)	-57	0.000	Grant funding for Croes Atti Care Home to be utilised in 2023/24, with core funding to be carry forward to 2024/25.	**Carry Forward -** Request approval to move funding of **£1.337m** to 2024/25.	
Learning Disability Services	2.461	(0.010)	2.461	0.000	0	0.000			
Children's Services	1.253	0.128	1.253	0.000	0	0.000			
Total	**6.061**	**0.303**	**4.724**	**(1.337)**	**-22**	**0.000**			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn

PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY

Capital Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget	Actual Exp.	Projected Outturn	Variance (Under)/ Over	Variance %age	Variance Prev Qtr	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
	£m	£m	£m	£m	%	£m			
Closed Landfill Sites	0.250	0.000	0.000	(0.250)	-100	0.000	Expenditure is incurred as a result of specific remedial work identified from assessments carried out.	**Carry Forward** - Request approval to move funding of **£0.250m** to 2024/25.	
Engineering	0.383	0.000	0.125	(0.258)	-67	0.000	The funding will be used to support schemes in 2024/25 that will be identified in the flood management strategy and grant bids.	**Carry Forward** - Request approval to move funding of **£0.258m** to 2024/25.	
Energy Services	0.207	(0.285)	0.207	0.000	0	0.000			
Ranger Services	0.140	(0.019)	0.140	0.000	0	0.000			
Townscape Heritage Initiatives	1.178	0.232	1.178	0.000	0	0.000			
Private Sector Renewal/Improvement	0.132	0.024	0.132	0.000	0	0.000			
Total	**2.290**	**(0.048)**	**1.782**	**(0.508)**	**-22**	**0.000**			

Variance = Budget v Outturn

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STREETSCENE & TRANSPORTATION

Capital Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Waste Services	4.022	0.000	4.022	0.000	0	0.000			Redevelopment of the Standard Yard MRF in Buckley is ongoing and currently subject to review following a recent tendering exercise to procure the construction of the facility.
Cemeteries	0.259	0.000	0.259	0.000	0	0.000			
Highways	4.007	0.073	4.007	0.000	0	0.000			
Local Transport Grant	8.320	4.089	8.320	0.000	0	0.000			
Solar Farms	0.046	0.000	0.000	(0.046)	-100	0.000	Works to progress in 2024/25.	**Carry Forward** - Request approval to move funding of **£0.046m** to 2024/25.	
Total	**16.654**	**4.162**	**16.608**	**(0.046)**	**-0**	**0.000**			

Variance = Budget v Outturn

HOUSING & COMMUNITIES

Capital Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Affordable Housing	0.700	0.000	0.700	0.000	0	0.000			
Disabled Facilities Grants	2.132	0.587	2.132	0.000	0	0.000			DFG spend is customer driven and volatile.
Total	**2.832**	**0.587**	**2.832**	**0.000**	**0**	**0.000**			

Variance = Budget v Outturn

CAPITAL PROGRAMME & ASSETS

Capital Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Administrative Buildings	1.022	0.120	0.994	(0.028)	-3	0.000	Expenditure is incurred as and when unauthorised encampments occur which prompt target hardening vulnerable locations.	**Carry Forward** - Request approval to move funding of **£0.028m** to 2024/25.	
Community Asset Transfers	0.824	0.276	0.227	(0.597)	-72	0.000	Expenditure is incurred as and when schemes are signed off.	**Carry Forward** - Request approval to move funding of **£0.597m** to 2024/25.	
Leisure Centres & Libraries	1.073	0.510	0.828	(0.245)	-23	0.000	£0.195m due to DLC being closed through Covid the AWP's will not require replacing this financial year. HLC replacement MUGA, £0.050m.	**Carry Forward** - Request approval to move funding of **£0.245m** to 2024/25.	
Play Areas	0.737	0.091	0.737	0.000	0	0.000			
Theatr Clwyd	20.775	3.161	20.747	(0.028)	-0	0.000	Funding is to be utilised in 2024/25 as part of the fit out of the refurbished building.	**Carry Forward** - Request approval to move funding of **£0.028m** to 2024/25.	
Total	**24.431**	**4.158**	**23.533**	**(0.898)**	**-4**	**0.000**			

Variance = Budget v Outturn

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

Capital Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget	Actual Exp.	Projected Outturn	Variance (Under)/ Over	Variance %age	Variance Prev Qtr	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
	£m	£m	£m	£m	%	£m			
Disabled Adaptations	1.100	0.178	1.100	0.000	0	0.000			Client led and volatile. Full spend assumed
Energy Services	5.235	1.272	5.235	0.000	0	0.000			
Major Works	1.714	0.313	1.714	0.000	0	0.000			
Accelerated Programmes	0.595	0.103	0.595	0.000	0	0.000			
WHQS Improvements	13.436	2.559	13.436	0.000	0	0.000			
Modernisation/Improvements	2.200	0.000	2.200	0.000	0	0.000			
SHARP	7.668	0.528	7.668	0.000	0	0.000			Mostyn, Park Lane & Duke Street sites now completed. There are a number of pipeline schemes at feasibility stage.
Total	**31.948**	**4.953**	**31.948**	**0.000**	**0**	**0.000**			

Variance = Budget v Outturn

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SUMMARY

Capital Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
People & Resources	0.442	0.000	0.442	0.000	0	0.000			
Governance	1.181	0.530	1.038	(0.143)	-12	0.000			
Education & Youth	13.245	1.570	13.048	(0.197)	-1	0.000			
Social Services	6.061	0.303	4.724	(1.337)	-22	0.000			
Planning, Environment & Economy	2.290	(0.048)	1.782	(0.508)	-22	0.000			
Streetscene & Transportation	16.654	4.162	16.608	(0.046)	-0	0.000			
Housing & Communities	2.832	0.587	2.832	0.000	0	0.000			
Capital Programme & Assets	24.431	4.158	23.533	(0.898)	-4	0.000			
Sub Total - Council Fund	**67.136**	**11.262**	**64.007**	**(3.129)**	**-5**	**0.000**			
Housing Revenue Account	31.948	4.953	31.948	0.000	0	0.000			
Total	**99.084**	**16.215**	**95.955**	**(3.129)**	**-3**	**0.000**			

Variance = Budget v Outturn

TOWN FUNDING	22/23 ACTUAL £000	BUCKLEY Internal £000	BUCKLEY External £000	CONNAH'S QUAY Internal £000	CONNAH'S QUAY External £000	FLINT Internal £000	FLINT External £000	HOLYWELL Internal £000	HOLYWELL External £000	MOLD Internal £000	MOLD External £000	QUEENSFERRY Internal £000	QUEENSFERRY External £000	SALTNEY Internal £000	SALTNEY External £000	UNALLOCATED Internal £000	UNALLOCATED External £000	TOTALS Internal £000	TOTALS External £000	Total £000
EXPENDITURE																				
HOUSING - HRA																				
SHARP	4,278	32		402		255		3,456		10		33				90		4,278	0	4,278
EDUCATION & YOUTH																				
Ysgol Glanrafon	428									332	96							332	96	428
Ysgol Croes Atti Flint	431					128	303											128	303	431
Ysgol Croes Atti, Shotton	556			297	259													297	259	556
SOCIAL SERVICES																				
Ty Nyth, Children's Residential Care	1,408									812	596							812	596	1,408
Croes Atti Newydd Residential Care Home, Flint	913					913												913	0	913
Relocation of Tri-Ffordd Day Service provision	239											239						239	0	239
PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY																				
Solar PV Farms	759			759														759	0	759
STREETSCENE & TRANSPORTION																				
Improvements to Standard Yard Waste Transfer Station	249		249															0	249	249
Highways Maintenance	2,312	331		309				545		595		286		68		179		2,313	0	2,313
Transport Grant	2,992		133		199	15	521	11	183		75		201	70	873		711	96	2,896	2,992
CAPITAL PROGRAMME & ASSETS																				
Theatr Clwyd - Redevelopment	3,197										3,197							0	3,197	3,197
	17,762	363	382	1,767	458	1,311	824	4,012	183	1,749	3,964	319	201	377	873	269	711	10,167	7,596	17,763

AREA TOTAL

BUCKLEY	CONNAH'S QUAY	FLINT	HOLYWELL	MOLD	QUEENSFERRY	SALTNEY	UNALLOCATED
745	2,225	2,135	4,195	5,713	520	1,250	980

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TOWN FUNDING	REVISED BUDGET £000	BUCKLEY Internal £000	BUCKLEY External £000	CONNAH'S QUAY Internal £000	CONNAH'S QUAY External £000	FLINT Internal £000	FLINT External £000	HOLYWELL Internal £000	HOLYWELL External £000	MOLD Internal £000	MOLD External £000	QUEENSFERRY Internal £000	QUEENSFERRY External £000	SALTNEY Internal £000	SALTNEY External £000	UNALLOCATED Internal £000	UNALLOCATED External £000	TOTALS Internal £000	TOTALS External £000	TOTALS Total £000
EXPENDITURE																				
HOUSING - HRA																				
SHARP	7,668		674				540		6,082				366				6	0	7,668	7,668
EDUCATION & YOUTH																				
Ysgol Croes Atti Flint	738					738												738	0	738
Penyffordd Extension	882	882																882	0	882
SOCIAL SERVICES																				
Croes Atti Newydd Residential Care Home, Flint	2,337					1,337	1,000											1,337	1,000	2,337
Relocation of Tri-Ffordd Day Service provision	2,461									2,461								2,461	0	2,461
STREETSCENE & TRANSPORTION																				
Improvements to Standard Yard Waste Transfer Station	3,622	3,405	217															3,405	217	3,622
Highways Maintenance	2,489															2,489		2,489	0	2,489
Transport Grant	8,320		561		1,385		300	6	488		505		2,658		287	111	2,019	117	8,203	8,320
CAPITAL PROGRAMME & ASSETS																				
Theatr Clwyd - Redevelopment	20,747									8,747	12,000							8,747	12,000	20,747
HOUSING & COMMUNITIES																				
Affordable Housing	700									700								700	0	700
	49,964	4,287	1,452	0	1,385	2,075	1,840	6	6,570	11,908	12,505	0	3,024	0	287	2,600	2,025	20,876	29,088	49,964

AREA TOTAL	5,739	1,385	3,915	6,576	24,413	3,024	287	4,625

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INVESTMENT IN COUNTY TOWNS - 2023/24- MONTH 4

TOWN FUNDING	ACTUAL TO DATE £000	BUCKLEY Internal £000	BUCKLEY External £000	CONNAH'S QUAY Internal £000	CONNAH'S QUAY External £000	FLINT Internal £000	FLINT External £000	HOLYWELL Internal £000	HOLYWELL External £000	MOLD Internal £000	MOLD External £000	QUEENSFERRY Internal £000	QUEENSFERRY External £000	SALTNEY Internal £000	SALTNEY External £000	UNALLOCATED Internal £000	UNALLOCATED External £000	TOTALS Internal £000	TOTALS External £000	Total £000
EXPENDITURE																				
HOUSING - HRA																				
SHARP	528						14		508								6	0	528	528
EDUCATION & YOUTH																		0	0	0
Ysgol Croes Atti Flint	84					84												84	0	84
SOCIAL SERVICES																				
Croes Atti Newydd Residential Care Home, Flint	185						185											0	185	185
STREETSCENE & TRANSPORTION																				
Transport Grant	4,089				1,326		1	2			258		2,394		99		9	2	4,087	4,089
CAPITAL PROGRAMME & ASSETS																				
Theatr Clwyd - Redevelopment	3,161										3,161							0	3,161	3,161
	8,047	0	0	0	1,326	84	200	2	508	0	3,419	0	2,394	0	99	0	15	86	7,961	8,047

AREA TOTAL

	BUCKLEY	CONNAH'S QUAY	FLINT	HOLYWELL	MOLD	QUEENSFERRY	SALTNEY	UNALLOCATED
	0	1,326	284	510	3,419	2,394	99	15

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TOWN FUNDING	FUTURE BUDGET £000	BUCKLEY Internal £000	BUCKLEY External £000	CONNAH'S QUAY Internal £000	CONNAH'S QUAY External £000	FLINT Internal £000	FLINT External £000	HOLYWELL Internal £000	HOLYWELL External £000	MOLD Internal £000	MOLD External £000	QUEENSFERRY Internal £000	QUEENSFERRY External £000	SALTNEY Internal £000	SALTNEY External £000	UNALLOCATED Internal £000	UNALLOCATED External £000	TOTALS Internal £000	TOTALS External £000	Total £000
EXPENDITURE																				
EDUCATION & YOUTH																				
Joint Archive Facility, FCC and DCC	2,783									2,783								2,783	0	2,783
Drury County Primary	4,814	1,685	3,129															1,685	3,129	4,814
Elfed High School	4,488	1,571	2,917															1,571	2,917	4,488
Saltney/Broughton Area	25,000													8,750	16,250			8,750	16,250	25,000
SOCIAL SERVICES																				
Croes Atti Newydd Residential Care Home, Flint	4,800					4,800												4,800	0	4,800
STREETSCENE & TRANSPORTION																				
Highways Asset Management Plan	3,000															3,000		3,000	0	3,000
CAPITAL PROGRAMME & ASSETS																				
Theatr Clwyd - Redevelopment	1,000										1,000							0	1,000	1,000
HOUSING & COMMUNITIES																				
Affordable Housing	6,600															6,600		6,600	0	6,600
	52,485	3,256	6,046	0	0	4,800	0	0	0	2,783	1,000	0	0	8,750	16,250	9,600	0	29,189	23,296	52,485

AREA TOTAL

BUCKLEY	CONNAH'S QUAY	FLINT	HOLYWELL	MOLD	QUEENSFERRY	SALTNEY	UNALLOCATED
9,302	0	4,800	0	3,783	0	25,000	9,600

Prudential Indicators Q1 2023/24

The Council measures and manages its capital expenditure, borrowing and commercial and service investments with references to the following indicators.

It is now a requirement of the CIPFA Prudential Code that these are reported on a quarterly basis.

Table 1 - Capital Expenditure in £ millions: The Council has undertaken and is planning capital expenditure as summarised below. The increase in forecasted expenditure between 2022/23 to 2023/24, in the main relate to works at Theatr Clwyd and the Band B schools programme.

	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Budget *	2025/26 Budget
Council Fund	30.016	64.007	33.924	24.668
Housing Revenue Account	24.997	31.948	30.955	27.235
Total	**55.013**	**95.955**	**64.879**	**51.903**

* £3.2m of capital expenditure in 2024/25 arises from a change in the accounting for leases and does not represent cash expenditure.

Table 2 - Capital Financing Requirement in £ millions: The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces with MRP and capital receipts used to replace debt.

	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Budget *	2025/26 Budget
Council Fund	218.939	240.145	261.660	273.934
Housing Revenue Account	133.623	141.810	153.283	160.493
Total	**352.562**	**381.955**	**414.943**	**434.427**

* £3.2m of the CFR increase in 2024/25 arises from a change in the accounting for leases.

Table 3 - Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement in £ millions: Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short term. The Authority has complied and expects to continue to comply with this requirement in the medium term as is shown below.

	2022/23 Actuals	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Budget	2025/26 Budget
Debt (Incl Leases)	297.951	309.843	352.379	384.641
Capital Financing Requirement	352.562	381.955	414.943	434.427

Table 4 - Debt and the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary in £ millions: The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the Authorised Limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower "operational boundary" is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

	2023/24 Limit	30.06.23 Actual
Operational Boundary - Total	403	298
Authorised Limit - Total	438	298

Since the operational boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring it is not significant if the boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure.

Table 5 - Net Income from Commercial and Service Investments to Net Revenue Stream in £ millions: The Council's income from commercial and service investments as a proportion of its net revenue stream has been and is expected to be as indicated below.

	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Budget	2025/26 Budget
Total net income from service and commercial investment	1.672	1.652	1.652	1.652
Proportion of net revenue stream	0.51%	0.47%	0.46%	0.46%

Table 6 - Proportion of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream in £ millions: Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue.

The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants.

	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Budget	2025/26 Budget
Council Fund	3.6%	4.0%	4.4%	4.6%
HRA	17.2%	17.7%	18.0%	19.0%

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 19th September 2023
Report Subject	Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report presents the draft Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23 (attached as Appendix 1).

As required by the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, the Annual Report was reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee on 26th July where officers responded to questions to the satisfaction of the Committee and there are no specific issues to bring to the attention of Cabinet.

It is recommended that the report be presented to County Council on 24th October for final approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS	
1	That Cabinet recommends the draft Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23 to County Council on 24th October for final approval.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	**EXPLAINING THE ANNUAL REPORT**
1.01	On 15th February 2022, Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23, following the recommendation of the Cabinet and consideration by the Governance and Audit Committee.
1.02	The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to Cabinet, and the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Corporate Finance Manager, who acts in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement, Strategy and Practices.
1.03	The Council has nominated the Governance and Audit Committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of Treasury Management Strategy and Policies.
	CONSIDERATIONS
1.04	The draft Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23 is attached as Appendix 1. As required by the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, this Annual Report was reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee on 26th July where officers responded to questions to the satisfaction of the Committee and there are no specific issues to bring to the attention of Cabinet. It is recommended that the report be presented to County Council on 24th October for final approval.
	Summary of Key Points
1.05	The war in Ukraine continued to keep global inflation above Central Bank targets and the UK economic outlook remained relatively weak with the chance of a mild recession. The economic backdrop during January to March continued to be characterised by high energy and commodity prices, high inflation, and the associated impact on household budgets and spending. From 0.75% in March 2022, the Bank of England increased the official Bank Rate to 4.25% during the financial year. The annual CPI measure of UK inflation started the financial year at 5.5% then rose strongly and remained high in subsequent months. The annual headline CPI registered 10.4% in February. Section 2 of the report provides a full economic and interest rate review for 2022/23.
1.06	Due to increases in the UK bank rate, the short-term money market rates have been higher than expected. The average interest rate on the investment income earned in the year was 1.87%. Section 4 provides further details of the Council's investment activity during the year.

1.07	Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) long term rates increased during 2022/23 and a total of £5m PWLB loans were taken out during the year. Section 3 provides more information on borrowing and debt management during the year.
1.08	Options for debt rescheduling were explored in conjunction with our treasury management advisors. The premium charged for early repayment of PWLB debt remained relatively expensive for the loans in the Council's portfolio and therefore unattractive for debt rescheduling activity. As a consequence, no rescheduling activity was undertaken.
1.09	The treasury function operated within the limits detailed in the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23.

2.00	**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**
2.01	Financial implications are addressed in the report.

3.00	**CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT**
3.01	Arlingclose Ltd, being the Council's treasury management advisors.

4.00	**RISK MANAGEMENT**
4.01	Risk Management directly addressed within the report and appendices including identification of risks and measures to mitigate likelihood and impact of risks identified.

5.00	**APPENDICES**
5.01	1. Draft Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23

6.00	**LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**
6.01	None.

7.00	**CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS**
7.01	**Contact Officer:** Chris Taylor – Strategic Finance Manager **Telephone:** 01352 703309 **E-mail:** christopher.taylor@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	**Authorised Limit:** A statutory limit that sets the maximum level of external debt for the Council. **Balances and Reserves:** Accumulated sums that are held, either for specific future costs or commitments (known as earmarked) or generally held to meet unforeseen or emergency expenditure. **Bank Rate:** The official interest rate set by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee and what is generally termed at the "base rate". **Basis Point:** A unit of measure used in finance to describe the percentage change in the value or rate of a financial instrument. One basis point is equivalent to 0.01% (1/100th of a percent). In most cases, it refers to changes in interest rates and bond yields. For example, if interest rates rise by 25 basis points, it means that rates have risen by 0.25% percentage points. **Bond:** A certificate of debt issued by a company, government, or other institution. The bond holder receives interest at a rate stated at the time of issue of the bond. The price of a bond may vary during its life. **Capital Expenditure:** Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of capital assets. **Capital Financing Requirement (CFR):** The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes representing the cumulative capital expenditure of the local authority that has not been financed. **Certificates of Deposits (CD's):** A savings certificate entitling the bearer to receive interest. A CD bears a maturity date, a specified fixed interest rate and can be issued in any denomination. CDs are generally issued by commercial banks. The term of a CD generally ranges from one month to five years. **Consumer Price Index (CPI):** The UK's main measure of inflation (along with Retail Price Index or 'RPI') The Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England set the Bank Rate in order to try and keep CPI at or close to the target set by the Government. The calculation of CPI includes many items of normal household expenditure but excludes some items such as mortgage interest payments and Council Tax. **Corporate Bonds:** Corporate bonds are bonds issued by companies. The term is often used to cover all bonds other than those issued by governments in their own currencies and includes issues by companies, supranational organisations and government agencies. **Cost of Carry:** The "cost of carry" is the difference between what is paid to borrow compared to the interest which could be earned. For example, if one takes out borrowing at 5% and invests the money at 1.5%, there is a cost of carry of 3.5%.

Counterparty List: List of approved financial institutions with which the Council can place investments.

Credit Rating: Formal opinion by a registered rating agency of a counterparty's future ability to meet its financial liabilities; these are opinions only and not guarantees.

Debt Management Office (DMO): The DMO is an Executive Agency of Her Majesty's Treasury and provides direct access for local authorities into a government deposit facility known as the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF). All deposits are guaranteed by HM Government and therefore have the equivalent of a sovereign credit rating.

Federal Reserve: The US central bank, the equivalent of the Bank of England. (Often referred to as "the Fed").

Financial Instruments: Financial instruments are tradable assets of any kind. They can be cash, evidence of an ownership interest in an entity, or a contractual right to receive or deliver cash or another financial instrument

Gilts: Gilts are bonds issued by the UK Government. They take their name from 'gilt-edged'. They are deemed to be very secure as the investor expects to receive the full face value of the bond to be repaid on maturity.

IFRS: International Financial Reporting Standards.

LIBID: The London Interbank Bid Rate (LIBID) is the rate bid by banks on Eurocurrency deposits (i.e. the rate at which a bank is willing to borrow from other banks).

LIBOR: The London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) is the rate of interest that banks charge to lend money to each other. The British Bankers' Association (BBA) work with a small group of large banks to set the LIBOR rate each day. The wholesale markets allow banks who need money to borrow from those with surplus amounts. The banks with surplus amounts of money are keen to lend so that they can generate interest which it would not otherwise receive.

LOBO: Stands for Lender Option Borrower Option. The underlying loan facility is typically very long-term - for example 40 to 60 years - and the interest rate is fixed. However, in the LOBO facility the lender has the option to call on the facilities at pre-determined future dates. On these call dates, the lender can propose or impose a new fixed rate for the remaining term of the facility and the borrower has the 'option' to either accept the new imposed fixed rate or repay the loan facility.

Maturity: The date when an investment or borrowing is repaid.

Maturity Structure / Profile: A table or graph showing the amount (or percentage) of debt or investments maturing over a time period.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP): An annual provision that the Council is statutorily required to set aside and charge to the Revenue Account for

the repayment of debt associated with expenditure incurred on capital assets.

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC): Government Body that sets the Bank Rate. Its primary target is to keep inflation within 1% of a central target of 2%. Its secondary target is to support the Government in maintaining high and stable levels of growth and employment.

Money Market Funds (MMF): Pooled funds which invest in a range of short term assets providing high credit quality and high liquidity.

Non Specified Investment: Investments which fall outside the WG Guidance for Specified investments (below).

Operational Boundary: This linked directly to the Council's estimates of the CFR and estimates of other day to day cash flow requirements. This indicator is based on the same estimates as the Authorised Limit reflecting the most likely prudent but not worst case scenario but without the additional headroom included within the Authorised Limit.

Premiums and Discounts: In the context of local authority borrowing,
(a) the premium is the penalty arising when a loan is redeemed prior to its maturity date and
(b) the discount is the gain arising when a loan is redeemed prior to its maturity date.

Prudential Code: Developed by CIPFA and introduced in April 2004 as a professional code of practice to support local authority capital investment planning within a clear, affordable, prudent and sustainable framework and in accordance with good professional practice.

Prudential Indicators: Indicators determined by the local authority to define its capital expenditure and asset management framework. They are designed to support and record local decision making in a manner that is publicly accountable; they are not intended to be comparative performance indicators

Public Works Loans Board (PWLB): The PWLB is a statutory body operating within the United Kingdom Debt Management Office, an Executive Agency of HM Treasury. The PWLB's function is to lend money from the National Loans Fund to local authorities and other prescribed bodies, and to collect the repayments.

Quantitative Easing (QE): In relation to the UK, it is the process used by the Bank of England to directly increase the quantity of money in the economy. It does not involve printing more banknotes. Instead, the Bank buys assets from private sector institutions – that could be insurance companies, pension funds, banks or non-financial firms – and credits the seller's bank account. So the seller has more money in their bank account, while their bank holds a corresponding claim against the Bank of England (known as reserves). The end result is more money out in the wider economy.

Retail Price Index (RPI): A monthly index demonstrating the movement in the cost of living as it tracks the prices of goods and services including mortgage interest and rent.

Revenue Expenditure: Expenditure to meet the continuing cost of delivery of services including salaries and wages, the purchase of materials and capital financing charges.

Specified Investments: Term used in the Welsh Assembly Guidance for Local Authority Investments. Investments that offer high security and high liquidity, in sterling and for no more than one year. UK government, local authorities and bodies that have a high credit rating.

Supported Borrowing: Borrowing for which the costs are supported by the government or third party.

Supranational Bonds: Instruments issued by supranational organisations created by governments through international treaties (often called multilateral development banks). The bonds carry an AAA rating in their own right. Examples of supranational organisations are the European Investment Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Temporary Borrowing: Borrowing to cover peaks and troughs of cash flow, not to fund capital spending.

Term Deposits: Deposits of cash with terms attached relating to maturity and rate of return (Interest).

Treasury Bills (T-Bills): Treasury Bills are short term Government debt instruments and, just like temporary loans used by local authorities, are a means to manage cash flow. They are issued by the Debt Management Office and are an eligible sovereign instrument, meaning that they have an AAA-rating.

Treasury Management Code: CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services, initially brought in 2003, subsequently updated in 2009 and 2011.

Treasury Management Practices (TMP): Treasury Management Practices set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve its policies and objectives and prescribe how it will manage and control these activities.

Unsupported Borrowing: Borrowing which is self-financed by the local authority. This is also sometimes referred to as Prudential Borrowing.

Yield: The measure of the return on an investment instrument.

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DRAFT

TREASURY MANAGEMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

1.00 <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

The Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 (the Strategy) including key indicators, limits and an annual investment strategy on 15th February 2022.

The Strategy was produced based on the 2017 edition of the *CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice*.

The purpose of this report is to review the outcomes from 2022/23 treasury management operations and compare these with the Strategy.

Treasury management comprises the management of the local authority's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.

2.00 <u>ECONOMIC & INTEREST RATE REVIEW 2022/23</u>
This is provided by Arlingclose Ltd, the Council's treasury management advisors.

2.01 Economic background

The war in Ukraine continued to keep global inflation above central bank targets and the UK economic outlook remained relatively weak with the chance of a mild recession. The economic backdrop during the January to March period continued to be characterised by high energy and commodity prices, high inflation, and the associated impact on household budgets and spending.

Central Bank rhetoric and actions remained consistent with combatting inflation. The Bank of England, US Federal Reserve, and European Central Bank all increased interest rates over the period, even in the face of potential economic slowdowns in those regions.

Starting the financial year at 5.5%, the annual CPI measure of UK inflation rose strongly to hit 10.1% in July and then 11.1% in October. Inflation remained high in subsequent months but appeared to be past the peak, before unexpectedly rising again in February. Annual headline CPI registered 10.4% in February, up from 10.1% in January, with the largest upward contributions coming from food and housing. RPI followed a similar pattern during the year, hitting 14.2% in October. In February RPI measured 13.8%, up from 13.4% in the previous month.

Following the decision by the UK government under Rishi Sunak and Jeremy Hunt to reverse some of the support to household energy bills announced under Liz Truss, further support in the form of a cap on what energy suppliers could

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charge household was announced in the March Budget to run from April until end June 2023. Before the announcement, typical household bills had been due to rise to £3,000 a year from April.

The labour market remained tight albeit with some ongoing evidence of potential loosening at the end of the period. The unemployment rate 3mth/year eased from 3.8% April-June to 3.6% in the following quarter, before picking up again to 3.7% between October-December. The most recent information for the period December-February showed an unemployment rate of 3.7%.

The inactivity rate was 21.3% in the December-February quarter, slightly down from the 21.4% in the first quarter of the financial year. Nominal earnings were robust throughout the year, with earnings growth in December-February at as 5.7% for both total pay (including bonuses) and 6.5% for regular pay. Once adjusted for inflation, however, both measures were negative for that period and have been so throughout most of the year.

Despite household budgets remaining under pressure, consumer confidence rose to -36 in March, following readings of -38 and -45 in the previous two months, and much improved compared to the record-low of -49 in September. Quarterly GDP was soft through the year, registering a 0.1% gain in the April-June period, before contracting by (an upwardly revised) -0.1% in the subsequent quarter. For the October-December period was revised upwards to 0.1% (from 0.0%), illustrating a resilient but weak economic picture. The annual growth rate in Q4 was 0.6%.

The Bank of England increased the official Bank Rate to 4.25% during the financial year. From 0.75% in March 2022, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) pushed through rises at every subsequent meeting over the period, with recent hikes of 50bps in December and February and then 25bps in March, taking Bank Rate to 4.25%. March's rise was voted by a majority of 7-2, with two MPC members preferring to maintain Bank Rate at 4.0%. The Committee noted that inflationary pressures remain elevated with growth stronger than was expected in the February Monetary Policy Report. The February vote was also 7-2 in favour of a hike, and again with two members preferring to keep Bank Rate on hold.

After reaching 9.1% in June, annual US inflation slowed for eight consecutive months to 6% in February. The Federal Reserve continued raising interest rates over the period with consecutive increases at each Federal Open Market Committee meetings, taking policy rates to a range of 4.75%- 5.00% at the March meeting.

From the record-high of 10.6% in October, Eurozone CPI inflation fell steadily to 6.9% in March 2023. Energy prices fell, but upward pressure came from food, alcohol, and tobacco. The European Central Bank continued increasing interest rates over the period, pushing rates up by 0.50% in March, taking the deposit

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facility rate to 3.0% and the main refinancing rate to 3.5%.

2.02 Financial markets

Uncertainty continued to be a key driver of financial market sentiment and bond yields remained relatively volatile due to concerns over elevated inflation and higher interest rates, as well as the likelihood of the UK entering a recession and for how long the Bank of England would continue to tighten monetary policy. Towards the end of the period, fears around the health of the banking system following the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank in the US and purchase of Credit Suisse by UBS caused further volatility.

Over the period the 5-year UK benchmark gilt yield rose from 1.41% to peak at 4.70% in September before ending the financial year at 3.36%. Over the same timeframe the 10-year gilt yield rose from 1.61% to peak at 4.51% before falling back to 3.49%, while the 20-year yield rose from 1.82% to 4.96% and then declined to 3.82%. The Sterling Overnight Rate (SONIA) averaged 2.24% over the period.

3.00 BORROWING REQUIREMENTS AND DEBT MANAGEMENT

3.01 PWLB (Public Works Loans Board) Certainty Rate

The Council qualified for the PWLB Certainty Rate, allowing the authority to borrow at a reduction of 20 basis points on the Standard Rate for a further 12 months from April 2022.

3.02 Borrowing Activity in 2022/23.

The total long-term borrowing outstanding, brought forward into 2022/23 was £294.6 million.

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	Balance 01/04/2022 £m	Debt Maturing £m	New Debt £m	Balance 31/03/2023 £m
Capital Financing Requirement	**352.6**	(6.2)	8.9	**355.3**
Short Term Borrowing	10.0	(10.0)	12.0	12.0
Long Term Borrowing	294.6	(4.8)	5.4	295.2
TOTAL BORROWING	**304.6**	**(14.8)**	**17.4**	**307.2**
Other Long-Term Liabilities	3.3	(0.6)	0.00	2.7
TOTAL EXTERNAL DEBT	**307.9**	**(15.4)**	**17.4**	**309.9**
Increase/ (Decrease in Borrowing (£m)	-	-	2.0	

The Council's Capital Programme is financed by a combination of capital receipts and grants, capital expenditure charged to the revenue account (CERA) and borrowing. The borrowing strategy in recent years, in accordance with advice received from the Council's treasury management advisors, Arlingclose, has been to use existing cash balances and short-term borrowing to confirm the long-term borrowing requirement. This is to ensure that the Council does not commit to long-term borrowing too early and borrow unnecessarily, which will be costly. This is balanced against securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which the funds are required so as not to compromise the long-term stability of the portfolio.

Short term borrowing continued to be available throughout the year and was utilised as far as possible without exposing the Council to excessive refinancing risk. The total short term (temporary) borrowing as at 31st March 2023 was £12m with an average rate of 4.55%.

The relative costs and benefits of internal / short-term borrowing and long-term borrowing were monitored closely, in conjunction with Arlingclose, throughout the year. Although Arlingclose's advice was to keep borrowing short, the Council continued to have a long-term borrowing requirement. In February, the borrowing rates became volatile and fell to a low level. After discussing with Arlingclose, the following loan was taken out:

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Start Date	Maturity Date	Amount	Rate	Loan Type
10 Feb 2023	10 Feb 2041	£5.0m	3.91%	EIP

On 31st March 2023, £271.5m of the Council's loans were in the form of fixed rate with the PWLB, £18.95m were variable rate in the form of LOBOs (Lender Option Borrower Option) and £4.71m were interest free loans from the Government, available for specific schemes. The Council's average rate for long term borrowing was 4.53%.

The Council's underlying need to borrow as measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as at 31st March 2023 was £355.3m. The Council's total external debt was £309.9m.

3.03   Lender Option Borrower Option loans (LOBOs)

The Council holds £18.95m of LOBOs, loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. All these LOBOs had options during the year, none of which were exercised by the lender.

3.04   Debt Rescheduling

Options for debt rescheduling were explored in conjunction with the Council's treasury management advisors. The premium charged for early repayment of PWLB debt remained relatively expensive for the loans in the Council's portfolio and therefore unattractive for debt rescheduling activity. As a consequence, no rescheduling activity was undertaken.

The Corporate Finance Manager, in conjunction with the Council's treasury management advisors, will continue to review any potential opportunities for restructuring the Council's debt in order to take advantage of potential savings as interest rates change and to enhance the balance of the long-term portfolio (amend the maturity profile and/or the balance of volatility).

3.05   CIPFA Prudential Code Update

CIPFA's 2021 Prudential Code is clear that local authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return and that it is not prudent for local authorities to make any investment or spending decision that will increase the capital financing requirement, and so may lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the Authority. PWLB loans are no longer available to local authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield unless these loans are for refinancing purposes.

The Council will follow the same process as the Prudential Code.

4.00 INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

4.01 Guidance

The Welsh Government's Investment Guidance gives priority to security and liquidity and the Council's aim is to achieve a yield commensurate with these principles.

4.02 Investment Activity in 2022/23

Summary of investments as at 31st March 2023.

Country	Total	<1 month	1 –12 months	>12 months
	£m	%	£m	£m
UK BANKS	1.0	1.0		
UK BUILDING SOCIETIES				
OVERSEAS				
MMF's	28.0	28.0		
LOCAL AUTHORITIES				
DMO	5.0		5.0	
TOTAL	**34.00**	**29.00**	**5.00**	

The investment for £5m was classified as a short-term investment in the Council's Balance Sheet. The remainder of the investments had maturities of less than 3 months, so were classified as cash.

Security of capital remained the Council's main investment objective. This was maintained by following the Council's counterparty policy as set out in its Strategy for 2022/23. Investments during the year included:

- Deposits with the Debt Management Office
- Deposits with other local authorities
- Investments in AAA-rated Low Volatility Net Asset Value (LVNAV) money market funds
- Call accounts and deposits with banks and building societies

4.03 Credit Risk

The Council assessed and monitored counterparty credit quality with reference to credit ratings, credit default swaps, GDP of the country in which the institution

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operate, the country's net debt as a percentage of GDP, and share price. The minimum long-term counterparty credit rating determined by the Council for the 2022/23 treasury strategy was A-/A-/A3 across rating agencies Fitch, S&P and Moody's.

4.04   Counterparty Update

Early in the period, Moody's affirmed the long-term rating of Guildford BC but revised the outlook to negative. The agency also downgraded Warrington BC and Transport for London.

In July, Fitch revised the outlook on Standard Chartered and Bank of Nova Scotia from negative to stable and in the same month Moody's revised the outlook on Bayerische Landesbank to positive. In September, S&P revised the outlook on the Greater London Authority to stable from negative and Fitch revised the outlook on HSBC to stable from negative.

The following month Fitch revised the outlook on the UK sovereign to negative from stable. Moody's made the same revision to the UK sovereign, following swiftly after with a similar move for a number of local authorities and UK banks including Barclays Bank, National Westminster Bank (and related entities) and Santander. During the last few months of the reporting period there were only a handful of credit changes by the rating agencies, then in March the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) in the US quickly spilled over into worries of a wider banking crisis as Credit Suisse encountered further problems and was bought by UBS.

Credit Default Prices had been rising since the start of the period on the back of the invasion of Ukraine, and in the UK rose further in September/October at the time of the then-government's mini budget. After this, CDS prices had been falling, but the fallout from SVB caused a spike on the back of the heightened uncertainty. However, they had moderated somewhat by the end of the period as fears of contagion subsided, but many are still above their pre-March levels reflecting that some uncertainty remains.

On the back of this, Arlingclose reduced its recommended maximum duration limit for unsecured deposits for all UK and Non-UK banks/institutions on its counterparty list to 35 days as a precautionary measure. No changes were made to the names on the list.

As market volatility is expected to remain a feature, at least in the near term and, as ever, the institutions and durations on the Authority's counterparty list recommended by Arlingclose remains under constant review.

Local authorities remain under financial pressure, but Arlingclose continues to take a positive view of the sector, considering its credit strength to be high. Section 114

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notices have been issued by only a handful of authorities with specific issues. While Arlingclose's advice for local authorities on its counterparty list remains unchanged, a degree caution is merited with certain authorities.

4.05   Liquidity

In keeping with the WG's Guidance on Investments, the Council maintained a sufficient level of liquidity through the use of money market funds and call accounts.

4.06   Yield

Due to the increases in the UK bank rate, the short-term money market rates have been higher than expected. The Council's budgeted investment income for the year had been prudently estimated at £0.010m, based on an average rate of 0.1%. The average investment balance was £49.7m during the period and interest earned was £0.940m, at an average interest rate of 1.87%.

4.07   Loans to NEW Homes

The loans to NEW Homes do not meet the definition of an investment and are not therefore included in the Council's investment figures. They are classed as capital expenditure.

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5.00   <u>COMPLIANCE</u>

The Council can confirm that it has complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2022/23. These were approved by Council as part of the Treasury Management Strategy on 15th February 2022.

In compliance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice this report provides members with a summary report of the treasury management activity during 2022/23. None of the Prudential Indicators have been breached and a prudent approach has been taking in relation to investment activity with priority being given to security and liquidity over yield.

The treasury function operated within the limits detailed in the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement 2022/23.

6.00   <u>OTHER ITEMS</u>

The following were the main treasury activities during 2022/23:

- The Council's Governance and Audit Committee received a Mid-Year Report on 14th November 2022.

- Quarterly update reports were presented to the Governance and Audit Committee.
- The 2023/24 Investment Strategy Statement was approved by Council on 23rd February 2023.
- The Council's cash flow was managed on a daily basis. During the year the Council acted both as a borrower and as a lender and was a net borrower over the year in question. The maximum investments the Authority had on deposit at any one time were £74.2m and the maximum long-term borrowing at any one time was £296.5m.

7.00   CONCLUSION

The treasury management function has operated within the statutory and local limits detailed in the 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy.

The Treasury Management Policy was implemented in a pro-active manner with security and liquidity as the primary focus.

Debt Maturity Profile - Mar 2023

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Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn bwrpasol

CYNGOR
Sir y Fflint
Flintshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
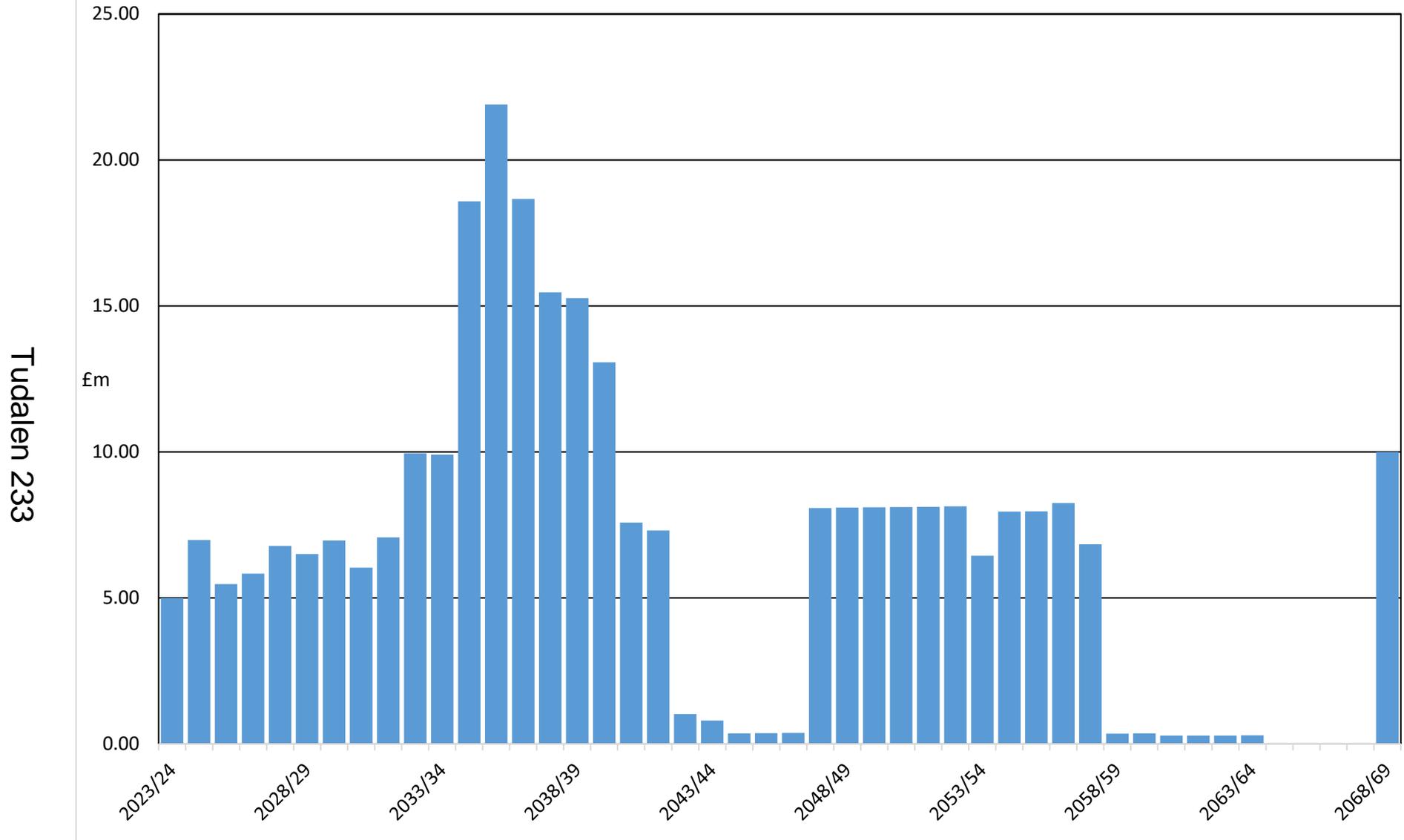
INFORMAL CABINET MEETING	

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 5th September 2023
Report Subject	Self-Evaluation Report Education Services 2022-23
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture & Leisure
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Education and Youth Portfolio undertakes a rigorous annual self-evaluation of its performance and services to provide assurance to the Council on the quality of education services in Flintshire. The report identifies strengths and areas for further improvement and those areas for improvement are then reflected in the Council Improvement Plan and the Portfolio's own Business Plan.

With the resumption of all inspection activity by Estyn from April 2022 onwards, the Portfolio's evaluation report this year reports against the Estyn framework for Local Government Education Services. The report is structured to provide assurance to the Council across the three inspection areas of:

- Outcomes
- Quality of Education Services (including Youth Services)
- Leadership and Management

Each inspection area is evaluated in detail for the period 2022-2023 and concludes with a summary of further areas identified for improvement to ensure the continued provision of quality education services to the residents of Flintshire. The report also contains a summary of progress against the four recommendations from the Estyn inspection of Flintshire's Education Services in 2019.

The overall conclusion of the self-evaluation report is that education services in Flintshire are strong, effectively support children and young people and provide good value for money.

	RECOMMENDATIONS
1	To review the outcome of the Education Portfolio's annual self-evaluation report on the quality of education services for the period 2022-2023.
2	To provide any observations to the Portfolio Team on the report.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE SELF EVALUATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SERVICES
1.01	The prime purpose of self-evaluation is to lead service improvements within the Education and Youth Portfolio to secure the best possible outcomes for children and young people. Only by robustly evaluating the strengths of the current provision and identifying areas for further improvement can the portfolio continue to refine the way it delivers services to secure better outcomes. At the heart of self-evaluation are three questions: • How well are we doing and what impact are our services having? • How do we know? • How can we improve things further?
1.02	The current Estyn framework for the inspection of Local Authority Education Services was introduced in 2018. It focuses on three inspection areas: **1. Outcomes** 1.1 Standards and progress overall 1.2 Standards and progress of specific groups 1.3 Wellbeing and attitudes to learning **2. Quality of Education Services** 2.1 Support for School Improvement 2.2 Support for Vulnerable Learners 2.3 Other education support services **3. Leadership & Management** 3.1 Quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers 3.2 Self-evaluation and improvement planning 3.3 Professional learning 3.4 Safeguarding arrangements 3.5 Use of resources The portfolio's self-evaluation report is structured in this way.
1.03	The inspection programme of Local Authority Education Services began in 2018 and Estyn will complete the cycle of inspecting all local authorities by the summer of 2024. A new inspection framework is currently in development and will be introduced from the Autumn Term of 2024.

1.04	Education services in Flintshire were inspected under the current framework in June 2019. The report was positive and there was no requirement for any Estyn follow up. The report identified four recommendations for improvement which the service has continued to focus on since 2019, despite the interruptions and impacts caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. These recommendations are embedded in the Council Plan and Portfolio Business Plan. The recommendations were: R1 Improve outcomes for learners in key stage 4 R2 Reduce exclusions and increase attendance in both primary and secondary schools R3 Improve the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the few front line education services identified in the report in order to provide more accurate information about the impact of the local authority's work R4 Manage the reduction in school budget deficits more effectively
1.05	The suspension of learner assessments, public examinations as well as other data collections by Welsh Government during the pandemic and its decision not to collect and report on pupil assessment data below the national level has resulted in many of the key performance indicators by which the portfolio traditionally measured its progress and referenced in its annual self-evaluation report now not being available. The focus is now on schools using their own performance data to drive improvements for all their learners at an individual level. The role of the local authority's education service and the regional school improvement service is to rigorously challenge schools and provide targeted support where needed to ensure that schools are using their own evaluation processes effectively to continuously improve and by doing so, secure pupil progress and improved outcomes for all.
1.06	Section 1 of this self-evaluation report describes the portfolio's current view of 'outcomes' within this context. It uses evidence from Estyn reports on its schools. It is also based on first-hand evidence of working closely with school leaders and reviewing every individual school in Flintshire with the school improvement advisers from the regional school improvement service, GwE. Section 2 provides a detailed overview of the range of education services within Flintshire and how they contribute to securing positive pupil outcomes in terms of academic achievement and learner wellbeing. Section 3 provides an evaluation of the quality of the leadership and management of education services at a whole council level as well as specifically within the Education and Youth portfolio.
1.07	The full self-evaluation report is included at Appendix 1.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no revenue or capital resource implications as a result of this report.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	The Education Portfolio has a detailed risk assessment document which outlines the key risks related to the delivery of education services. It is regularly reviewed by the Portfolio's Senior Management Team and is regularly reported to the appropriate Council committee.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	N/A for this report.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Self Evaluation Report Education Services 2022-23

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Estyn Report Flintshire Education Services 2019 https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2021-08/Inspection%20report%20Flintshire%20County%20Council%202019.pdf Estyn Framework for the Inspection of Local Government Education Services 2021 https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2021-11/What%20we%20inspect%20-%20Local%20government%20education%20services%20for%20inspections%20from%202021.pdf

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	**Contact Officer:** Claire Homard, Chief Officer Education & Youth **Telephone:** 01352 704190 **E-mail:** claire.homard@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	**Estyn** – the Education and Training Inspectorate for Wales.

| | **GwE** – Regional School Improvement Services for the 6 Education Authorities of the North Wales region.

SEREN – Welsh Government programme for the most able students to improve access to Oxford, Cambridge and Russell Group universities. |

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn bwrpasol

Education & Youth Portfolio

Self-Evaluation Report of Education Services

April 2022 - March 2023

CYNGOR
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COUNTY COUNCIL

Introduction & Local Context – Flintshire County Council

Formed in 1996 following local government reorganisation, Flintshire is a well governed and high performing unitary local authority in the northeast corner of Wales bordering Cheshire, Wrexham and Denbighshire. Flintshire has a strong track record of being a direct provider of local services from Education, Social Care, Streetscene and Housing. Whilst direct provision is at the core of its model, Flintshire is also a creative and flexible council and operates both as a provider and a commissioner of services. It has been instrumental in developing collaborative arrangements such as a regional school improvement service, an employee-owned mutual in leisure, libraries and cultural services, catering and cleaning services and a local social housing trading company. Over the last few years, the Council has also developed its own residential care for children in order to provide high quality, local provision to meet growing demand in a more cost effective way. Continuing to develop sustainable models of delivery and maintaining high quality services continues to be a priority for the Council, particularly in challenging financial times, to secure the best outcomes for its residents and value for money for the public purse.

Flintshire provides local public services for 155,100 people who live in 66,973 households. It has the largest population of the North Wales authorities and is the seventh largest in Wales. The population is expected to rise by 2.1% by 2028 but this reflects more of an increase in the number of people over the age of 65 as the numbers of children, young people and the working population are predicted to decrease. In the 2021 census the number of children aged under 15 years decreased by 4.2% and the proportion of people aged 65+ increased to 21.4% (33,200 people) compared to 17.6% (26.836 people) in 2011. This will obviously impact on future demands for services in different ways.

With just over 6,000 staff, the Council is one of the two largest employers in the county, alongside Airbus, and provides direct services including, education, housing, planning, refuse collection, environmental health, recycling, roads, social services, trading standards, transport and tourism. It provides leisure, library and catering/cleaning services via 'arms' length' trading companies. Flintshire has seven libraries, ten sports and leisure centres, two country parks and maintains 733 miles of roads.

Flintshire has 78 schools (64 Primary, 11 Secondary, 2 Specialist & 1 PRU) providing education for 23,314 pupils, including those educated other than at school.

Manufacturing, retail trade and human health and social work are the sectors which currently employ the most people in Flintshire. The availability of employment is rising and unemployment in Flintshire in February 2023 stood at 3.0%, better than the Welsh average of 3.8%. The COVID-19 pandemic and Brexit will, however, have implications for the local economy and the population in the short, medium and long term. The North Wales Economic Framework, supported by UK, Welsh Government and Local Government funding streams provides a clear strategy for future economic growth and clearly articulates the skills and knowledge that will be needed within the local and regional population to deliver on emerging economic, social, digital, and wellbeing priorities.

The County has a mix of affluent and deprived areas. Due to the interconnections of factors, there are particular communities that are more vulnerable than others in Flintshire. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019 highlights that coastal communities in Flintshire experience high levels of deprivation (3.3% of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) in 10% most deprived; 10.9% in 20% most deprived in Wales), particularly when it comes to the employment, income, education, and community safety dimensions.

The number of school aged pupils entitled to Free School Meals (e-FSM) has decreased from 20.41% in 2022 (Wales 2022 average 23%) to 14.08% in 2023. This figure is a significant shift away from

current Welsh averages and is linked to the Council being an early implementer of Universal Credit (UC). Families below the income threshold for Universal Credit are entitled to a free school meal but when earnings rise and exceed the UC threshold, the child continues to receive a free meal under Transitional Protection until that phase of the child's education ends. The Council does not receive any funding for pupils on Transitional Protection but is still required to make the provision of a meal. The reduction in the overall percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals will have a significant impact on funding streams to the Council and to schools as this is the measure of deprivation used in many budget formulae. Since 2019 the percentage of Flintshire children on Transitional Protection has increased from 0% to 39% so represents a growing risk to funding for education.

Based on the 2021 Annual Population Survey, the Welsh language is spoken by 23.9% of the population in Flintshire compared to 29.5% across Wales. This is a significant increase from the 2011 national census which reported 13.2% of the county's population having some Welsh language skills. The county has 5 Welsh medium primary schools and 1 Welsh medium secondary school. There are no dual stream or bilingual schools in Flintshire. Currently 6.34% of children in Flintshire are educated through the medium of Welsh. There are ambitious targets in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan to more than double this number over the next ten years.

The county also has a mixed provision of faith-based education with 8 Church in Wales Voluntary Aided primary schools, 5 Roman Catholic primary schools and 1 Roman Catholic secondary school. 11.35% of children in Flintshire currently receive their education in a faith-based setting.

Flintshire has a strong tradition of supporting a local infrastructure of non-maintained early years' provision through both English and Welsh, which supports the Council in its delivery of childcare and early years' education. Flintshire was an early adopter of the Welsh Government's flagship childcare policy of 30 hours free provision for working parents and there is a strong network of childminders, playgroups and private day nurseries delivering this combination of childcare and early education prior to children transitioning into schools. Flintshire Council also supports neighbouring local authorities with the administration of their Childcare Offer.

Overall, 12.06% of school aged pupils in Flintshire in 2023 are designated as having a Special Educational Need. Of this number 2.74% have a Statement of Special Educational Need, higher than the Welsh average of 2%. 4.88% of pupils are designated as School Action which is lower than the Welsh average of 7.3% and 3.05% are at School Action Plus, lower than the Welsh average of 6.1%. Under the new legislation in Wales for Additional Learning Needs, there are also Individual Development Plans (IDP) in place which can be school maintained or Local Authority maintained. In Flintshire 1.39% of learners have an IDP which is higher than the Welsh average of 0.7%.

The current Chief Executive, Neal Cockerton, was appointed in November 2021 and was previously a member of the Council's Chief Officer Team. The Chief Officer for Education and Youth, Claire Homard, was appointed in June 2017, initially as Interim Chief Officer and then permanently in 2018. She also fulfils the role as Statutory Director of Education for the Council. The Leader of the Council is Cllr Ian Roberts, who up until May 2023 also held the role of Cabinet Member for Education, Youth? and the Welsh Language. Since May 2023, Cllr Mared Eastwood has taken on this responsibility. The Chair of the Education, Youth & Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee is Cllr Teresa Carberry.

Structure of the Council

Flintshire County Council has 67 Councillors that are normally democratically elected at least every four years. After the elections of May 2022 there is a minority Labour administration with informal support from the Liberal Democrats.

The political make up of Flintshire County Council elected members from May 2022 is as follows: Labour: 31; Independent: 26; Liberal Democrats: 4; Eagle Group: 3; Conservative: 2; Non-Aligned: 1.

The Council has a Cabinet and a Scrutiny function. Decisions are usually made by the Cabinet for all issues including major policy matters. The role of Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to hold the Cabinet to account and to assist in the improvement and development of the Council's policies and services. Flintshire has 5 Overview and Scrutiny Committees:

- Education, Youth & Culture
- Corporate Resources
- Community & Housing
- Environment & Economy
- Social and Health Care

There are several other Committees that are appointed by Council at its Annual Meeting to ensure that all other functions are discharged, including: Appeals; Clwyd Pension Fund; Constitution and Democratic Services; Governance and Audit; Grievance; Grievance Appeals; Investigation and Disciplinary; Joint Governance (for pensions); and Licensing. There is a detailed Constitution that describes the various parts that make up the Council, their functions, membership and procedural rules.

Cllr Mared Eastwood	**Neal Cockerton**	**Claire Homard**
Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Leisure & Culture	**Chief Executive**	**Chief Officer Education & Youth**

Working in Partnership

Flintshire County Council has a longstanding and proud track record of partnership working. The communities it serves rightly expect statutory and third sector partners to work together to manage shared priorities through collaboration. The Council works within the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and its sustainable development principles. Flintshire has a joint Public Service Board with Wrexham County Borough Council as it was acknowledged that by joining together, knowledge and resources could be shared and joint solutions found to tackle common challenges, specifically those around community resilience and COVID-19 recovery. This Joint PSB was formed in June 2020. The objectives of the Flintshire and Wrexham Public Service Board are:

- Build flourishing communities by reducing inequalities across environment, education, employment, income and housing.

- Improve community well-being by enabling people of all ages to live safe, healthy and independent lives.

The focused outcomes of the PSB Plan relate to Children and Young People, Our Communities and Where we work.

https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Policy-and-Performance/PSB/Flintshire-and-Wrexham-Public-Services-Board-Well-being-Plan-2023-2028.pdf

Public Services Board partners include: Wrexham County Borough Council, Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales, Public Health Wales, North Wales Police, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, HM Prison and Probation Service in Wales, Flintshire Local Voluntary Council, Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham, Coleg Cambria, Wrexham Glyndwr University, Do Well Ltd, NE Wales MIND and the Department for Work & Pensions.

Flintshire's Corporate Plan April 2022- March 2023

The Council Improvement Plan is reviewed and refreshed each year and approved by full Council. In the reporting period April 2022- March 2023, the following core improvement themes drove the business plans of each portfolio and were reported on via quarterly monitoring reports, culminating in an Annual Performance Report.

Theme / Wellbeing Objective	In-year Priority
Poverty Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs	Income Poverty
	Child Poverty
	Food Poverty
	Fuel Poverty
	Digital Poverty
Affordable and Accessible Housing Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities	Housing support and homeless prevention
	Housing Needs and Housing Options
	Social Housing
	Private Rented Sector
	Empty Properties
Green Society and Environment Limiting the impact of the Council's services on the natural environment and supporting the wider communities of Flintshire to reduce their own carbon footprint	Carbon Neutrality
	Climate Change and Adaption
	Fleet Strategy
	Green Access
	Green Environment
	Renewable Energy
	Active and Sustainable Travel Options
	Circular Economy
Economy Enabling a sustainable economic recovery	Town Centre Regeneration
	Business
	Transport Connectivity
	Digital Infrastructure
	Local Development Plan (LDP) Targets
	Spending Money for the benefit of Flintshire
	Reducing worklessness
Personal and Community Well-Being Supporting people in need to live as well as they can	Independent Living
	Safeguarding
	Direct Provision to support people closer to home
	Local Dementia Strategy
	A well-connected safe and clean local environment
Education and Skills Enabling and supporting learning communities	Educational Engagement and Achievement
	Digital Learning Opportunities
	Learning Environments
	Learning Community Networks
	Specialist Educational Provision
	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
	Wellbeing

Review of Estyn Recommendations from Local Government of Education Services Inspection (June 2019)

The Council's Education Services were last inspected by Estyn in June 2019 under the Local Government Education Services Framework. The outcome was a positive report and no requirement for any kind of follow up. The recommendations from the report were as follows and are embedded in business plans for the Council and the Education & Youth Portfolio:

R1 Improve outcomes for learners in key stage 4

R2 Reduce exclusions and increase attendance in both primary and secondary schools

R3 Improve the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the few front line education services identified in the report in order to provide more accurate information about the impact of the local authority's work

R4 Manage the reduction in school budget deficits more effectively

Post Inspection Action Plan - Estyn LGES Recommendations Evaluation 22-23

Officer	Evaluation of Key Actions	RAYG
	R1: Improve outcomes for learners in KS4	-
VB	***Liaise effectively with GwE and Update level 2 Business Plan with GwE for 2022-2023*** The level 2 Business Plan was completed for primary, special and secondary schools during summer term 2022. Progress was monitored through regular meetings with GwE officers. The plan included identified regional priorities, a comprehensive support plan for schools and a wide range of professional development opportunities. Evaluation of the plan fed into the new GwE Regional Business Plan. This spans a three-year period between 2023-2026 which also contains a detailed 12-month Business Plan for 2023-2024. The priorities continue to be focused on a combination of improving school provision, leadership and outcomes, as well as delivering The Reform Journey and Curriculum for Wales.	🟩
VB	***Ensure all secondary school support plans are updated and include a focus on KS4 provision and outcomes*** All secondary school support plans were completed by Supporting Improvement Advisers in discussion with schools. These plans are live documents and kept under review. One secondary school plan was revised to meet the statutory requirements of a post inspection action plan following the school being placed in Significant Improvement in January 2023. This plan has been approved by Estyn.	🟩
VB	***Review the 14-19 curriculum offer for KS4 learners and update 14-16 and post-16 strategies*** New terms of reference have been developed for the Curriculum Deputies Group and they have continued to meet on a termly basis. Schools have shared their curriculum models and	🟨

	continue to share expertise when looking at future requirements in light of the new curriculum and also the review of KS4 qualifications. Focused discussion and research has taken place with post-16 schools and their learners in light of the forthcoming major changes from the introduction of the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research (CTER). The priority is ensuring continued excellent partnership working and strategic planning for Flintshire's post-16 sector. **The Flintshire Post-16 Network** was re-established following the pandemic to ensure all post-16 learners have the very best opportunities and outcomes. The network consists of headteachers from schools with sixth forms and a representative from Coleg Cambria. The network is divided into a Provider Group (all providers) and Core Group (schools with sixth forms). The Provider Group exists to provide strategic direction and local support and monitoring for Post-16 provision in Flintshire. The Post 16 Learning Adviser has met with Headteachers with sixth forms to evaluate current provision and assess future need. Work is currently underway on refreshing the Post-16 strategy. The focus remains on: • Ensuring sufficient access to high quality and relevant education for all, including ALN students • Providing an offer that meets all needs including the needs of students and wider economic and employment needs • Building on strong reputations and specialisms within school sixth form provision • Ensuring Post-16 provision is sustainable, resilient, and efficient and delivers maximum value	(yellow)
VB	***Review the pre SEREN and SEREN activity offer for learners in Flintshire*** WG did not collect the data for SEREN for 2020 due to the pandemic. In 2022, 67% of students in Flintshire schools sixth form provision gained a place at a Russell Group University. This is an increase on 2021 when 60% gained a place. Nearly all other students took up a place at other universities or on specialist courses. It may be that some students also achieved places at Russell Group Universities but didn't register for SEREN. Some students will also have accessed SEREN provision through the Deeside Sixth provision provided by Coleg Cambria.	(green)
VB	***Work effectively across the service to ensure high standards of school performance and learner outcomes through support and challenge*** As a result of changes to the assessment and accountability framework for schools, schools are not required to undertake or record final assessments at FP, KS2. There is no comparative data for school performance measures at Key Stage 4 for 2022 examinations. Estyn resumed inspections for schools from April 2022. Inspections in the school sector began again in summer term 2022, with 15 Flintshire primary schools, 2 Flintshire secondary schools and the Portfolio Pupil Referral Unit (PPRU), inspected to date. Inspection performance across the school sectors overall is generally strong. One primary school and one secondary school are in the statutory category of 'In Need of Significant Improvement' and the PPRU and one secondary school are in Estyn Review. In nearly all cases, there is a strong record of close correlation between the Council's pre-inspection reports and Estyn findings. The Council has a very good track record in effectively supporting schools to be swiftly removed from Estyn categories. Powers of intervention, including the use of Warning Notices are used effectively where schools cause concern, to ensure challenge and support is timely and effective. Interim Executive Boards have provided successful challenge and intervention to schools in serious categories of concern.	(green)

	This has helped to increase the pace of change and ensure robust accountability for standards and progress.

The primary school inspection profile for Flintshire has been continuously strong. Between April 2022 and July 2023, 15 primary schools in Flintshire were inspected. Judgements are no longer given by Estyn for the five inspection areas but 93% of those schools inspected required no follow up by Estyn and five schools were invited to prepare a case study for Estyn which is an indicator of highly effective practice. One primary school was placed in the statutory category of 'In Need of Significant Improvement' in September 2022. A comprehensive package of support provided by the LA and GwE is in place for the school. There are no primary schools in the statutory category of Special Measures or in Estyn Review.

Overall, the inspection profile for Flintshire secondary schools is satisfactory. Of the 11 secondary schools in the local authority, one is in the statutory category of 'In Need of Significant Improvement. One other secondary school is in the non-statutory category of Estyn Review. Both schools were inspected during this academic year. No secondary school is in the statutory category of Special Measures. The two schools that were previously in Estyn Review were successfully removed from follow up in 2022. All secondary schools have bespoke support plans in place to ensure continued improvement. Schools causing concern are subject to robust monitoring. There are 360° action plans in place when needed and highly focused support provided by both the Regional School Improvement Service, GwE and the Local Authority.

The inspection profile for Flintshire non maintained settings is strong. Seven settings were inspected during the 2022-23 academic year. There are currently no registered non-maintained EE providers in a follow up inspection category. A very small number of settings have been placed in Estyn Review or Focused Improvement over the last five years and the LA has demonstrated a positive track record in supporting these settings to be removed quickly. |
| **VB** | ***Support the ongoing development of schools as learning organisations through the Alliance model***

All Flintshire Secondary schools are involved in the Alliance model. |
| **VB** | ***Hold schools effectively to account for their performance through SPMG meetings where required***

As a result of national changes, there was a need to review how schools are identified as requiring monitoring by the School Performance Monitoring Group (SPMG) . This has been part of the national and regional discussions on evolving regional processes to support schools on their self-improvement journey. Engagement with schools should facilitate the early identification of schools that are in need of support, to prevent them becoming a school causing concern.

The criteria for identifying schools requiring monitoring was previously based on two main factors – those schools which were categorised as being in an Amber or Red support category by the local authority & GwE, as part of the national categorisation model, and those in an Estyn follow up category i.e. Estyn Review or the statutory categories of Significant Improvement or Special Measures. The Welsh Government suspended school categorisation for the 2020 to 2021 and 2021 to 2022 academic years, as part of its measures to reduce pressure on schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. Regional consortia and local authorities continued to work in partnership |

with schools to help provide them with the support they need to improve and to successfully implement reforms.

In the summer term of 2022, the Welsh Government published a new school improvement framework, ensuring that learner progression and well-being is at the heart of all efforts to deliver high standards and aspirations. This means that National Categorisation has finished and will be replaced by a robust self-evaluation system where good practice can be shared and failure is urgently addressed.

Since 2019, 3 primary schools and 3 secondary schools have been subject to monitoring by the SPMG. The challenges of the pandemic have resulted in understandable delays to the process as schools focused on firstly providing emergency childcare in the first period of lockdown and then subsequent periods of remote learning. At the end of the spring term 2023, there were 2 primary and 2 secondary schools under monitoring by the SPMG. The small number of schools reflects the very positive Estyn profile for schools in Flintshire.

Through the work of the SPMG, members and officers have reflected that the process continues to be effective in contributing to an improvement in primary and secondary school outcomes over time, particularly in schools where there are significant and long-term challenges.

When Estyn inspected the local authority in the summer of 2019, they recognised that the portfolio's arrangements for identifying schools causing concern work well, and in most cases lead to effective actions.

The inspection identified that *"Officers and elected members in Flintshire know their schools and settings well and can outline clearly the relative strengths and areas for improvement. They recognise specific issues facing individual schools causing concern and act in a timely way to put in place the most appropriate support in collaboration with GwE".*

R2: Reduce exclusions and increase attendance in both primary and secondary schools	
JW/ CS	***Amendments to the Exclusions Policy / Substance misuse policy to promote the use of diversionary options for young people at risk of exclusion*** Work has been underway to update the draft policy following consultation with Flintshire Sorted. However, progress has been delayed due to awaiting national guidance (Whole School Smoke Free Wales). However, in the last 12 months the Senior Management Team and Programme Board have had an opportunity to review the policy and we intend to progress to consultation with the Head Teachers Federation in the Autumn Term.
JW	***Development of diversionary activities for young people at risk of exclusion through substance misuse or anti-social behaviour*** A draft 5 day programme has been devised and has been tested in 2021 with a small cohort of young people who were at risk of exclusion. The pilot has allowed for amendments to the programme. However, the programme has not been extended further due to delays in agreeing an overarching policy and due to capacity within the Sorted Education Practitioner team.
JW	***Application through the Youth Endowment Fund for a Regional Youth Violence and Exploitation Prevention Officers and secure pathways for support for young people at risk of exploitation.***

	A regional YJS bid was submitted in 2021 to enable all 4 YJS areas to recruit Youth Violence and Exploitation Prevention Officers utilising resilience interventions developed as part of a PhD study completed within Gwynedd & Ynys Mon. Whilst we were successful in the early stages of our bid, we did not proceed to the final round and did not receive funding for the project. Other funding streams are currently being explored.	
JW	***Implement any actions resulting from Extended Learning Reviews*** The YJS continues to operate a local Community Safeguarding and Public Protection Framework in addition to the mandated framework from the Youth Justice Board. In the last 12 months we have undertaken 2 Extended Learning Reviews within the multi-agency partnership. All actions form part of an ongoing Action Plan which is monitored through the YJS Delivery Group and Executive Management Board.	
JR	***Complete the review of the Education Welfare Service (EWS) to ensure delivery model offers support and challenge to schools/parents and utilises all relevant data to inform and improve practice*** A revised model of delivery has been implemented across the EWS. The service now comprises of Education Welfare Officers (EWOs) and Education Support Officers (ESOs). EWOs are targeted at secondary schools along with safeguarding matters and more complex cases whilst ESOs work predominantly alongside the primary sector. There are designated ESOs who also work in the areas of Fixed Penalty Notices, Elective Home Education and Children Missing Education. Attendance and exclusion data is generated on a half-termly basis. The data is used by the EWS to identify schools where attendance is below the expected level and target resources to support an improvement. Despite the overall depressed levels of attendance both locally and nationally, there has been improvement in those schools where there has been targeted intervention and support. The data is shared on a wider service basis to support multi-service intervention, e.g. with regards to Traveller pupil attendance. Particular pupil cohorts have also been targeted, e.g. Year 6 /7 transition for pupils with below 85% attendance. This was piloted with a particular school and is planned to be rolled out across all secondary schools in the next academic year. Individual pupil exclusion levels are monitored to identify those where intervention is required to prevent escalation to permanent exclusion. It is difficult to see the impact of the actions given that levels of attendance remain below pre-pandemic levels and instances of exclusion continue to rise. This is widely attributed to the legacy of the Covid pandemic and services continue to review their actions to maximize impact.	
JR	***Review the pilot Partnership work with secondary schools to inform and develop this model of engagement to improve attendance*** Partnership work is continuing with identified schools. The Welsh Government initiative - Community Focused Schools (CFS) - is in its first year of implementation using the allocated grant funding and this is being used to enhance the partnership working in the designated areas of Saltney, Holywell and Queensferry. A Community Hub has been established in one of the secondary schools to facilitate greater collaboration.	
JR	***Working with schools to support development and implementation of flexible and bespoke educational packages to improve attendance and engagement***	

	Funding has been directed to schools this year instead of being retained by the Council to support the implementation of flexible educational packages for their pupils. Schools have collaborated in some instances to commission specific courses of interest for groups of pupils or used funding for individuals to increase their levels of engagement. Levels of attendance remain lower than pre-pandemic but access to the direct funding has enabled schools to make provision decisions based on the needs of their particular pupils.	
JR	***Utilise the statutory tools and approaches to support an improvement in attendance*** The use of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) was resumed in September 2022 following WG guidance. A designated officer within the Education Welfare Service oversees this process and schools are being supported to implement this approach to challenge and improve attendance as appropriate. Instances of non-payment are being followed up and has resulted in prosecution. The impact of implementing FPNs is limited to date given the short period of implementation and the complex nature of the cases taken forward at this point. It is anticipated that with the publicity around the outcomes of court cases in particular, parents will have a greater appreciation of the importance of school attendance and the levels to which schools and the Council will go to, to secure an improvement in engagement.	
JR	***Improving awareness of trauma informed practice with schools and Education and Youth workforce*** Training on Trauma Informed Practice was delivered by Dr Carol Harper through Trauma Informed Schools to 18 delegates from the Education and Youth Portfolio including Chief Officer, Senior Managers, Service Managers, Head Teachers and Senior School Leads. The YJS (Youth Justice Service) has also accessed additional training for 5 practitioners through the Trauma Recovery Model Academy on Trauma Informed Practice. The Senior Manager for Youth Justice has also presented at Education and Youth Portfolio Meetings on progress being made on our Trauma and ACE (TrACE) development plan.	
R3: Improve the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the few front line education services identified in the report in order to provide more accurate information about the impact of the local authority's work		
JW	***Improved monitoring for YJS Cohort excluded from education or not accessing education provision*** All children and young people referred to YJS are subject to a Triage Assessment by our Education Officer. Any young person not receiving their full entitlement of ETE is discussed as part of our monthly ETE Panel and plans to address exclusion and attendance are discussed between YJS and Inclusion Service. The YJS is a standing member on the EOTAS Panel which helps to escalate cases of concern or persistent non-engagement. The introduction of new Key Performance Indicators will require additional oversight of our cohort through our Management Board.	
DMT	***Identify datasets for use as Portfolio/services within evaluation processes*** School Workforce Annual Census (SWAC) data for Welsh – protocol currently being developed between the Workforce Sub-group of the Welsh Education Strategic Forum and the School Management Information Team (SMIT). Information will be used to develop the forward work programme for this group each year, linked to the 10 year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). The focus is to effectively target professional development for the Welsh language	

	with staff in schools to improve the quality of teaching of Welsh in schools and increase the numbers of staff who are competent and confident in their use of Welsh. Core attendance and exclusion data is now generated on a half-termly basis and shared across all managers in the Education Portfolio to support targeted intervention in schools.
JR	***Ensure appropriate monitoring systems and tools are in place to support evaluation and intervention in identified services*** Services have been supported to review the data available to them and the relevance of this in monitoring and evaluating service impact. The importance of this has been promoted through management meetings and there is evidence of improvement in this area through service self-evaluation documentation. The shift away from producing nationally published data has impacted on this process and required mangers to really consider their purpose and the information which will demonstrate the impact of their services. This is an evolving process with managers and teams being at different stages in their development of embedding processes and continues to be a priority.
VB	***Review of local authority quality board meetings with GwE – new model for implementation from September 2021*** Review has been completed. An additional series of meetings was added to discuss all phase items with a particular focus on 360° support plans. GwE provide administrative support for these meetings and for the secondary phase meetings. The LA continues to provide administrative support for the primary phase meetings. The revised model is now well embedded and will continue for the 2023 -2024 academic year.
R4:	**Manage the reduction in school budget deficits more effectively**
VB LT	***Ensure there is close monitoring of primary schools where budgets place them at risk of financial deficit without prior action*** This is a now regular agenda item at Portfolio Finance Meetings. Detailed analysis has been completed by the schools' Finance Team to RAG schools' risk level over the medium term. The significant number of grant streams for schools during the last 18 months has added to the complexity of budget forecasting and so, as appropriate when supporting individual schools, analysis has been completed with and without grant funding expenditure to highlight over reliance on temporary funding sources to individual schools. The Senior Primary Learning Adviser has been working closely with those schools identified at increased risk to support them e.g. in the review of planning for class sizes and curriculum provision. Headteachers have been supported where required, including with specialist HR advice, to make appropriate and timely decisions to avoid financial deficit. The financial landscape continues to deteriorate generally for the Council, and this resulted in a 3% reduction to schools' delegated budgets for the 23-24 financial year. The impact of this is that more schools will face significant challenges in setting a balanced budget in the year ahead and school balances, which have previously provided a level of protection, are significantly reducing. At the closedown of accounts 8 schools finished the 22-23 year in a deficit position. 2 Secondary and 6 Primary (3 of the 6 were small negative balances (that is under £5,000 or 1% of budget) and therefore are not classed as requiring a licensed deficit. The remaining 3 were above that threshold, however licensed deficit applications were not received as required under the Protocol for Schools in Financial Difficulty. The council has written to all 6 of the governing bodies concerned to remind them of the requirements of the Protocol.) This compares with

	prior year information as follows –15 schools were in deficit at the end of the 19-20 financial year (9 primary, 6 secondary), 5 schools were in deficit in 20-21 (4 secondary, 1 primary) and 2 schools in 21-22 (both secondary).	
VB	***Continue to robustly scrutinise any recruitment requests for schools in deficit*** The Portfolio's policy with schools for managing budget deficits is robustly managed Any requests are discussed with Finance, HR and Inclusion colleagues as relevant and taken to DMT/ Portfolio Finance meetings for review and for final decision. The significant number of time-limited grant streams for schools this year has made this more complex for schools and when considering requests, particularly given that grant funding comes with terms and conditions. In the main, requests come from 2 secondary schools who are in a licensed deficit position.	

Self-Evaluation of Education Services 22-23

INSPECTION AREA 1: OUTCOMES

1:1 Standards and progress overall

Estyn suspended inspections of all education providers maintained by local authorities in March 2020 due to COVID-19 and no further inspections were carried out in 2019- 2020 or 2020-2021. Inspections in the non- maintained settings began again in spring term 2022 as well as pilot inspections for schools. Inspections in the school sector resumed in summer term 2022, with 15 Flintshire primary schools, 2 Flintshire secondary schools and the Portfolio Pupil Referral Unit (PPRU), inspected to date.

Inspection performance across the school sectors overall is generally strong. One primary school and one secondary school are in the statutory category of 'In Need of Significant Improvement' and the PPRU and one secondary school are in Estyn Review. In nearly all cases, there is a strong record of close correlation between the Council's pre-inspection reports and Estyn findings. The Council has a very good track record in effectively supporting schools being removed from Estyn categories. Powers of intervention, including the use of Warning Notices are used effectively where schools cause concern, to ensure challenge and support is timely and effective. Interim Executive Boards have provided successful challenge and intervention to schools in serious categories of concern. This has helped to increase the pace of change and ensure robust accountability for standards and progress.

The primary school inspection profile for Flintshire has been continuously strong. Between April 2022 and July 2023, 15 primary schools in Flintshire were inspected. Judgements are no longer given by Estyn for the five inspection areas but 14 of those schools inspected required no follow up by Estyn and five schools were invited to prepare a case study for Estyn which is an indicator of highly effective practice. One primary school was placed in the statutory category of 'In Need of Significant Improvement' in September 2022. A comprehensive package of support provided by the LA and GwE is in place for the school. There are no primary schools in the statutory category of Special Measures or in Estyn Review.

Overall, the inspection profile for Flintshire secondary schools is satisfactory. Of the 11 secondary schools in the local authority, one is in the statutory category of 'In Need of Significant Improvement. One other secondary school is in the non-statutory category of Estyn Review. Both schools were inspected during the 2022 -2023 academic year. No secondary school is in the statutory category of Special Measures. The two schools that were previously in Estyn Review were successfully removed from follow up in 2022. All secondary schools have bespoke support plans in place to ensure continued improvement. Schools causing concern are subject to robust monitoring. There are 360° action plans in place when needed and highly focused support provided by both the Regional School Improvement Service, GwE and the Local Authority.

1.2 Standards and Progress of Specific Groups

Early Education Funded Provision for 3-year-olds (Early Entitlement)

Over the last three years Flintshire has averaged 488 three-year-olds per month accessing early education, known locally as Early Entitlement (EE) through a mixed provision of mostly playgroups, private day nurseries and schools. It is worth noting, however, that the financial year 2020/21 is reducing the average significantly as there were low numbers of pupils accessing early education due to the Covid-19

pandemic. Using the last two years only, the average calculates as 540 pupils.

Pupil level data on standards achieved by three-year-olds is not collected by the Local Authority. The quality of provision in the non-maintained sector is monitored regularly by the Early Entitlement Advisory Team (EET) and is quality assured by Estyn and Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

The inspection profile for Flintshire non-maintained settings is strong. Seven settings were inspected during the 2022-23 academic year. There are currently no non-maintained EE providers in a follow up inspection category. A very small number of settings have been placed in Estyn Review or Focused Improvement over the last five years and the Local Authority has demonstrated a positive track record in supporting these settings to be removed quickly.

Post-16 Learners

No performance measures, including the consistent measures for achievement and value added, are available nationally for post-16 learners. In 2022, based on destination data available to the network, 67% of students participating in the national SEREN programme for academically able students gained a place at a Russell Group University. This was an increase on 60% in the previous year. Nearly all other students took up a place at other universities or on specialist courses. It may be that some students also achieved places at Russell Group Universities but didn't register for SEREN. Some students will also have accessed SEREN provision through the Deeside Sixth provision provided by Coleg Cambria.

1.3 Wellbeing and attitudes to learning

Judgements are no longer given by Estyn for inspection areas. Between April 2022 and July 2023, fifteen primary schools, in Flintshire were inspected. None had an area relating to 'wellbeing and attitude to learning' identified as a recommendation for improvement. In addition, two schools were invited to prepare case studies for dissemination on Estyn's website which indicates highly effective practice worthy of being shared across Wales. One case study focused on how the school addresses the needs of the school community by engaging families through provision of enriching activities that support parents to develop their children's learning and wellbeing and the other was on the school's health and wellbeing provision that has a highly positive effect, especially on the most vulnerable pupils.

In the Portfolio Pupil Referral Unit and the two secondary schools inspected during this academic year, Estyn identified many strengths in the area of 'wellbeing and attitudes to learning'. However, all three schools had improving attendance as one of their recommendations. This is a reflection on the challenges still being experienced by learners in the secondary sector engaging with education following the Covid-19 pandemic and this is not an issue exclusive to Flintshire – it is a national issue.

Attendance

The ongoing impact of the pandemic makes it difficult to draw conclusions on pupil attendance and the impact of the training which has been offered to schools to support emotional health and wellbeing. (See Inspection Area 2). Whilst there is a slight increase in the attendance across the primary sector, this remains below pre-pandemic levels. Attendance at secondary level reduced to below 90% during the pandemic and this situation remained unchanged for 2012/22 (the last set of verified data) with overall attendance sitting at 87.8%. Illness remains the primary cause of absence across both sectors. Holiday absences increased significantly in the primary sector for 2021/22 as travel restrictions eased. This reflects the significant impact of the COVID-19 lockdown with many families keen to resume holiday bookings after the lockdown ceased.

Table 1: Flintshire Schools' Attendance

	Attendance (%)				Unauthorised Absence (%)			
	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
FCC Primary Schools	92.4	91.2	93.2	94.6	0.95	0.89	0.85	0.5
FCC Secondary Schools	87.8	88.5	91.6	93.3	3.19	2.56	1.87	1.7

The levels of unauthorised absence are rising, and this is reflective of the increasing level of challenge offered by headteachers to parents around pupil absence; unauthorised absence is coded where a reason has either not been provided or one that is not accepted by the headteacher. The Council has re-instated the use of other tools such as Fixed Penalty Notices to improve attendance and this is referenced in section 2 of the report.

Table 2: Spread of attendance figures

Attendance %	Primary				Secondary			
	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
<90	10	6	4	1	9	7	0	0
90.0-90.9	6	6	0	0	0	1	0	0
91.0-91.9	7	5	4	1	2	1	1	2
92.0-92.9	10	9	5	4	0	1	3	3
93.0-93.9	12	10	12	9	0	1	3	2
94.0-94.9	16	15	19	21	0	0	3	4
95.0-95.9	3	6	15	20	0	0	1	0
96.0-96.9	0	7	4	7	0	0	0	0
97.0-97.9	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
98.0-98.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
99.0-100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Exclusions – Permanent and Fixed Term

A reduction in the level of permanent exclusion remains a priority for the Council as it is a recommendation from the LGES Inspection of 2019. However, this remains an ongoing challenge and has been exacerbated by the impact of the pandemic on learners. Officers have continued to work with schools to try and support a reduction of exclusions using initiatives such as 'Earn Your Way Back into School' and other alternative curriculum offers, but the data shows an increasing level in both fixed-term and permanent exclusion.

Table 3: Number of Permanent Exclusions from Flintshire Schools

No of permanent Exclusions				
	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Primary	0	0	1	3
Secondary	27	10	19	24

The primary reasons for exclusion recorded during the period 21/22 (the last set of verified data) were physical assault against a pupil, verbal/threatening behaviour against an adult, persistent and disruptive behaviour and 'other'. One noticeable increase recorded was in relation to substance related issues, associated mainly with cannabis usage. A partnership approach with Sorted, the Council's Drug and

Alcohol service has been developed to provide support to learners and schools in these circumstances and North Wales Police are consulted or engaged as appropriate. There is an increasing trend of substance misuse across the county, and this is a strategic priority of North Wales Police.

The promotion of Trauma Informed Practice remains a priority for the Education & Youth Portfolio as a strategy to reduce the levels of exclusions. It is designed to improve the understanding of education practitioners of the impact of trauma on learner behaviour and to assist them in using alternative strategies to de-escalate situations and effectively engage pupils to help them to maintain their place in school. This strategy is in the initial stages of implementation and so it is too soon to formally evaluate its impact at this point.

Table 4: Fixed-Term Exclusions

Fixed Term Exclusions				
	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
	Number of incidents (Number of Pupils)	Number of incidents (Number of Pupils)	Number of incidents (Number of Pupils)	Number of incidents (Number of Pupils)
Primary 5 Days or Less	158 (18)	99 (55)	144 (70)	251 (102)
Primary Over 5 days	7 (7)	13 (12)	1 (1)	12 (10)
Secondary 5 Days or Less	1446 (716)	902 (490)	879 (405)	1188 (533)
Secondary Over 5 days	66 (53)	22 (20)	19 (18)	22 (19)
Rate of exclusion per 1000 pupils (Primary & Secondary Combined)	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
5 days or Less	73.4	54.5	43.4	61.2
Over 5 days	6	3.2	0.8	1.4

The number of managed moves across Flintshire, a strategy to give learners a fresh start in a different school, has traditionally been low with fifteen identified in the last reporting period. However, the number has increased to thirty-six this year, with the majority being in the secondary sector. The success rate of a managed move remains low at 38% and this has been an area identified for review with secondary Headteachers.

Outcome 1: Standards and Progress Summary

Areas for ongoing improvement & sustainability
- Maintain support for all schools and early years settings with the implementation of the revised curriculum   - Improve attendance rates and reduce the number of fixed and permanent exclusions through targeted interventions, bespoke educational packages and training on areas such as Trauma Informed Practice   - Maintain positive inspection outcomes across all sectors - early years, primary, secondary and specialist provision   - Support the small number of schools in follow up or statutory category to make rapid and sustained progress against their recommendations

INSPECTION AREA 2: QUALITY OF EDUCATION SERVICES

2.1 Support for School Improvement

School Improvement Processes
The Council knows its schools very well. There are clear strategies, policies and processes that are understood by those involved and give a clear shape and direction to the Education Service.

The relationship and collaboration between Flintshire and the Regional School Improvement Service (GwE) is very good and similarly, relationships between GwE and schools in Flintshire are positive. Through this relationship, the Council has quality information about its schools and provides them with robust and appropriate challenge but also support and intervention. As a result, schools benefit from a diverse regional professional learning offer and bespoke support at individual school and cluster level. This can be evidenced by the improvement dialogue with schools and the strong inspection profile.

Improving performance in Key Stage 4 continues to be a priority following the last inspection. As a result, each secondary school has an agreed programme of support that helps deliver the identified priorities within a school's improvement plan. The school support plan clearly defines how school improvement resources ensure targeted improvements in key priority areas. Where required, schools are also supported by a 360° support plan which identifies enhanced support needs through LA services and GwE. These plans are monitored through the Council's Quality Board.

The Council, in partnership with GwE, has effective procedures to support schools in their self-evaluation and improvement planning. Schools are robustly challenged on the quality of their self-evaluation processes. The impact of this can be seen in the positive profile of Estyn inspections.

Schools have made effective use of the milestones provided by GwE for the reform of the Curriculum for Wales and Additional Learning Needs. This allows schools to reflect on their current position with regards to the reform journey and provides clear next steps for their consideration. Cluster work is enhanced through collaborative work and the sharing of priorities and dialogue helps capture the level of support required by schools and collaborations of schools.

Senior leaders within the service use a range of data and intelligence effectively to ensure areas of improvement are identified quickly and addressed robustly through detailed business planning. Data and information are scrutinised robustly to monitor progress against agreed actions. As a result, the Council is effective in challenging schools where needed and allocating specific support for those schools.

There is a comprehensive and well embedded professional learning offer for all schools in Flintshire and this is enhanced by what is being offered at local level by schools and between schools. There are high levels of engagement by Flintshire schools in professional learning. The offer supports school leadership at all levels across the county and has been strengthened by a range of strategies including access to regional and national development programmes. The local authority has supported the development of leadership in Flintshire schools at various levels. Subscription to the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) and Aspiring Heads course is strong while existing and recently appointed headteachers are very well supported through the New and Acting headteacher programme. The impact of this has been demonstrated in the good recruitment levels at senior leadership level across Flintshire schools, even within the overall context of national challenges to recruitment and retention.

There has been a clear focus on improving teaching in Flintshire schools. The impact of this focus can be evidenced in the evaluation of practice at school and regional level and through the continued improvement in Inspection Area 3 of the Flintshire Estyn profile (Teaching). All schools have been involved in the ongoing professional development and support programme for the implementation of the new curriculum.

Primary and Secondary networks and peer-to-peer work has strengthened collaboration and led to a stronger shared understanding of effective practice. The Secondary Alliance model is embedded and has led to improved levels of collaboration between schools in sharing practice at senior and middle leadership level and in standards of teaching and learning. The Middle Leadership professional development programmes have been successful in improving the quality of leaders in core subjects, literacy and numeracy and in the foundation learning phase through development of skills and knowledge. Bespoke approaches have been tailored to meet the requirements of individual schools; coaching programmes for groups and individuals have been delivered in several schools and had a clear impact on the work of leaders. Shortages in key personnel have also been supported through the deployment of expertise from neighbouring schools.

Collaborative practice amongst leaders is reinforced through strategic forums, at both headteacher and deputy level. The Council supports strong and effective communication and a mutual sense of common responsibility for the development of responses and actions to local and national challenges. Good practice is shared and local expertise nurtured.

Schools in Flintshire are engaging well with the National Reform Journey and in developing themselves as Learning Organisations. The regional reform strategy gives clear direction on how GwE works with schools to ensure a clear and systematic approach to providing support and also provides opportunities to assist schools to reflect on their engagement with all aspects of the reform journey. As a result, primary schools in Flintshire were all able to implement the new curriculum in September 2022 and all secondary schools in September 2023.

Post-16 Education

There are six high schools in Flintshire with sixth forms and a Council partnership with one Further Education (FE) college with a dedicated A level centre. Two high schools merged their sixth forms to create Flint 6th. In 2022, there were 523 learners in Year 13 and 544 in year 12 across all school sixth form provision. 62 post-16 learners were learning through the medium of Welsh at Ysgol Maes Garmon. All school sixth forms offer the Welsh Baccalaureate, however, the number completing the full qualification differs between schools and years.

The Council continues to work closely with its six post-16 providers and in partnership with Coleg Cambria to shape post-16 provision for students and to ensure clear pathways to professional and technical routes to employment, alongside robust academic routes. The appointment of a Post-16 Learning Adviser has added additional capacity to the portfolio's work. Regular meetings of the post-16 network of schools are held to agree and review curriculum planning and local delivery. Annual plans are submitted to Welsh Government for scrutiny. The portfolio engages with the Economic Recovery Board who are keen to work with schools, particularly around developing apprenticeships.

Welsh Language Advisory Service

The portfolio's Welsh Advisory Service works in English and Welsh medium primary schools. Under

the Welsh Government's new language categorisation policy, all 59 English medium schools are defined as Category 1 schools and all 5 Welsh schools are defined as Category 3 Welsh-medium primary schools.

The Team's main objective is to contribute to Flintshire's Welsh in Education Strategy by ensuring progress in Welsh in Category 1 and Category 3 primary schools. They work in partnership with schools to improve the quality of teaching and develop the language and methodology skills of the education workforce. School Workforce Annual (SWAC) data for 2022 shows that 15% of the primary workforce (teachers and teaching assistants) have no Welsh language skills. This is a 0.5% increase from 2021.

Through a range of strategies, a targeted approach is used that includes the direct training of teachers and teaching assistants through intensive language and methodology courses and by working collaboratively with other key partners e.g. GwE, Canolfan Bedwyr (providers of the Sabbatical courses), Urdd and Menter Iaith.

The informal use of Welsh in all schools is a strategic priority. It is delivered by an appointed coordinator for Siarter Iaith (Welsh Language Charter) in Welsh medium primary and a designated person leading and co-ordinating Cymraeg Campus in English medium primary schools. All five Welsh medium primary schools in Flintshire have achieved their Gold Siarter Iaith award. The challenge is to sustain this level as part of the Covid-19 recovery. All English medium primary schools in Flintshire have embarked on their journey with Cymraeg Campus. During the last academic year, eight schools were successfully verified for the Bronze award and two for the Silver award. Thirty-one schools have now achieved the Bronze award, six schools achieved the Silver Award, one of which has now gone on to achieve the Gold Award.

In the summer term of 2023, the Welsh service organised a jamboree for foundation learners - the first for three years due to the pandemic. 74% of primary schools, including the primary special school, attended the singing festival over three days with 1,450 pupils attending.

Flintshire schools are encouraged to provide opportunities for staff to further their language training through the Welsh Government funded sabbatical courses. Numbers attending from Flintshire have been consistently high on courses across the North Wales region. Between 2020 and 2023, 20 teachers have accessed the sabbatical programme: Cymraeg Mewn Blwyddyn (Welsh in a year) – 9 teachers; Sylfaen (Foundation) – 5 teachers; Canolradd / Uwch (Intermediate/ Advanced) – 6 teachers. They continue to receive post-course support from the Welsh Advisory Service to embed their practice within their school. For September 2023, a further 7 Flintshire teachers have been allocated places on the Cymraeg Mewn Blwyddyn course; this equates to 50% of the spaces available across the North Wales region. Over the last two years the trend of teachers accessing this training has nearly doubled. The Welsh Advisory Service works closely with the course providers, delivering methodology sessions during the courses and provides focused support to staff on their return to school, with a particular aim of supporting embedding of practice across the whole school e.g. delivering training sessions to teaching assistants within their schools, becoming Flintshire verifiers for Cymraeg Campus and in some instances, becoming the cluster lead for Welsh.

One member of the Welsh Advisory Team works with Welsh medium primary schools for any newcomers who arrive in the 8-11 age group. An accelerated programme of language intervention has been developed in conjunction with the Welsh medium schools. A representative from each school has been trained to deliver the programme effectively. In 2022-2023, 15 newcomers

completed this programme. A member of the team also works closely with the Welsh secondary school supporting the 'Trochi' (Immersion) programme for Year 6 learners who transfer from English medium primary school into Welsh medium secondary, including delivering language and methodology sessions during the 4-week period in the summer term before transfer to secondary school. 18 pupils from 12 different primary schools joined the 'Trochi' programme in September 2022. The service has made effective use of the second year of the additional funding stream for Latecomers to Welsh medium education. This included a range of projects for Foundation Learning, 8–11-year-olds and Key Stage 3. Plans are well underway to provide learning facilities for the Trochi programme to operate out of the new build for Ysgol Croes Atti in Flint from 2024.

Members of the team continually evaluate their work to ensure schools receive a high-quality service, refining methods accordingly and using evidence-based practices to inform improvements, e.g., by identifying language support required as a result of the Welsh language skills section of the School Workforce Annual Census (SWAC), creating working parties of teachers refining curriculum planning for schools, identifying schools to share good practice. The team produces a monthly bulletin that provides information on professional development opportunities, celebrates success and expectations for Welsh as well as including relevant external stakeholder input. Through the highly effective cluster work for Welsh, the service can facilitate and support schools in striving to build capacity within their own settings. 1 Welsh medium and 2 English medium schools were invited by the regional school improvement service, GwE, to showcase their effective practice to teachers from across North Wales. The focus was on how Welsh language is developed within the Curriculum for Wales. These schools offered an insight into their vision for developing the Welsh language and exemplified their provision. Flintshire schools engage positively with the support offered and provide regular feedback, which informs the ongoing work of the Service.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and Forum

The 10-year Flintshire Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-2032 was approved by Welsh Government following a period of public consultation and endorsement by the Council's Cabinet and Scrutiny process. Subsequently, a 5-year action plan was also approved by Welsh Government. The implementation of the WESP is driven and monitored by the Flintshire Welsh Strategic Forum made up of officers, elected members, school representatives and other organisations linked to the development of the Welsh language and Welsh medium education. A representative from Welsh Government regularly attends meetings of the Forum. The Forum is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Welsh Language.

The Forum works very effectively as a multi-agency platform for delivering and monitoring the WESP. All members bring high levels of knowledge and expertise to the Forum which are freely shared to achieve the common vision of promoting Welsh-medium education and the Welsh language through all formal and non-formal education settings such as schools and youth settings. Most members of the Forum sit on one or more of the three sub-committees – Provision, Standards and Workforce. These meet regularly during the year to work on their specific actions within the 5-year plan and provide feedback on their progress in the following termly Forum meeting.

The Forum is robust in holding the Council to account in its delivery of the Plan and achieving the targets contained within it. The Forum's terms of reference and membership are regularly reviewed. Reports on the progress of the WESP are routinely presented to the Education, Youth and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Flintshire remains committed to build additional capacity in the Welsh Medium school network to support the WESP. Significant capital investment has been made

through the Council's capital programme and through the Sustainable Learning Communities funding to improve facilities and increase the number of Welsh medium places available.

Advanced planning is underway to review further opportunities for growth in Welsh medium schools including a new build for an existing Welsh medium school in Flint and a new start up Welsh medium school in the Buckley/Mynydd Isa area. This would deliver on the Council's key objective of having Welsh medium early years and primary school provision in every major town across the county.

School Governance Support

The governor support role within the Education Portfolio (0.2fte) sits with the role of Senior Manager for Business Support. The part time provision and support provided to governing bodies is enhanced by access to the dedicated web subscription resource and helpline provided by Governors Cymru. Exemplars of good practice/case studies from governing bodies in Flintshire can be referenced on the website.

The key functions of the service relate to supporting governing bodies, as necessary, in the following areas - Schools Causing Concern procedures; School Federations; Accelerated Improvement Boards; Interim Executive Boards; training and development, either through commissioning or direct delivery; administration of the Flintshire Governors Association; appointment of Local Authority governors to governing bodies, and securing governor nominations to the Schools Budget Forum and Education, Youth & Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Council continues to remain compliant with the statutory duty to offer the regulatory school governor training programme. The Welsh Government statutory governor training modules are available online with a commissioned external provider. This online training portal registered 192 new log-ons during the year suggesting a good level of engagement with statutory training is being maintained. Governing Bodies can monitor virtual attendance of their governors through the portal and are responsible for monitoring the impact of training on the discharge of their duties.

There continues to be commissioning of virtual training from external partners on the role of governors in safeguarding and in data protection.

The network of North Wales Governor Support Officers continues to meet virtually each term with the GWE lead for Governor Support. The network continues to share approaches and resources to support governor development. GwE offers support to individual governing bodies, when requested, through their professional learning offer. Similarly, there continues to be representation at the ADEW National network of Governor Support Officers who meet termly with representatives of Welsh Government. The Governor Development Manager (Senior Manager for Business Support) is currently the Chair of the ADEW GSO (Association Directors Education Wales, Governor Support Officers) national network, and contributor to a Welsh Government working group on the refresh of a self-evaluation resource for governing bodies.

Meetings of the Schools Budget Forum, Education and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Welsh in Education Strategic Form are held virtually and there remains consistent representation by governors.

Although there are approximately 1250 governor positions within the Authority, the Council only has responsibility for administering the nomination of Local Authority governors (circa 200) to school governing bodies. There have been no concerns raised by schools arising from governor vacancies.

2.2   Support for Vulnerable Learners

The challenges of recent years have resulted in schools developing a range of alternative offers to re-engage learners who are struggling to attend. These include:

- On-site targeted KS3 small group provision offering a range of intervention to catch up and facilitate a supported phased return to mainstream provision.
- On-site small group provision for KS4 providing an alternative curriculum offer to maintain interest and engagement.
- On-site Community Hub created to facilitate multi-agency working.
- Offsite community-based centres providing access to core subjects and more vocationally targeted opportunities and accreditation for those who are unable to access their education on the main school site.

In some cases, there have been collaborative approaches between a school and other council services, such as Youth Services, to enhance the provision on offer. These options have also been utilised to support individuals either at risk of, or those who have been excluded. This provision is being further enhanced this year by the Community Focused Schools Service which has recently been established following access to WG targeted grant funding.

Flintshire provides a suitable range of services to promote social inclusion and support for learners with ALN through a combination of internal and externally commissioned services and provision. The Council meets its statutory duties well as demonstrated by the low levels of appeal to the Education Tribunal and the low levels of young people becoming NEET.

Flintshire has operated a model of delegated funding for pupils with special educational needs/additional learning needs for several years now. The model for delegation to Primary Schools was revised ahead of the last financial year in response to the changes brought into place by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (ALNET). This resulted in greater autonomy for schools to develop a range of universal and targeted interventions to suit the needs of their school communities. In the main, schools have welcomed the revised funding model and the ability to be more flexible in response to need. However, the increasing levels of presenting need against a backdrop of reduced budgets is resulting in additional financial pressures in some schools; responding to children with complex needs who move school in year remains a challenge, particularly within the primary sector. The models for both Primary and Secondary schools remain under review during the implementation of ALNET to ensure that funding is allocated appropriately.

Plas Derwen Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) transitioned into its new purpose-built facility in September 2021. A new headteacher took up post in September 2022 following the retirement of the previous post holder. The provision was inspected in October 2022 and placed into Estyn Review and the Council has worked closely with GwE and the headteacher to secure improvement against the recommendations ahead of the revisit in the Autumn Term 2023. Council expenditure remains higher for those pupils presenting with a range of behavioural, social and emotional needs as this continues to be the most significant area of presenting need.

Trauma-informed practice remains a priority for the Education & Youth Portfolio. Senior and middle managers within the portfolio have been supported to access the 2-day training with a further event being held alongside secondary Headteachers/senior leaders. A working group has been established with secondary schools who have identified this as a priority area and is supported by the Senior Manager Inclusion & Progression, Principal Education Psychologist and the Learning Adviser for Children who are Looked After (CLA). Further training targeted at CLA leads in schools has been organised for 2023/24.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

Additional capacity was allocated to the ALN team in response to the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (ALNET). The team now comprises of a six Learning Advisers, including the Early Years ALN Lead Officer (EYALNLO) and dedicated ALN officers for Post 16 and for children who are looked after (CLA). The team is further supported by 2 seconded school Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinators (ALNCos), one on a full-time basis and the other on a part-time basis. The Senior Learning Adviser for ALN manages the team and leads on the implementation of ALNET.

The Learning Advisors meet the statutory obligations in respect of children and young people with special educational and additional learning needs (SEN/ALN). Each of the core officers has a cluster group of schools and follows the pupils from entry into primary school and transition to secondary school. The change in the Council's duties in relation to Post-16 learners under ALNET led to the development of a designated officer to lead on the development of policy and process. The post holder is also the designated officer for all Post-16 individuals with ALN. The department works within clear protocols and decision-making processes to assess and make decisions regarding placement and provision for learners with ALN to ensure an equitable approach.

The Team continues to build on its achievements in relation to the first year of ALNET Implementation. The EYALNLO has provided training on ALNET, Autism and person-centred tools to a range of stakeholders including non-maintained settings, Family Support Team and Pre-school Development Team within the Health Service. 'ALNET repeat/refresher' training has also been offered to all non-maintained pre-school settings. The Early Years' Provision Map has been published, as has the Conwy & Flintshire ALN Toolkit which includes a comprehensive early years' section. This has served to develop reinforce the understanding and interpretation of the Act and particular prevalent areas of ALN.

The EYALNLO is embedded across several forums including the Flintshire Successful Pre-school Pathways project, Northeast Wales Speech & Language group, Flintshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, EYALNLO regional and national meetings. This level of engagement continues to strengthen a shared understanding of process and ensure a collaborative approach. Enhanced transition from pre-school settings into school for each child known to the Council through the Pre-school Moderation Panel and Pre-school Funding Delegation Panel has been arranged and focused upon this academic year in response to the challenges experienced due to limited transition in previous years due to Covid.

Under ALNET, health professionals have a duty to notify the LA of children who are likely to have ALN. The average number of requests/Health notifications over previous 3 years (2018 – 2021) was 57 children. Last academic year (2021 – 2022) there were 102 which indicates a significant increase in identified need. The most significant area of presenting need is identified as speech, language and communication difficulties (SLCD) and is attributed the impact of the pandemic. In response to the increases in neurodevelopmental presentation, a Learning Adviser with responsibility for Autism was appointed, with the post holder taking up the position in February 2023 to provide advice, support and guidance to schools and families.

As identified above, a designated Learning Adviser for Post-16 has been appointed within the team. A Post-16 Steering Group, comprising of membership from Education and Social Services has met on a monthly basis and has formulated and agreed the processes by which the Council will discharge its duties under ALNET. Regular meetings have also been held with secondary ALNCos and representatives from Coleg Cambria to ensure that process are shared and understood and that transition arrangements are in place. This has resulted in better links between schools and the local college and improved communication as an outcome, leading to increased sharing of information prior

to transition and invitations to review meetings. The college have developed and shared a clear provision map which will inform decision making going forward and the Conwy & Flintshire Post-16 ALN toolkit is in development which will provide further support to practitioners. It is anticipated that this activity will support learners with ALN to transition more successfully into further education provision and reduce the instances of individuals becoming NEET.

The Council commenced the conversion process for Statements of Special Educational Needs to Individual Development Plans (IDPs) as per the Welsh Government timetable in September 2022. In April 2022, there were 904 children with a Statement, of which, a total of 223 statements were identified for conversion as pupils within the mandated year groups (Nursery, Reception, Years 6, 10 & 11) for the academic year 2022/23. A further 4 children in non-mandated year groups were identified for conversion following parental request. The Council committed to the approach of having a Learning Adviser in all conversion meetings to model, coach and reinforce person-centred practice. It also served to support consistency across the school network and provide support to both schools and families. This was a significant challenge in terms of capacity for the team, including pupils in both Flintshire and out of county schools. A total of 141 statement conversions were completed by April 2023 and of these, a total of only 14% were deemed to be late with permissible exceptions. It is hoped that this significant investment will support schools to be more informed and confident in implementing the process across the remaining 2 years of implementation when a further 677 Statements will require conversion.

Within the reporting period, the Council received a total of 76 referrals for Local Authority Consideration for ALN and a total of 39 requests for Reconsideration. For a Consideration, the Council has 12 weeks to determine whether a child has ALN and make decision about the additional learning provision (ALP) that the child may need. Of the 47 that have been completed so far, 94% have been completed within the timescale. The Council has a period of 7 weeks to complete the process for a Reconsideration. These are cases where the learner has an IDP and either the school or parent requests the Council to take over the responsibility for the plan and /or reconsider the ALN and ALP to be made for the individual. Of the 25 completed to date, a total of 44% have been completed within the designated timescale. Having reviewed this, it is proving extremely challenging to complete the process within the 7 weeks. Given that the Council delegates funding directly to schools to meet the needs of children with ALN including providing teaching assistant support, these children are typically very complex in nature, often requiring specialist provision. The lack of capacity within the Council's own specialist provision, which is mirrored in the independent sector, is impacting significantly on this as officers are increasingly struggling to source appropriate provision. These challenges with meeting the dictated timescales are being reported to Welsh Government and appear to be a nationwide issue.

Person-centred practice remains a high priority across the Inclusion & Progression Service with several officers delivering training to schools. ALN Learning Advisers are observing an increase in person-centred approaches by schools with communication and interaction being of a high quality; feedback from both parents and schools is that they feel more involved in the process. Flintshire has an excellent record of working professionally with parents and avoiding and resolving disagreements. Parental questionnaires that have been returned show a high level of satisfaction and the team operates a disagreement tracker to monitor cases where additional resolution is required. One appeal was lodged during the reporting period which was subsequently withdrawn by the parent during the appeal process.

The quality of one-page profiles and school IDPs remains variable with a need for more focus on developing person-centred outcomes.

Education Psychology Service (EPS)

Staffing levels within the EPS remain a concern, with the Education Psychologist (EP):pupil ratio in Flintshire remaining the most challenging in Wales according to the NAPEP-C survey in 2022. Attempts to recruit have been unsuccessful in the main, with the only option being to appoint trainee staff ahead of their completion of the EP training course. Assuming they all qualify, 3 staff have been appointed to start in September 2024. To support with the current staffing gaps, Assistant Education Psychologists (AEPs) have been recruited in the absence of fully qualified staff. This is reflective of the national picture and the lack of available qualified staff is a matter that is being raised with Welsh Government on a regular basis. The service continues to support the training course by hosting trainees in either years 1, 2 or 3. This is additional workload for the service, but it is felt to be important to the continuation of the profession and also to promote the reputation of the Flintshire team amongst new entrants to the profession and support future recruitment.

The Group Consultation model is implemented in the Primary sector and facilitates a half-termly link with every primary school in Flintshire. This forum serves to allocate the time for individual and direct work, and also serves as an adult solution circle that allows for the merging of 'expert' EP and teacher advice to generate workable and creative person-centered plans for identified children. A total of 62 meetings were held over the year, with 272 pupil consultations taking place during the group sessions. The sessions also provided the opportunity for discussion and development around a number of areas including sensory needs and processing, literacy & numeracy difficulties, social stories, Autism/social communication, accessible classrooms, emotionally based school avoidance, bereavement, divorce, self-harm and eating disorders. These are reflective of that challenges that children and schools are facing at the current time. A total of 156 consultation sessions were undertaken across the secondary and specialist sectors.

The statutory duties for EPs under ALNET have altered as compared to the previous SEN legislation. There is no longer an explicit timescale for the completion of EP work however, the timescale for the Council to complete the process of which the EP is a part, are tighter than ever and this remains a challenge to comply with as noted in the report section on ALN. The change in process can also mean that the child is potentially unknown to the service and involvement unanticipated, particularly in relation to those pupils attending a school in England. The team has worked hard to re-prioritise work at short notice to work to the ALN deadlines.

Feedback from schools suggests that EP involvement is generally valued, but that an increase in the time for individual direct work is required. This work is time consuming and is difficult to provide with the current staffing levels but has been seen to be impactful and positively rewarding for all including the EP.

Building capacity is an integral part of the service's remit. Training is generally well-received with over 90% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that the training was beneficial and informative. It is recognised that training is best received when it comes from a need identified by a school or cluster of schools, is delivered in a workshop style that allows for discussion and problem solving and followed up with check in and workshops. This model is being implemented where possible to maximise the impact of service time allocated. Examples of training offered this year are Emotion Coaching, Circle Solutions, Moving Up (support for transition) and Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) and Literacy Awareness for school.

Young Person's Counselling Service

The Young Person's Counselling Service is an integral part of the Council's support mechanism to prevent young people from becoming vulnerable. All secondary schools, including the specialist school Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Plas Derwen (PRU) are allocated designated counsellor time. Referrals are

also taken for pupils in years 5 and 6 in primary schools and there has been increase in focus and delivery in the primary sector with group work being offered on targeted areas of need. The service has looked to broaden its offer including the use of a range of therapeutic interventions including dog therapy, creative therapies and play therapy in response to individual need. Support for exam stress has been provided and support for refugee children has also been a priority this year.

The table below outlines the level of engagement of the service over the year. This clearly demonstrates a significant increase in need with the team supporting almost double the number of clients and utilising the group work model where appropriate to support an increased level engagement. Similar to previous years, anxiety and family issues remain the main reasons for engagement with the service, with anger matters being seen as more prevalent for the first time. The support from the Council's services in response to this will be considered via the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Forum to identify what further training/intervention could be offered.

Table 5: Number of clients and presenting issues

	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Number of Clients	547	308	226
Number of sessions attended	3651	1351	933
Presenting issues on referral (3 most common in rank order high to low)	Anxiety Family Anger	Anxiety Family Bereavement	Family Anxiety Behaviour related

All young people engaging with the Counselling service undertake an initial assessment (YP-Core) and this is repeated at the end of the intervention to measure impact. The information below shows that on average, the young people acknowledge a positive outcome following engagement with the sessions. It is notable that the initial scores are increasing indicating a higher level of individual need on engagement which is likely to be reflective of the pandemic legacy.

Table 6: Impact of the Young Person's Counselling Service

	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Changes in the average result of the Young People's Core Score - Start of Episode	20.84	18.57	17.28
Changes in the average result of the Young People's Core Score - End of Episode	11.81	9.57	8.86

The service has also offered wellbeing coaching to adults this year linked to the Welsh Government InReach support programme. This has been delivered alongside coaching and support for Headteachers and staff who sadly have had to respond to a serious incident, i.e. the death of a pupil, member of staff or someone closely linked to the school community. Schools have been appreciative of the support provided in these very difficult situations.

Sensory Service

During this reporting year the service has expanded to include delivery to Conwy County Council alongside Denbighshire, Wrexham and Flintshire. The service has continued to support schools to meet the educational and emotional needs of Flintshire's sensory impaired pupils - 82 pupils with a visual impairment (VI) and 125 with hearing impairments (HI). Support for families of pre-school

children remained a key priority for the service during the year. There were 15 pre-school children with HI and 8 with VI provided for by the team. The service continued to use national eligibility criteria to determine the level of involvement. The Covid pandemic has impacted on this particular cohort with delays in medical procedures relating particularly to hearing impairment increasing the number of referrals to the service. Caseloads have been adjusted to ensure that all eligible pupils continued to access the service.

The continued aim of the service is to build capacity within schools/placements in supporting children and young people with sensory impairment. Bespoke packages were offered at both a county and school level and 18 schools/settings were offered virtual training via Microsoft TEAMS in Flintshire with good/excellent feedback received.

During the reporting period, there were no pupils with a sensory impairment excluded from Flintshire schools. A very small number of those with a visual impairment had significantly low attendance due to medical conditions which impacted on their ability to attend school. The service provided advice and support to establish the root cause of the absence and also support a phased return or access to alternative provision as required. There were 13 pupils with a sensory impairment in year 11 (11 pupils) and Year 13 (2 pupils) in 2021/22. All pupils went on to a positive outcome either at a school, local college, through an apprenticeship or university.

The Service has been an integral part of the Council's response to ALNET, working closely with the ALN Team. The Learning Adviser has been part of on-going national discussions regarding the application of the ALN Code for children and young people with a sensory impairment where there remains a level of confusion around the definition of additional learning provision.

Feedback from Additional Learning Needs Coordinators indicated a positive response to the service interventions, with 92% indicating that the written advice/reports provided were clear and helped staff to meet the pupil's needs. Similarly, 92% indicated that input from the team facilitated the pupil to access the curriculum. All schools felt that the team had communicated well with them and that team members had behaved in a professional manner. A total of 75% of the respondents felt that staff in their school had received appropriate training and/or advice to help them meet the overall sensory needs of the pupils.

Communication & Language Advisory Support Service

The impact of the Covid pandemic remains evident in a number of areas, but noticeably so with regards to speech, language and communication skills, with an increasing level of concern being flagged by schools particularly in relation to pre-school and Foundation Learning. Flintshire was the first council in Wales to offer training to all schools on Early Talkboost (age 3-4) and Talkboost (age 4-7) programmes and the roll out of this to all primary schools has continued in response to increased levels of presenting need. As of March 2023, 55 schools (40 schools March 2022) have been trained in one or both interventions, resulting in a total of 360 trained staff across the school network, an increase of 72 from last year.

The programme provides the facility for schools to record pre and post intervention data which can be shared with officers. The tables below indicate the percentage improvements in each of the intervention areas prior to and following the intervention.

Table 7 Early Talkboost Impact

	Attention and listening	Understanding words & sentences	Speaking	Personal social and emotional skills
% at expected level before intervention	19	31	15	9
% at expected level after intervention	34	49	29	32

The social impact of the pandemic is evident through the low initial scores in the areas of social skills, along with the other more formal skills associated with academic development, i.e. sentence structure and storytelling. It is pleasing to see that all areas demonstrate a positive impact. Initial pupil assessments indicated 33% of the early Talkboost cohort and 39% of the Talkboost group were working below their age expected level and would require further intervention and/or a referral for speech therapy intervention demonstrating a significant level of need. Following access to the programme, these levels reduced to 19.8% and 10.7% respectively.

Table 8 Talkboost Impact

	Understanding spoken language	Understanding & using vocabulary	Sentences	Storytelling & narrative	Social interaction
% at expected level before intervention	12	21	9	2	7
% at expected level after intervention	35	30	14	7	12

Given the success of the programmes and ongoing presenting need, officers are considering offering training on the programme for KS2 pupils.

The service has continued to provide outreach to individual pupils demonstrating a significant level of need. This is delivered in collaboration with the Health Service. The number of pupils requiring this intervention has increased from 45 last year, to 54 this year. Of these, 22 have been discharged from the service due to either the good progress made, the need for referral to alternative service or access to specialist educational provision in the primary/secondary Resource bases. Destination data for the secondary Resource shows a strong positive trend for pupils moving successfully on to a positive Post-16 outcome.

The Language Development project has also continued to operate. This is a centrally funded project which is based around a 'planted' adult model and bases trained teaching assistants in schools demonstrating a high level of need either for monolingual pupils or those with English as an additional language. This is a time limited intervention (a term and a half) and schools are asked to rate the impact. A total of 34 schools were supported in the academic year 2021/22. The following average ratings were received regarding the impact of the intervention (scoring 0-5, with 5 being the maximum):

- Effectiveness of planted adult model   4.77

- Impact on pupils' language and communication skills   4.15

- Impact on staff understanding of how to support skill development   4.54

The project uses a 10-point scale to measure pupil progress. During this period the average starting score of pupils was 3.67, whilst the average post project score was 5.19, showing an average increase of 1.52 language development points, clearly demonstrating the positive impact of the strategy.

Support for English as an Additional Language (EAL) and Gypsy Travellers

The number of pupils identified as EAL continues to rise with a further increase of 81, taking the total this year to 1572. All pupils are assessed against a 5-point scale (A – E) with regards to their language capabilities and appropriate support allocated either on an individual or group work basis. Those identified as being at stage A are new to English/Welsh whilst those at stage E are deemed to be fluent. Those at stages A and B are prioritised for direct intervention from the service and the following table shows the number of pupils over the last 3 years:

Table 9 EAL Stage A & B Overview

Pupils at Stage A & B	2023	2022	2021
Primary	631	625	620
Secondary	104	100	89
Total	735	725	709

The number of languages spoken across the county has increased from 53 to 57 this year. A total of 158 pupils (Year 1 – Year 11) arrived in Flintshire between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023. This is an increase of 50 pupils compared with the previous year and can be related directly to the impact of the Ukrainian Sponsorship Scheme, with 57 of the new arrivals coming from Ukraine.

Flintshire Council has responded positively and pro-actively to the three refugee schemes, namely the Ukrainian Sponsorship Scheme (UKSS), The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (SVPRS). As of April 2023, the number of pupils in Flintshire schools as a result of these schemes sits at 84 Ukrainian, 29 Afghan and 19 Syrian children. Schools have responded extremely positively and welcomed pupils and their families into their school communities. This has been facilitated by the significant support offered via the EAL team and the coordination by the Learning Adviser who ensured a harmonised response across the Education & Youth Portfolio. This ensured that school admissions and access to transport were implemented in a timely manner and that additional support both at a pupil and parental level could be accessed from other relevant services and agencies; it was a notable achievement that all Ukrainian children entering Flintshire had been placed and attended school at the start of the 2022/23 academic year.

The Inclusion & Progression Service is increasing its use of data to support greater evaluation of need/impact. Attendance data is now generated for several potentially vulnerable groups including EAL. Attendance for this group is largely in line with the overall Flintshire pupil average. It was noted that over the winter months, some pupils, particularly those from Ukraine were being kept off from school for minor ailments such as a cold. This was because of different cultural expectations. Conversations took place with the families to explain the process and expectations within Wales to ensure that pupils were not absent unnecessarily.

The service EAL stakeholder questionnaires indicated that of the 287 pupil responses, 98% felt happy and safe in school at least some of the time. It is also pleasing that all of the 58 parents who responded feel comfortable talking to their child's class teachers. Where parents or children have indicated that they do not feel happy or safe, the main reasons seem to be around a lack of friendship

groups, thus emphasising the importance of buddy schemes and other collaborative learning and play opportunities for our EAL pupils. The surveys provide important information regarding service impact but also allow the team to follow up on information relating to matters of concern to pupils and parents.

The school questionnaire, completed by 250 teachers, indicated that over 90% of EAL pupils are perceived to be making appropriate progress with their spoken language, but there is less confidence when the same scoring is applied to written work. This is to be expected as oral language skills often develop more quickly that written skills. Unfortunately, limited capacity within the EAL service has meant that direct intervention from the team for pupils with regards to writing skills is not possible, so advice and support is being provided to class teachers as an alternative.

The Traveller community remains an incredibly transient, with numbers altering on a weekly basis across Flintshire. As of March 2023, the number had dropped from 166 to 148 for the same time period in 2022. There has however, been an increase in the comparative number of pupils on the caseload with whom the service has engaged, increasing from 196 for 2021/22 to 206 for 2022/23. The figures across the Primary sector reflect a strong level of engagement, with parents choosing to send their children to school. There is a different picture across the Secondary sector despite the offer of enhanced transition, alternative education opportunities, regular home visits and support for schools. The implementation of the Curriculum for Wales is also proving to be a challenge around school engagement, with regards to the Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) element of the curriculum. The Traveller Community holds strong cultural views which means that access to the RSE curriculum in the model of delivery planned is causing such levels of concern that they are considering the withdrawal of their children from school. Officers are working with Welsh Government, schools and the community to seek a form of resolution.

During the year, the service welcomed 34 new Traveller pupils to the county, all of which were allocated school places or alternative education provision along with transport. Monitoring of attendance data has shown an average attendance of 69.9% for the Autumn Term 2022 and 73.3% for the Spring Term 2023 which sits noticeably below the wider Flintshire averages of around 90%. This remains an area of priority for improvement. Nationally verified exclusion levels for Traveller children were above the average for other ethnic groups for the academic year 2021/22 with a loss of 66.5 school days in total. Local figures for the period from September 2022 to April 2023 shows a reduction to 23 days, which is positive.

A programme of alternative provision has been implemented again this year focusing on pupils who may be considered vulnerable and has included a number of Traveller pupils. The provision is targeted at KS2 and KS3 and continued to operate with a focus on developing a sense of community, belonging and self-worth alongside skill development. The pupils were asked to rate themselves against the key criteria below having engaged with the provision. A total of 82 pupils responded and the table indicates the percentage of the group who felt there had been a positive impact in the designated area having engaged with the alternative provision. The overall positive impact was corroborated by the data collected from schools who noted that 65% of pupils put forward for engagement showed an improvement in the level of engagement in lessons, 42% had an improvement in their general behaviour and 48%showed an improvement in their self-confidence levels.

Table 10: Impact of Alternative Provision

Impact of Project on Pupils (as identified by the pupils)
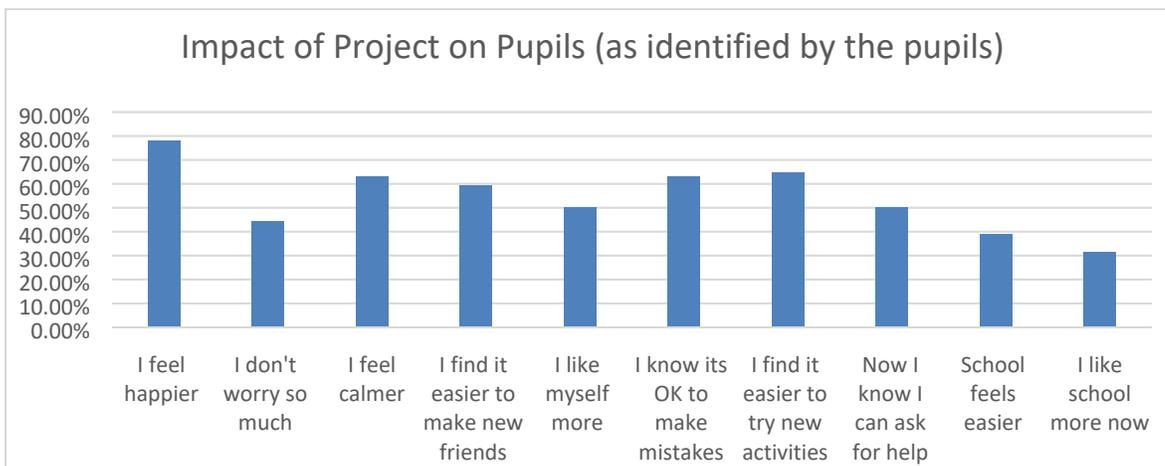
The ongoing reluctance of the Traveller community to engage with education at a secondary level, in particular past Year 9, has resulted in the service offering an alternative model of engagement. The primary aim of the activity is to try and reintegrate pupils either back into mainstream education, or if this is not possible, into further education at the end of Year 11. A range of activities have been offered including boxing, Aura sports' course, hair and beauty and cooking courses. Of the 24 Traveller pupils engaged, 4 returned to school, with the remainder maintaining their engagement with the activities. Of those in Year 11, 7 out of the 8 transferred into a Post-16 outcome and reflects the positive impact of the team on both the pupils and their families.

Support for raising the educational achievement of Children who are Looked After (CLA)

The levels of children who are 'looked after' have remained fairly stable over the past 3 years, 263 in 2020, 258 in 2021 and 255 in 2022. The number of those children who are of statutory school age varies year on year - 157 in 2022 compared with 178 in 2021. The majority of CLA are educated in Flintshire maintained provision (68%), with the remainder accessing their education in out of county maintained provision or specialist independent settings. This compares with 70% in the previous year. The data for 2022 shows an increase in the number of children being taken into care in the primary age range with a noticeable reduction of secondary aged pupils going into care. This may be a result of the multi-systemic team (MST) approach that is being implemented within Children's Services and supports those on the edge of care to remain at home which tends to focus on the secondary age range.

Specific funding to support improved outcomes for 'looked after' children comes in the form of the Pupil Development Grant which is overseen by GwE at a regional level. Schools are required to operate in clusters and bid for funding, with the bids being overseen by local officers. This year, the funding has been targeted at a range of training and interventions, including:
- Development of a Sensory Room
- Forest School
- Equine Therapy
- Additional Maths and English tutoring

The Digital Development Portrait screening tool was used with the CLA cohort with the purpose of getting a baseline measure against areas such as Concentration and Focus, Sensory Needs, Social Skills and Emotional Resilience. This enabled education practitioners to understand strengths and areas in need of support/development. The training for staff using the tool has also included information on the neuroscience behind trauma and brain development to facilitate greater understanding of the impact of trauma and the positive strategies that can be undertaken to support

development. The service is has also undertaken significant work in relation to the Welsh Government virtual school model. This has identified several priorities for improvement and work is underway to explore these with colleagues in Children's Services.

Attendance data for the CLA cohort is 85.5%, compared with 87% for the previous year. Exclusion levels are high with a total of 229.5 days being lost to education. This information has fed into the Council's decision to focus on supporting and developing trauma-informed practice across our schools with the aim of improving understanding of the impact of trauma and suitable strategies to implement to reduce the need for exclusion. The destination data for Year 11 pupils who are 'looked after' indicated that 85% of the cohort went on to access a Post-16 placement compared with 69% in the previous year.

Engagement Services

The Council has a number of services which support and promote engagement, including the Education Welfare Service, Progression Team and Community Focused Schools. There have been several changes made to this area during the reporting period. This has included a review of the EOTAS Panel which now operates as decision making body as opposed to a monitoring remit. The Inclusion & Progression Service saw the cessation of the TRAC programme which had been a European Social Funded provision to support engagement but also saw the development of a Community Focused School Service funded by Welsh Government (WG).

Education Welfare Service (EWS)
The structure of the EWS was reorganised from September 2022 to differentiate the roles between the Education Support Officers (ESO) and the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) with regards to attendance matters. ESOs have been allocated all of the primary school referrals leaving more operational time for the EWO staff based in the secondary schools to respond to the more complex issues. In addition, ESOs have supported several primary schools with regards to attendance systems, processes and monitoring to ensure all attempts are made to maximise attendance. ESOs have made regular visits to conduct attendance meetings with Headteachers and advise on the graduated response to attendance. The responsibility for safeguarding matters in primary schools remains with the more senior EWOs.

Regular profiling of attendance data is now in place within the service to confirm schools in need of support. A positive example of this targeted work is the improvement from 76.8% to 86.2% for one of our primary schools for the academic year 2021/22. The ESO provided a dedicated audit and support for the school's attendance officer and the school is now employing the graduated response to attendance resulting in the positive change. Transition between Year 6 and 7 was also identified as a priority following a review of the data. An initial pilot working with pupils with attendance below 85% in one of the high schools was implemented which resulted in an overall improvement in attendance levels and will be targeted across all schools in the future.

The service has commenced the implementation of fixed penalty notices (FPN) and court proceedings as appropriate, following the guidance on this from WG. A designated ESO has been allocated to administer the FPN process to ensure compliance; any unpaid fines were referred for legal action and resulted in either a fine ranging from £120 to £811 or a conditional discharge in one instance. The cases progressed to date have been cases with chronic levels of non-attendance and the impact of this has been variable. It is anticipated that this ongoing action will lead to a greater awareness of parents of their duties with regards to school attendance and possible consequences, leading to increased levels of engagement in the coming years.

Elective Home Education (EHE)

In line with other councils, Flintshire continues to see an increase in the numbers of children becoming EHE with 178 children registered in January 2023 compared with 91 in 2018. The lead

officer for EHE is actively engaging in the national meetings and is working in collaboration with other regional leads to develop a co-ordinated approach across North Wales. The additional funding received from Welsh Government has enabled the appointment of a designated officer for EHE who provides information and advice and engages proactively with parents who wish their child to be educated at home. An information pack is circulated and annual visits are undertaken as part of the monitoring process. Officers work closely with colleagues across Social Services as required where safeguarding is deemed to be a concern and work proactively to secure a return to school where this is considered to be in the child's best interests. A total of 27 children returned to school-based education in the period January 2022 to January 2023. This compares with 26 in the previous year indicating there is a consistent drive to promote and support re-engagement at any point within a child's educational career.

Community Focused Schools (CFS)

Flintshire received funding to support the implementation of the Community Focused Schools initiative. The decision was taken to retain the funding centrally and develop a team to target the areas with the highest levels of deprivation. Two managers have been appointed along with 6 Family Engagement Workers. The areas of Saltney, Holywell and Queensferry have been identified for access to this intervention. A community hub has been established in St David's High School to support collaboration between the school and the service. This service is in its infancy but it is hoped that it will contribute to an increase in attendance levels in the targeted areas.

Progression Team

The Engagement Progression Coordinator (EPC) works with a range of partners to co-ordinate support for pupils between the ages of 11 and 18 who are potentially at risk of disengagement or are currently not in education, employment or training (NEET). The EPC manages the Progression Team who support the potential NEETS. The team receive referrals for pupils who are starting to, or have disengaged from education from Education Welfare Officers or schools. The EPC also facilitates links with other relevant services such as Youth Justice, Sorted Drug and Alcohol Team and the Young Person's Counselling Service.

Home visits are made by the Progression Team to build rapport and explore the pupils' interests and needs. This engagement work supports pupils to participate in a range of alternative education activities. Support for transition between school and Post-16 provision remains a priority for the team. A total of 250 individuals were supported during the reporting period. The majority (75%) of these individuals were on roll at a school but struggling to engage due to high levels of anxiety and/or presenting behaviours. The service supports individuals to access a range of accreditation to support their transition into adulthood. These include a range of Agored qualifications in areas such as Mental Health & Wellbeing, Independent Living Skills and understanding Healthy Relationships, ASDAN Hair & Beauty, a range of Essential Skills and Sports/Coaching awards. The Prince's Trust Achieve awards have also been accessed in areas such as Personal Development and Employability. Of the 48 Year 11 learners who engaged with the team, all progressed to a positive Post-16 outcome, either in the form of further training or employment.

The level of year 11 NEET has remained low over the past 4 years as a result of the targeted multi-agency work across the authority, underpinned by the work of the EPC and the Progression Team.

Table 11: Year 11 Leavers (%) from schools in Wales known to be not in education, employment or training (NEET)

	2022	2021	2020	2019
Flintshire	1.7 (28)	1.4 (23)	1.2 (19)	1.9 (28)
Wales	2.1 (664)	1.6 (507)	1.7 (527)	1.8 (537)

Table 12: Year 12 and 13 Leavers (%) in Flintshire known not to be in education, employment or training (NEET)

	2022	2021	2020	2019
Flintshire Year 12	1.2 (7)	0.3 (2)	1.1 (6)	0
Wales Yr 12	0.7 (80)	0.4 (55)	0.6 (76)	0.8 (99)
Flintshire Year 13	2.9 (16)	3.4 (19)	3.7 (20)	2.9 (16)
Wales Yr 13	2.8 (322)	2.3 (251)	3.5 (355)	2.5 (269)

Source: Careers Wales

Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Flintshire has an established multi-agency Emotional Health and Wellbeing forum to oversee and guide its response to emotional health and wellbeing. The group is chaired by the Principal Education Psychologist and the forum identifies training needs and prioritises the allocation of the WG Wellbeing grant. The Council continues to promote and develop a relational approach to practice and intervention across its services and schools. Training on Trauma Informed Practice for the Council's senior and middle managers in the Education & Youth Portfolio has taken place and this was also accessed by some secondary Headteachers and senior leaders. A secondary focus group has also been established to further promote and embed this practice across our schools.

Feedback from the training has been positive with a high percentage of participants indicating that the courses offered would lead to a positive impact on their work with children. The Education Psychology Service leads on the supervision/follow up support with the aim of developing and embedding practice. Following the circulation of the Serious Incident policy and the sad need for schools to respond to a number of tragic scenarios, the need for additional training on suicide was identified and delivered as outlined below. The ELSA programme remains a training priority, with a number of additional staff engaging in the training programme which will complete at the end of the academic year 2022/23.

Table 13: Training offered to support Emotional Health & Wellbeing

Training/support	Number of staff trained
ELSA Supervision	80
Emotion Coaching (schools) (PRU) (Welsh Medium)	161 30 7
Emotionally Based School Avoidance	1 high school staff team
Child Bereavement UK: Supporting Children Bereaved by Suicide (2 training day offers)	31
Introduction to the Establish Maintain Restore Relational Approach Model Training Plas Derwen	All staff 30
Nurture Programme Sylvia Lucas	42
Whole School Nurture Approach for Learning Training	6 schools in total
Feelings Detectives	29

In September 2021 the Education Portfolio introduced the 'Challenging Bullying online reporting system' for Flintshire schools. This was developed by Flintshire IT and hosted on the 'Flintshire Workspace' platform. It enables schools to report incidents of bullying, including racist incidents, on an online form and maintain these in one place and update as required. 'Challenging Bullying' sits alongside health and safety incident reporting on the platform and staff illness absence. Designated officers have access to this data which enables the Education Portfolio to maintain an overview of recorded bullying incidents in order to identify emerging trends or groups being discriminated against, monitor exclusion rates. Long term, as the system embeds, the aim is that the data will show progress towards the Council's equality objectives.

Early Help Hub (EHH)

In early 2017 the Flintshire Public Service Board (PSB) commissioned the establishment of an Early Help Hub to support the delivery of more timely and appropriate early intervention and support for families with greater needs. There were multiple drivers for this including the introduction of the Social Service and Wellbeing Act 2014, the CSSIW inspection report recommendations about prioritising early intervention, intervening earlier at lower cost and for better outcomes and the extent to which so many cases being referred and re-referred to Children's Services did not meet thresholds for a statutory intervention, notwithstanding that the families often presented with persistent challenges.

Since inception in 2017 Flintshire's Early Help hub model has continued to develop and adapt to the ever-changing circumstances and landscape of support needed across the county. The Early Help Hub is now a well-established provision prioritizing early intervention for families, receiving approximately 12,611 referrals since inception, the highest proportion being request for support for families with a 10–15-year-olds. There are a total of 16 agencies including health, education, police, housing and third sector representatives participating in hub discussions and actioning support to ensure families receive services at the point struggles start to emerge in their family journey.

All services participating utilise the Paris system to record information allowing quick escalation if a concern comes to light as part of hub information gathering and an efficient step-down process for families where child protection is not the most appropriate route. This has dramatically decreased the number of 'No Further Action' decisions (NFA's) and all families receive an offer of support. Recent work through Vanguard has united and streamlined the 'front door' processes for Children's Services and Early Intervention and work is currently being undertaken to ensure a what matters conversation is held with families at the point of referral, ensuring the families voice is at the heart of any decision-making process. To further develop family voice in late 2022 a series of workshops were set up with partner agencies alongside senior management, parents and young people to see if we could integrate some of our colleagues (the experts) into a single front door which support families by identifying needs (What Matters) upon entry into children's services and without delay.

The Information Advice and Assistance Service provides a swift response in supporting our front door statutory partners, including schools, police, health and early years to fulfil the role when families are requiring support when thresholds are not met from statutory resource. The IAA Service was developed in late 2022 and became operational in February 2023. The Information, advice and assistance service (IAA) is providing support to families through skilled conversations which will clarify people's thoughts and explore their dilemmas to understand "What Matters" most to them and how best to help them.

Referrals that do not meet threshold for safeguarding will be passed to IAA Service. Each representative will contact the family to explore their dilemmas to understand "What Matters" to them and how best to help them by giving information, providing advice or providing assistance.

Nominated staff from the Education and Youth portfolio have remained a consistent and integral part of the offer, evolving from one education representative to the current inclusion of the Education Welfare Team. This has facilitated a wider dissemination of the knowledge shared as part of the process to schools and their wider partners and enabled comprehensive sharing of information. The team disseminate valuable information about families and their needs enabling an appropriate and effective support package to be identified, as well as providing a valuable conduit to support often linking families and encouraging engagement with the identified services. All referrals receive an action, whether that be a single service provision, multiple service or voluntary sector information support. This is an innovative and highly effective model of support that is having a tangible impact on children and families.

2.3 Other Education Support Services

Funded Part Time Early Years Provision – Early Entitlement

Flintshire has a long tradition of supporting early years' education and during 2022-23 had 45 non-maintained settings registered to deliver part time, early education for three-year-olds and 32 schools supporting 710 children in total. Provision is for 10 hours of funded education per week.

Despite the removal of the grant conditions by Welsh Government to provide '10%' teacher time for funded settings and reducing central resources, the Council continues to maintain appropriate levels of support to settings registered for early education delivery to ensure high quality standards of provision, which in turn leads to better outcomes for learners. A central team of early years specialists work across the settings to provide targeted role modelling of teaching, to develop quality learning environments and support setting staff to produce robust self-evaluation reports and improvement action plans.

The core team is also supported in this delivery by several early years' teachers in schools, funded by the Council, where the local playgroup is the main feeder into the school nursery class. Initially developed as a strategy to maintain delivery in the face of reducing budgets and recruitment restrictions, there have been other intended benefits of this approach such as improved transition arrangements for pupils and sharing of best practice. However, the school-based teachers have acknowledged their reliance on the Council's core EE team who are real experts in provision for 3-year-olds. All support teachers produce pre-inspection reports on settings and assist with post-inspection action plans. Where settings require follow up after an inspection, particularly in the more significant categories, then the level of support is increased.

The Council still has sufficient capacity to deliver the number of early education places required. As an early implementer of the Welsh Government's 30-hour Free Childcare Offer, many settings have registered as joint providers so this additional funding provides some mitigation in the sector. The Welsh Government acknowledged the pressure on settings to maintain a combined delivery of early years' education and childcare with a difference in funding rates. This resulted in WG using Flintshire as a pilot authority for the provision of additional funding to equalise the rates of payment.

Flintshire continues to work closely with Mudiad Meithrin, the Welsh-medium early years' organisation, to develop new Welsh language provision in key geographical locations in the county as part of its Welsh in Education Strategy (WESP). There is currently sufficient capacity to deliver Welsh medium early years' education, but the aim is to increase this as a stepping stone to more children accessing their full-time education in a Welsh medium school and support the WG target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. A new Cylch developed by Mudiad Meithrin opened in May 2019 in Buckley and this is part of a longer-term strategy through the WESP and WG capital funding schemes to create a new Welsh medium primary school provision in the Buckley/Mynydd Isa area.

The Early Years Pupil Development Grant (EYPDG) continues to be used by the Early Entitlement Team (EET) for the professional development of the non-maintained workforce with a focus on strengthening staff impact on the engagement, well-being and performance of disadvantaged learners.

The support provided for an EE child with developmental delays or difficulties traditionally takes place within the setting. The EET offer advice to setting staff on strategies that they can use with the child. Support for children with developmental delays or difficulties is an area which the EET is focusing on in partnership with Childcare Services and the Inclusion Service in order to create a more integrated process for requesting and receiving support under the new ALNET Act (Wales).

The EE Service has increased the ALNCo's level of involvement with setting staff and the impact has been that there are now more structured approaches to offering strategies for supporting individual EE children identified as having particular needs. Feedback on this increased specialised input indicates that staff feel the strategies are having a positive impact on the child/children's engagement in learning.

The EET works in partnership with Flying Start, the Childcare Development Team and the Inclusion Service to agree an ALN training programme for the non-maintained sector. EET work cooperatively with Social Services teams to identify a range of resources suitable for supporting children's speech, language and physical skills. EET worked in partnership with the Early Years Pathfinder Project to identify opportunities for extending good practice in Flying Start settings into EE settings which resulted in the piloting of 'Wellcomm' - a speech and language screening tool.

Regionally the EET continues to work in partnership with other North Wales EE Teams and the EE Team Leader attends local and regional meetings supporting ALN transformation work. On a national level EET members continue to support the work of Estyn through their stakeholder meetings and support Welsh Government's working parties on the implementation of the new curriculum and assessment arrangements.

The non-maintained sector continues to experience a high turnover of staff, and this is being exacerbated by the national difficulty in recruiting childcare workers. The Early Entitlement Team are regularly providing training to some staff with no prior knowledge of how to meet the demands of education, rather than solely childcare provision, as well as providing professional development in the delivery of a new curriculum and assessment arrangements.

Over the last few years, the focus of the Early Entitlement team's training has been on supporting non-maintained settings with the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales. Since January 2022 the focus has more specifically been on the delivery of the 'Curriculum for funded non-maintained nursery settings'. The team completed three evaluation reports to Welsh Government (January 2022, May 2022 and January 2023) focusing on the progress being made with the implementation of Curriculum for Wales in funded non-maintained nursery settings within Flintshire. As part of this, Flintshire was asked to write a case study on its support for non-maintained settings to be shared across Wales and published on Hwb.

The Recruit, Recover and Raise Standards (RRRS) Grant provided by Welsh Government for the non-maintained sector since 2021 and administered by the local authority, enabled the Early Entitlement Team to fund training delivered by experts in the field of early years, to provide release costs for staff attendance at training and to purchase high quality resources which support the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales. The grant also enabled Early Entitlement to fund professional learning hours for staff supporting funded education in settings. Feedback from Flintshire settings is that this has been a very valuable use of the funding and that staff's understanding of the new curriculum has increased because of this additional capacity and access to

professional development

Early Entitlement Teams across North Wales have a strong history of working in partnership and in autumn 2022 agreed a joint approach to piloting the draft assessment arrangements in non-maintained funded settings. The final arrangements were released in July 2023 and Flintshire will support settings to implement these during the next academic year.

Integrated Youth Provision – Youth and Play Services including Play Sufficiency

Play services have been embedded into Flintshire's Integrated Youth Provision (IYP) since 2017. The Council has a strong tradition of providing safe spaces and quality play opportunities for young children during summer holidays. This also includes Welsh language provision. The service has an excellent track record in partnership working with over 30 Town and Community Councils to deliver these quality play schemes in over 50 locations. In 2022, 3975 children attended a scheme recording 15,556 total attendances. The schemes also offer employment for the young Flintshire workforce (Majority aged 18 – 25) and supports the workforce development target for the Council. Over the past 12 months the Play and Youth teams have been establishing more sustainable and long-term play provision, focussing on transition activity.

Flintshire County Council upholds Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 which places a statutory duty on all local authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children, and to consider the many aspects of community life that affect play opportunities e.g. use of the environment; traffic and transport; play and leisure provision, and parental and community involvement with play. Flintshire is effective in adhering to the statutory guidance, 'Wales – A Play Friendly Country'.

In early 2023 the executive summary of the latest play sufficiency assessment was produced along with a self-assessment and action plan. In order to move the plan to action a multi-agency strategic group will need to be formed and will be a key action for 2023-24.

The play development delivery staff continue to engage a range of statutory and non-statutory partners and this has enhanced the inclusive range of opportunities, such as working specifically on traveller sites to provide and enhance play opportunities as well as continuing successful programmes such as Kicks for Kids Football, Shed Project Play, Forest Schools and a drama project with Theatr Clwyd Cymru.

To improve monitoring and performance, the registration and general administration for the summer programme has been switched online, thus allowing for efficient reporting against key indicators as well as swift communication with key partners such as Corporate Health and Safety and Town and Community Councils.

The Integrated Youth Provision Team deliver a diverse range of targeted and open access activities across Flintshire, both directly, and through working in collaboration with a range of statutory, non-statutory and voluntary organisations. Core council funding for the service is supplemented by Welsh Government grant funding streams e.g. Youth Support Grant and Families First Grant.

The service delivers traditional club-based activity as well as detached youth work, school immersion work, Welsh language provision, homelessness prevention, a Forest School, Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, a Resilience Programme, LGBTQ+ Youth Club and the Youth Council. The provision of digital services will continue to be developed to enhance the service and to ensure that all young people have access to support. In an average month the service records over 1900 attendances delivering 278 hours of provision.

Provision for youth services is planned in conjunction with partners, such as Aura Leisure and Libraries, NEWCIS Young Carers, the Urdd and Theatre Clwyd. The service has been innovative in supporting Aura staff to upskill and achieve Level 2 and 3 youth work qualifications as part of the doorstep sport provision and is currently co-designing a bespoke introduction to youth work course for local clubs and organisations working with young people. The service has provided grants to partners to support delivery across Flintshire and/or, for the benefit of Flintshire residents e.g. to Newcis Young Carers. The service also supports the Inspire Project in partnership with Wrexham County Borough Council to provide bespoke youth support services those young people who self-harm or are at risk of suicide ideation. There is a longstanding partnership with Theatr Clwyd which has resulted in powerful interactive drama opportunities for young people to explore key issues such as consent.

Internally, regular meetings occur with the Youth Justice Service and Sorted (Drug and Alcohol Team), to share insights and maximise resources, as well as with other partnerships e.g. groups commissioned via the Families First funding. IYP is also a key member of the Flintshire VARM/ASB partnership, a multi-agency group tasked with identifying and reducing anti-social behaviour and police demand through a collaborative approach. This enables the service to effectively target its intervention work through its detached work team in particular communities as needs arise.

In the past 12 months refugees from both Afghanistan and the Ukraine have attended the Forest School provision and have taken part in a range of activities and created networking and social opportunities for young people and also their parents/carers.

Wrexham Glyndwr University have temporarily paused their degree programme for new students. Although this will not have an immediate impact on the service, it has the potential to be damaging in the medium term with the natural turnover and anticipated growth of the service. The Senior Manager will take an active role in the reinvigoration of the degree ensuring that it meets the needs of the industry. Level 2 and 3 qualifications continue to be delivered primarily through Adult Learning Wales and the service has continued to support new staff through this route. To improve our local service, we are in the process of training an in-house tutor. In early 2023 IYP successfully recruited two Youth Work apprentices.

The Youth Service previously held the overall Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Licence and has now worked successfully with schools to   support all 12 of Flintshire's secondary schools and the Pupil Referral unit to take out their own licence. The Youth Service will continue to operate their own licence for the Silver and Gold Award as well as supporting Aura Leisure. Being able to offer the Gold Award is a focus for the forthcoming year.

Young people's voices are continuously canvassed and the service has amended its provision where appropriate to reflect their opinions. The service has been as flexible and reactive in provision wherever possible to ensure it could respond quickly to changing need/priorities. The service also supports partners with their consultations, e.g. the Children's Commissioner's Office where two schools were consulted about their racism experiences and also supported the Youth Justice Service to produce a Young Person Friendly version of the Youth Justice Plan. A priority remains to reinvigorate the Youth Council.

The Inspire Pride group, established during the pandemic, continues to run and any young person working with Inspire from Flintshire can attend the group which has now transitioned to face to face delivery. A partnership between Integrated Youth Provision and Theatre Clwyd was established and a LGBTQ+ group was created after a consultation event with young people in April 2022. The group runs fortnightly on alternative Tuesdays to Inspire sessions so LGBTQ+ young people have access to a range of groups.

In addition to the core youth provision of clubs and detached work in communities, the service has also

embedded School and Community Immersion Youth Workers in five secondary schools including Welsh medium, which provide specialist youth service interventions in the areas of Mental Health, Sexual Health, Relationships, Child Sexual Exploitation and Modern Slavery. The support ranges from group sessions and 1 to 1 sessions, and also focuses on mental health and wellbeing, anger management, anti-bullying and respecting others, building confidence and self -esteem, relationships and stress and anxiety support and resilience along with lunch time drop-in sessions and signposting to other services. The team also provide community work, supporting young people in their school and community settings and any crossover issues are managed i.e. community cohesion, anti-social behaviour, bullying (often involving social media). This community work has also included drop-in sessions to facilitate parents voicing their opinions, issues and concerns to the youth work team and source advice. At one Flintshire high school, the School and Community Immersion Worker supports a project working in partnership with the Portfolio's Inclusion Team and school staff to work positively with students on improving behaviour and attendance, to improve engagement and pupil outcomes.

The IYP team continue to run a Transition Support resource for students in years 6, 7 and 8 students in response to evidence that these learners were struggling the most, having missed out on face-to-face transition activities for the move from primary to secondary education during the pandemic.

In the county's only Welsh medium high school, young people received support directly from the service through its Welsh Language Immersion Worker in response to students' feelings of isolation and poor mental health. These sessions encouraged students to express other concerns about sexuality and homophobia and the service responded proactively by commissioning other specialist organisations to provide information and other support mechanisms to young people with the support of the school.

A new monitoring, evaluation and learning tool was introduced in Spring 2023. This will allow for a greater level of performance monitoring and planning across the range of services offered. In addition to collecting attendance data, it will also monitor topics covered, levels of engagement, case studies, session notes and evaluations, and consultations with service users. The mapping system will also add to our existing insight to ensure that our services are targeted in areas of most need.

This level of activity clearly demonstrates the responsive and wide-ranging services provided to Flintshire's young people over the last twelve months and how interventions have been tailored to meet specific needs alongside universal provision.

Youth Justice Services & Flintshire Sorted

During 2022-2023 The Youth Justice Service (YJS) supported 147 children and young people, a reduction in 27 young people compared with the previous year. 80% of the interventions delivered were at a pre-court stage. Our cohort composition has remained relatively unchanged from the previous 12 months with 79% male and 21% female, with the most prominent age of children and young people entering the Youth Justice system between the ages of 14-17 years.

The Youth Justice Board continues to monitor disproportionality within the criminal justice system and based on their current disproportionality toolkit, Flintshire YJS's ethnic minority group composition represents 4% of our total cohort, which is marginally higher than the composition of the wider 10–17-year-old population in Flintshire. The service is being proactive in monitoring current trends and has developed a Disproportionality Action Plan to give greater focus to this issue.

The service is committed to promoting the voice of children and young people and in the last 12 months most children and young people open to the YJS have provided a positive assessment of the work of the service. As part of our assessment and planning process, the service also seeks a child's individual views on their aspirations and areas of their life. Based on self-reporting of 88 children and

young people, following YJS intervention, they reported positive gains in most areas of their lives.

All young people involved within the YJS undergo a comprehensive holistic assessment which assesses their likelihood of re-offending, risk of serious harm to others in addition to their safety and wellbeing needs. This also includes issues and concerns relating to education, training and employment, physical health and emotional and mental health. The services remains concerned about the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has had on our children and young people. A cohort analysis of 106 children and young people open to the YJS in the last 12 months has highlighted;

- YJS Assessments identified emotional and mental health needs in 67% of children and young people, an increase of 6% since 2021

- 24% had a physical health need, an increase of 6% in the last 12 months

- Whilst Alcohol consumption had decreased by 4% affecting 37% of children and young people, drug consumption increased by 14% in the last 12 months affecting 67% of children and young people,

- Additional Learning Needs were present in 74% of our cases, 33 % had a current or previous exclusion from school, whereas 48% had behavioural issues in school and 41% reported attendance issues.

In response, the service remains committed to strengthening our partnership with Public Health Wales and Wrexham Glyndwr University and are committed to becoming a trauma informed service. Additionally, we have increased our support available to parents and have commenced a review with health colleagues into YJS resourcing, pathways and training to support our cohort. We continue through our partnership with the Forensic Adolescent Treatment Service (FACTS) to embed trauma informed approaches through Enhanced Case Management and have continued to train staff to become trauma informed. The Service has also utilised Ministry of Justice funding for 'Turnaround' to provide additional resources to intervene with children and young people at earlier stages of the criminal justice system utilising a 'what matters' and trauma informed approach.

Whilst the YJS does not have a statutory obligation to provide Education, Training, and Employment (ETE), the service facilitates access to education through assessment and signposting/referral and will provide cohort information to Education colleagues to ensure a cross-portfolio approach. All children and young people entering the YJS are assessed by a dedicated Education Support Worker who will assess and highlight any attendance or additional support needs and will inform the relevant YJS and Education colleagues to ensure that appropriate support plans are in place. Attendance is also monitored at monthly YJS ETE Panels and information is shared with colleagues within Education, local colleges and Careers Wales in order to support and address attendance and access to education, training and employment.

The YJS is also a standing member on the Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) panel which provides opportunities for the service to raise the needs of children and young people open to them who are experiencing difficulties in school attendance and engagement. In April 2023 the Youth Justice Board also introduced new Key Performance Indicators that will request YJS assess the suitability and provide data on ALN provision for our children and young people. The Education and Youth Senior Management Team have been exploring mechanisms to provide oversight to children and young people who may not be accessing suitable education that meets their needs.

The three-year Youth Justice Plan is committed to the following priorities:

- Increasing school attendance and reducing exclusion and increasing oversight and understanding of barriers linked to attendance

- Increasing the range of ETE opportunities for children and young people

- Strengthening our engagement with Additional Learning Needs Services

- Developing opportunities for children and young people to develop their aspirations through skills and activities and alternative qualification networks.

YJS reports ETE performance to the Youth Justice Board and local performance frameworks on a quarterly basis. The YJB National Performance indicator only looks at those young people whose cases have closed in the reporting period, but from April 2023 reporting will extend to those open on Out of Court Disposals in addition to statutory Court Orders

The Service has also developed a Youth Violence Action Plan to address violent offending within its cohort. Whilst the number of assaults against the person have decreased over all in the last 12 months, Serious Violent offences (over a specific gravity rating) have seen a small increase. Despite these offences making up a minority of our total offences, the YJS sees this as a key priority for the next 12 months. The YJS remains part of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Serious Violence Duty Task and Finish Group and is closely aligning our Action Plan to wider regional priorities.

Within the last 12 months the YJS has seen an increase in the use or remand and custody. Between 2018-2021, 2 custodial outcomes were issued by the Court, however, since April 2021 the YJS has had 2 incidents of remand and 4 custodial sentences linked to 3 young people. We have assessed that a number of factors may have contributed to this increase including the seriousness of offending, non-engagement on community orders and difficulties within the wider social care sector to secure appropriate community based alternative placements to support children and young people. In response we have developed a reducing custody action plan which will closely align us to planned work around commissioning within the Social Care Sector and Social Services Department.

Flintshire Sorted (Young People's Drug and Alcohol Team) aims to prevent substance use and to minimise the impact of substance use on children and young people, families and the community. It provides a universal, targeted and specialist service to children and young people up to the age of 25 years.

Flintshire Sorted delivers a universal and targeted service within every secondary school in the County with the overall aim of diverting young people away from the use of drugs and alcohol. The targeted content aims to promote healthy choices, challenge attitudes to drugs, anti-social behaviour and other risky behaviours, and strengthen protective factors. Flintshire Sorted provide universal delivery via awareness raising of the risk of using substances through the PSE (Personal, Social, Education) curriculum in schools and via outreach delivery within the community. Flintshire Sorted offer a referral-based service for more intensive work with young people whose substance misuse is having a negative impact on their lives. A range of therapeutic interventions is offered to meet the individual needs of young people and help them to make changes and lead healthier lifestyles. The service also provides a consultation service for parents and professionals who may have questions about suspected substance use in their children.

Between April 2022 and March 2023:

- 694 sessions were held in 13 secondary schools and colleges

- 5226 young people were engaged in these sessions

- 59 Community Outreach sessions delivered engaging 1693 people

- Drug and Alcohol Community Support Sessions took place with trained staff attending identified hotspots for anti-social behaviour where substances were an issue. The staff offered support and advice to young people at risk of offending and provided targeted support session to individuals and groups. They were also able to direct young people to specialist services

- 253 young people received a targeted intervention

- 73% of young people reported that they had met their goals i.e. had gained more knowledge substances, understood the long-term effects of drugs, and/or had quit alcohol or smoking.

- 269 young people were referred to the service for specialist Tier 3 assessment and intervention.

- 118 professionals received training from Flintshire Sorted. These included: Social Workers, School Nurses, Residential Children Home staff, Safeguarding practitioners, Adult Substance Misuse Service practitioners.

- 81% of young people reported that they had met their goals i.e. had gained more knowledge of substances, understood the long-term effects of drugs, and/or had quit alcohol or smoking.

Healthy Schools & Healthy Pre-Schools

The Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes (WNHSS) is an example of a 'settings' based approach to health promotion. Settings based approaches are universal approaches seeking to influence the environment, policy and practice to enable better health and wellbeing of those in a setting. WNHSS was launched in September 1999, as a national framework. It is a network of 22 local healthy school schemes, with national and local responsibilities. The aim of the WNHSS is to support schools to become health promoting institutions in line with national healthy schools' criteria. Indicators for the WNHSS National Quality Award (NQA), were issued in 2010. The scheme was established in Flintshire in 2002 and works in partnership with local and national organisations to ensure a coordinated and multi-faceted approach to health within schools.

Public Health Wales (PHW) identified that the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes requires significant reform to optimise its potential in supporting the health and wellbeing of children and young people in the future. Work started on reviewing the scheme in 2019 however this was delayed by the pandemic and work to complete recommendations identified in the review remained on hold until June 2021. The work was then recommenced by the national health improvement team. In Autumn 2022, PHW proposed a reform to the architecture of the programme to move away from 22 schemes towards a single all-Wales framework. Local delivery and ownership would continue but supported by a single benchmark and framework of what is considered effective practice, as part of a continuous improvement model. This reform would bring together both WNHSS and the Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Framework (WSAEMWB) which are currently running as two separate workstreams with significant overlap. The timeframe for the proposed relaunch of the scheme is Spring 2024.

Despite the pause on the accreditation aspect of the scheme since the start of the pandemic, the Flintshire Healthy Schools team in 2022-2023 remained focused on supporting schools in addressing the following three local priorities for health and wellbeing:

1. Whole Schools Approach to Emotional Health and mental wellbeing (WSA)
2. Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)
3. Food and Nutrition

Whole School Approach to Emotional Health and Mental Wellbeing: The Flintshire Healthy Schools

team have been supporting schools to complete the WSA self-assessment tool to provide a current baseline of wellbeing provision for pupils and staff in their school and action plan accordingly. In Flintshire, 82.1% of schools are currently engaged with this process; higher than the Wales average of 52%. 67% of schools have completed the self-assessment tool in Flintshire in comparison with the Wales average of 42.5%. These schools are now developing their action plans. Support will remain ongoing for all schools as they work through this process.

Relationships and Sexuality Education: The Flintshire Healthy Schools team have been supporting schools to meet the requirements of the RSE Code / Curriculum for Wales. Historically RSE has been a theme within the Welsh Network of Healthy Schools Schemes criteria addressed under the banner of 'personal development and relationships'. At a local level, officers supported most schools in the county to deliver a programme of sex and relationships education in line with the previous government guidance. They supported schools by commissioning experts in the field, sourcing training and resources, policy development and establishing platforms to share information.

For many schools, the introduction of the RSE Code has meant reviewing what they have delivered previously and refining the content to ensure it is developmentally appropriate; and enhancing this provision further to ensure all the mandatory content is met. A comprehensive programme of staff training for RSE has been fundamental to raise teachers' confidence with this area of the curriculum over the last two years.

RSE leads in Flintshire primary and secondary schools were invited to attend 3 workshops delivered online between Jan-April 2022 by an independent provider working across the GwE region. Staff from 49 primary schools attended the workshops. An additional briefing session summarising the previous workshops was delivered in September 2022 for schools that did not attend / or required additional staff training. Staff from 22 primary schools were in attendance. The secondary workshops were attended by RSE leads from 9 secondaries, 1 special school and 1 PRU. The small number of schools that have not accessed training have received access to these resources when support for RSE has been sought.

In 21/22 and 22/23, a pilot of an integrated scheme of learning for personal, social and health education was carried out, of which RSE is a key feature. This was funded through the Welsh Government's Wellbeing grant. 11 schools in year 1 and a further 16 schools in year 2 accessed the scheme and provided very positive feedback. Staff from 13 of the schools attended one of two RSE focused training sessions delivered. Workshops 'working towards an inclusive school' were held in January 2023 for RSE leads in primaries to explore how information is presented, values and beliefs around gender and identity and why these matter. Staff from 27 schools attended. Refresher training for the existing 'Tyfu i Fyny' / 'Growing Up' resources used by many primary schools was also delivered in Feb-March 2023 with attendance by staff from 29 schools. A face-to-face course was held in February 2023 to give guidelines to secondary RSE leads with the opportunity to practice skills and increase confidence.

As part of the RSE training, information about the period dignity grant has also been included and has supported teachers to be better informed about menstruation and be familiar with the sanitary products available. Training about reusable / disposable products has been delivered to equip staff with the tools and confidence to support learners in making the right choices for them. Courses were delivered Jan- March 2023 with attendance from 18 primary/ secondary schools.

All training is evaluated, and there has been a positive response by schools to the training programme offered this year. Feedback is utilised to make improvements to the training programme

as required. In most cases this relates to what further training schools would benefit from. For example, sexual health and LGBTQ+ have been identified as themes many schools identified as requiring further support and the team ensured these were featured within the programme of professional development offered. 4 secondary schools have also been funded to begin working on the Rainbow Award (delivered by the Proud Trust) and the Healthy Schools team coordinated the first Flintshire secondary schools 'Celebrating being me' event during pride month. 233 young people completed anonymous qualitive evaluations and the language used by 100% of the young people was positive. Examples of the comments made by young people that attended included:

"I have enjoyed the fun stalls and learning about different charities. This was important to me because I now understand that I finally fit in somewhere and I'm not alone".

"Today has been amazing and I have enjoyed it so much. I feel okay to be me when I'm here. Thank you".

"I appreciate the support and consideration for mental health. I feel seen and heard."

"Amazing event! It's lovely to see so many people alike come together and celebrate DIVERSITY".

The secondary PSE / Healthy Schools forum continues to meet on a regular basis attended by representatives from all secondary schools including Special and PRU. A follow up to the workshops held in spring term 2022 was undertaken at the December 22 meeting to identify how schools were progressing in planning their RSE programmes and this continues to be a regular agenda item at meetings. RSE training in 2023-2024 will be delivered through the cluster model.

Food and Nutrition: Work has been undertaken with secondary schools in reviewing the existing food provision in line with the Welsh Government regulations. In partnership with colleagues in NEWydd Catering, two learner events have taken place this year for consultation and engagement. Pupil voice has driven this area of work and the changes that have occurred. Several schools have since reintroduced their school nutrition action groups (SNAGS) following this focus. Examples of changes include clearer pricing on menus and reintroduction of sandwich 'deli' bars in some canteens. A new menu offer with input from learners is being launched in September 2023.

Vaping
Wales, in common with other parts of the United Kingdom and countries internationally is experiencing a rapid increase in reports of young people vaping. The School Health Research Network (SHRN) study showed a marked increase in vaping among young people between 2019/21 and 2021/22. Headteachers and parents, not only in Flintshire but across Wales and the UK, are raising concerns and experiencing significant challenges in managing behaviours around vaping. These include growing reports of addiction to nicotine which is disruptive to day-to-day life and learning. Concerns have been raised about the safety and quality of products and also about the growing presence of illegal products in the marketplace. In response, the Education and Youth Portfolio has developed a model Smoke free policy template. All schools have been provided with clear signage. Primary school headteachers and wellbeing leads in secondary schools have been offered training opportunities.

Co-ordination of Programmes

Healthy & Sustainable Pre-school Scheme (HSPSS): There are 45 settings participating in the scheme in Flintshire. Each setting must demonstrate that it is promoting health and well-being

through its policies, planning and ethos over 7 different health themes. At the end of each theme the setting is locally assessed and once they met the required criteria, they are accredited by PHW. In total 26 settings (58%) have now completed the scheme. During 22/23 there were 9 assessments undertaken: 4 of which were end of scheme assessments and 5 were health theme assessments. For 23/24 we will be actively recruiting more settings.

Food and Fun: The Healthy Schools team have coordinated the Food & Fun programme in Flintshire since it began in 2018. This includes the initial recruitment of schools, stakeholder group meetings, managing funding and direct support for schools prior to the programme beginning, throughout and afterwards.   In 2022, over 280 children and young people aged 5-12 years benefited from Food and Fun in 9 schools in Flintshire, with over 2850 meals served during the 12-day summer holiday programme. All learners and parents are involved in evaluating the scheme. 13 schools (14 cohorts of 40 pupils) are hosting the programme in 2023, with the support of NEWydd catering, Aura Leisure and Libraries and the Dietetics team at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB).

Period Dignity: The Healthy Schools team has overseen the grant expenditure for this national project since it was first issued in 17/18. In 22/23 this continued with the online ordering and delivery of home packs in partnership with an external provider, alongside a wide range of community-based initiatives to make products available, including through food banks, community hubs, youth services and adult community learning providers. Reviews of the online ordering and home delivery service received from the online survey completed by 248 responders (parents and young people) found that overall, the service received a rating of 4.54 out of 5 (5 = very satisfied and 1 = very unsatisfied). Period pants were the most popular products ordered and 61% of responders were very likely to use reusable products in the future. The shipping time for products did fluctuate from between 3-8 weeks and some orders had not arrived at the time of the survey. The stock is imported, and this has led to some delays. 34% of responders did comment at the end of the survey with largely positive feedback about the service and some constructive feedback about sizing of period pants and delivery time.

"Great service for all young girls who are in need of these products and maybe cannot afford! discreet and great service".

"Excellent project which allowed my daughter and I to revisit the conversation about periods, address her fears / feelings etc".

Pupil Voice

The Council is committed to ensuring that the voices of children and young people are reflected in its work and actively seeks their engagement.

Following the introduction of the Framework on Embedding a Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Health and Wellbeing, schools are required to complete an assessment tool and develop an implementation plan based on the outcomes. This includes specific indicators where schools need to demonstrate how the whole school community is engaged and involved in day-to-day life of the school in influencing decision making and reviewing progress.

All secondary schools will again be supported to complete the bi-annual School Health Research Network (SHRN) survey in the autumn term of 2023, with data available in the spring term 2024. The School Health Research Network (SHRN) is a partnership between Welsh Government, Public Health Wales (PHW), Cancer Research UK and the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods. It is led by Cardiff University and brings together secondary schools across Wales and academic researchers, policymakers and practitioners from health, education, and social care. The

SHRN aims to improve young people's health and wellbeing in the school setting by providing robust health and wellbeing data for school, regional and national stakeholders. The availability of health behaviour data on both a county and school level are particularly valuable in terms of coordinating the delivery of services and interventions. Previously regular data on children and young people's health at a local level has been limited to the Child Measurement Programme, teenage conception data and the Sport Wales School Sport Survey.

The last SHRN survey was undertaken in 2021 with 7537 young people from Flintshire taking part which is an increase from previous surveys - 6585 in 2017 and 6773 in 2019. Findings from the 2021 survey demonstrated the impact the pandemic had on young people's mental health and wellbeing and all areas of life from screen time to sedentary behaviour. The data for emotions and behaviour in comparison with 2019 indicates at Key Stage 3 there has been an increase in emotional symptoms, conduct problems, hyperactivity, and peer relationships support. At Key Stage 4, data in comparison with 2019 also indicates an increase in emotional symptoms, hyperactivity, and peer relationships support. 43% of young people surveyed have screen time after 11.30pm on a school night, compared to 38% in Wales - a rise of 9% compared to county average of 34% in 2019. 21% of students surveyed spend 7 or more hours sitting down in their free time, compared to 18% in Wales. This is a rise of 4% compared to the county average of 17% in 2019. All secondary schools have action plans in place based on their individual school report and provided with support to identify their priorities. There is a county action plan and monitoring of SHRN county data on a biannual basis.

As part of the statutory processes in the identification of additional learning needs, children and young people are actively supported to contribute as appropriate to their age or stage of development. Youth Justice assessments and plans clearly reference the views and needs of the young person themselves and the Integrated Youth Provision regularly consults with its users and refines its services as a result. A Youth Council was in place prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and is in the process of being refreshed as part of the restructuring of Youth Service provision. It will resume its regular meetings with the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council and Chief Officer for Education & Youth in the Autumn term.

Any proposals for school organisation change include a children's and young person's version of key documentation and council staff facilitate consultations sessions with learners as part of the statutory process and report on their feedback in reports to decision makers.

Sport Wales has coordinated the School Sport Survey for learners in Years 3 to 11 for over twenty years. All schools which collect the required number of survey responses from their learners receive unweighted results in a school report and providing enough schools have participated, the local authority also qualifies for a report. The numbers of learners that have completed the survey has steadily increased from 5090 in 2015, 5208 in 2017, and 5212 responses in 2022. This year 3052 secondary aged learners from 8 secondary schools completed the survey alongside 2160 primary aged learners from 25 primary schools. Schools, supported by the Portfolio, will be expected to share their reports with their School Councils and use the information to secure further improvements in sports and physical activities within their schools.

School Place Planning & Provision including provision for Welsh medium & admissions processes

Flintshire County Council has a strong track record in strategically managing its school estate through both its own resources and through the effective use of grant funding schemes e.g. Sustainable Learning Communities Programme, to manage effective and efficient delivery of school places. It has demonstrated a willingness to take difficult decisions to modernise the school network to improve the quality of the learning environment to underpin teaching and learning and address issues related to

condition and suitability within its school estate.

Under its School Modernisation Strategy the Council has undertaken a major programme of school organisational change proposals which have included the closure of one nursery school, three primary schools, one secondary school, the development of four federal arrangements across the primary and secondary sector, the amalgamation of all infant and junior schools, the rationalisation of post-16 provision in the north of the County resulting in a partnership arrangement with Coleg Cambria, the extension of primary Welsh medium provision, the building of two new primary schools and an award winning 3-16 learning campus and other major remodelling projects. The Sustainable Learning Communities Band A Programme has now been fully completed (on time and within budget) bringing the total investment envelope to £64.2m for this phase of investment.

The Council's Strategic Outline Plan (SOP) for Band B is equally ambitious at £85m and has approval from Welsh Government and the Council's Cabinet. The Council is constantly evaluating its programme priorities and how to use the differing forms of funding available e.g. Capital and Revenue based funding under the Mutual Investment Model (MIM).

The proposed programme provides efficient and effective educational infrastructure to meet current and future demand. The programme has potential to remove up to 10 educational buildings from the service portfolio and ensure suitable investment in new facilities. All projects within the programme will be designed to promote, where applicable, early years' provision and community access to school and sports facilities.

The backlog maintenance for projects within the programme is £7,732,996 for secondary and £1,692,356 for primary. For new school projects, the Council would expect to achieve 100% reduction in backlog maintenance, for large remodelling projects an 80% reduction and smaller scale projects the aim would be for 50% as a benchmark. The Council has clearly defined arrangements for repairs and maintenance of schools and responds appropriately to emergencies.

The SOP is linked to the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The Band B programme is focused on 3 of the 6 schools within the Welsh Medium (WM) sector, linking in with the Council's desire to ensure that WM is given priority and links into the National Welsh Language Strategy. Further funding opportunities have been identified and secured to build a new start up Welsh Medium Area Primary school to be located in an area of known Welsh medium demand and to serve nearby areas in the Northeast of the county. Other funding opportunities through the Welsh Government community facility and childcare capital grant are also being reviewed to provide capital investment enhancing Welsh medium learning provision.

Voluntary Aided schools are maintained jointly by the County Council and either the Church in Wales or the Roman Catholic Church. Aided schools also have access to separate capital funding streams directly through the Welsh Government. The Council continues to work successfully in partnership with the Diocesan Authorities to ensure that Aided schools are appropriately located and fit for purpose.

In September 2022 the Pupil Level Annual School Census showed the 64 primary schools had a total capacity of 14,123 full time places and had 11,747 total numbers on roll (NOR), which is a surplus of 16.82%. 11 Schools in the secondary sector had a total capacity of 10,718 with 9,716 NOR and 9.35% surplus places. When combined, these figures equate to 13.1% average surplus places across the school network, which is higher than the maximum national target of 10%.

Unfilled places in September 2022 were 3,378. This is an improvement on statistics produced in January 2013, when there were some 4,000 unfilled places in Flintshire schools distributed across primary and secondary schools. The proposals contained within the Strategic Outline Plan (SOP) for the Band B 21st Century schools investment programme, should they be implemented, will reduce unfilled places in schools to near the national target.

Pupil number projections methodology are aligned with other authorities across the region and are completed twice per year, these are linked to school data returns, namely, January PLASC and September PLASC returns. The capacity assessments are conducted using the Welsh Government's Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales methodology and are audited once per year.

The Council has an up-to-date Asset Management system and data from the system is used to influence decision making on capital investment in the school network. Priorities for investment for the schools' capital programme are clear, linked to the School Modernisation Strategy and are funded and based upon up-to-date information.

In 2016/17 suitability surveys were commissioned and conducted across the schools' portfolio based on national guidance. Despite the significant investment through 21st Century Schools programme and the Council's own capital programme, it is estimated that an investment more than £130m is still required to address suitability issues across the schools' network.

Table 14: Suitability of Primary and Secondary School Buildings

Suitability Grade	No of Schools	Percentage %
A	11	14.67%
B	24	32%
C	38	50.67%
D	2	2.66%

School condition surveys are re-assessed in line with national asset management guidance on a five-year cycle, with the repair & maintenance (R&M) backlog estimated in excess of £10.7m, a substantial improvement from the £35m backlog reported in the 2010 SOP.

Table 15: Condition of Primary and Secondary School Buildings

Condition Grade	No of Schools	Percentage %
A	5	6.67%
B	61	81.33%
C	9	12%
D	0	0.00%

Flintshire County Council has no schools in condition 'D' as this would mean that the school building life would have expired or be at risk of imminent failure.

The Council consults with children and young people, parents, school governors and staff and other relevant stakeholders prior to making proposals for any school modernisation change. The consultation process involves the completion and presentation of impact assessments around community, transport, buildings, equalities and language and includes a financial appraisal.

The responses from each formal consultation process are presented to the Council's Cabinet, along with the impact assessment, options appraisal and officer recommendations. Cabinet then decides on how to progress. For all construction projects the Head Teacher or nominated person from the school forms part of the "operational team".

Flintshire consults other admission authorities and coordinates admission arrangements with neighbouring authorities, including common dates of return and common offer dates. Flintshire participates in the regional North Wales Admissions Group to coordinate admissions arrangements and develop/deliver joint training. The Council is represented at the ADEW School Admissions Officers' Group and is aware of national and Welsh Government initiatives in the service.

The composite prospectus, "Guide to Education Services" is reviewed and published annually and is

made available online to all parents on 1st September each year, as part of the annual admissions round. Feedback from Welsh Government on the composite prospectus has been incorporated into the Guide.

Mos parental preferences continue to be met (96%). All appeals are held before the end of the academic year and any appeals outside the timetabled admissions process are head, where practicable, within 30 school days in accordance with the School Appeals Code. Panel members are trained in accordance with the Appeals Code, and advertising, recruitment and training of panel members takes place every 3 years jointly with other admission authorities. This is a cost-effective way of managing recruitment and training and ensures consistency across the region.

Applications for mid-term transfers are made online and every effort is made to process the application to admit pupils within 10 school days. Flintshire's Managed Moves Protocol is currently undergoing another review with Headteachers to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

Music Services for Schools

Music services for Flintshire schools are now delivered by Theatr Clwyd Music which was established in 2020 when Theatr Clwyd adopted the Flintshire Music Service to ensure this discretionary service was protected in the face of significant financial challenges for the Council. Flintshire pupils continue to have access to high quality individual, group and whole class music tuition. Learners have the opportunity to undertake music examinations and progress to county ensembles and national music groups. The Council works in partnership with the Theatr Clwyd Music Trust to maximise the impact of new national funding for music services provided by Welsh Government via the Welsh Local Government Association.

2. Quality of Education Services Areas Summary

Areas for ongoing improvement & sustainability
- Continue to support schools with the implementation of ALNET   - Increase access to education, employment and training for young people in the YJS   - Consolidate the outreach support and training for schools provided by Plas Derwen (PRU)   - Continue to strengthen links between the Portfolio and its secondary schools with the North Wales Economic Ambition Board to maximise learner access to apprenticeships and employment opportunities through the 14-19 strategy   - Continue to improve the school estate through the school modernisation and capital investment strategy   - Implement year 2 of the 5 year action plan from the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan   - Roll out the National Framework for embedding a Whole School Approach to Emotional Health and Wellbeing   - Improve provision for children with Autism   - Refresh and embed the strategy for Youth Service provision   - Continue to work collectively across schools and council services to mitigate the impacts of poverty and reduce inequality.   - Share the early identification framework for youth homelessness and NEET through appropriate fora such as the Youth Engagement Progression Framework partnership, to ensure that all partners identify those at risk of poor or non-attendance, exclusion or homelessness in order to provide a coordinated and collective response.

INSPECTION AREA 3: LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

3.1 Quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers

The Council benefits from strong leadership with an effective working relationship between professional officers and elected members, led by the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council. This is demonstrated through the portfolio structure within the Council where Cabinet Lead Members and Chief Officers work closely together to successfully achieve corporate priorities. This is exemplified in key documents such as the Council Plan and Well-Being Plan which are focused on improving outcomes for Flintshire communities and their residents, including children and young people.

Programme Boards are in place for each portfolio and are attended by the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, designated Cabinet Members, Chief Officer and senior managers. The Education and Youth Programme Board provides a purposeful platform for developing the strategic direction of the portfolio, informs policy development and ensures performance oversight. A robust and transparent scrutiny process ensures that there is continuous challenge of performance and evaluation of impact. Cabinet reports, Overview & Scrutiny reports, performance monitoring reports and risk registers are jointly owned by members and officers.

The leadership structure and hierarchy of accountability within the Council, both from an elected member and an officer perspective, is clearly articulated and understood. Roles and responsibilities are clearly documented and there is a constructive working relationship between officers and members that delivers an appropriate level of challenge to the work of the portfolio to ensure the best outcomes for learners but also ensures that positive impacts and successes are celebrated.

Professional and political leadership is used effectively to manage the Council's core business of providing quality and responsive public services in the face of long-term austerity, the ongoing impacts of the Covid pandemic and challenging budget settlements year on year. This has been clearly demonstrated by the collective problem solving by senior officers and elected members in managing the Council's financial strategy and achieving legally balanced budgets whilst protecting and sustaining services. Financial planning processes are robust with high levels of scrutiny and assurance. Officer and elected members have a track record of working together constructively and with clear purpose on difficult issues. This has been reflected in decisions taken e.g. the management of the school estate and the additional financial support provided for services supporting pupils with Additional Learning Needs and deficit budgets in secondary schools.

The Council's approach to strategic leadership is underpinned by public service values. Within the context of delivery of services to children and young people there is a moral commitment to delivery in an inclusive, nurturing and worthwhile way which enables them to successfully embrace adult life and become responsible, independent, economically active and resilient citizens. This is clearly reflected in the structure and priorities of the Council Plan which reflect the Welsh Government's Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles and the Well-being Goals of the Future Generations (Wales) Act and focus on six core areas:

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

The Council has a good track record of communicating with residents, service users, its workforce and wider stakeholders through external and internal processes. There is a strong culture of engagement and inclusivity when agreeing priorities. An example of this is the Council's post-Covid recovery plan and Wellbeing Assessment and Action plan and in its work through the Public Service Board. What matters to communities is integral to priority setting and resource allocation. From an educational perspective this can be seen in its engagement work around the budget settlement for schools, in its consultations around school organisational change, in the School Health Research Network surveys and action plans and in other key areas e.g. youth service provision, play and childcare sufficiency.

The Council is proactive in making difficult decisions and where needed, the professional and political leadership intervene effectively to overcome obstacles. Systems leadership and the delegation of resources support the efforts to place the learner first and protect the quality of education and support services. This has been exemplified in the work by all officers and elected members to set legally balanced budgets in the face of significant financial challenge. Despite these financial challenges, delegation rates to schools to protect front line services are above the Welsh average and additional funding to protect schools' budgets are challenged in wherever possible. Over the previous two years, the Council made considerable progress in reducing the number of schools in a deficit position, a recommendation from the inspection of its education services in 2019, by targeting additional financial resources for secondary schools. However, with the current level of financial challenge facing the Council which resulted in a 3% cut to the funding earmarked for schools' delegated budgets for the financial year 2023-24, the impact is being seen in a reduction in the level of school balances and more schools at risk of being in deficit.

Across all education services commissioned by the Council over the value of £25k, social value is considered and included as a key priority. Social value is separately weighted during the procurement process, and supply chain partners are expected to monitor and report against the generation of localised social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being outcomes, in order to evidence value for money and social return on investment. A significant amount of social value is generated through education services including; the creation of local employment and training opportunities, retention of local people in employment, employee upskilling, growth of the local economy through a commitment to local spend, investment in local community needs projects, increased engagement with local schools through investment and volunteer time to assist in the delivery of the Curriculum for Wales, and waste reduction through implementing circular economy solutions to reduce, reuse and recycle waste. Two recent school capital projects at Ysgol Brynford and Ysgol Castell Alun achieved £968k in social value outcomes.

There is strong corporate and political support for Education and Youth Services across the Council. Political and officer leadership of Education is innovative and pragmatic. Education priorities are exemplified in corporate and portfolio level plans and are regularly scrutinised through the quarterly monitoring reports presented to Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees. The annual performance report for the period 2022-23 showed 98% of actions on track and just over 80% of performance indicators met. The positive impact of this approach has been that the needs and priorities of pupils have been consistently supported both by officers and elected members.

Elected members effectively undertake their statutory duties and make a worthwhile contribution to the development and progress of statutory plans. They also show real commitment to safeguarding the welfare of vulnerable learners. Reports presented to the Education, Youth and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee are thoroughly reviewed by members and officers are appropriately challenged. Members are also positive in their acknowledgement of the work of officers and the impact of their services on children and young people. There is strong member engagement in the following areas relevant to children and young people:

- The Welsh in Education Forum
- The Corporate Parenting Forum
- The Corporate Safeguarding Panel
- The Schools Standards Quality Board
- The Youth Justice Executive Board
- The Education Consultative Committee
- SACRE
- School Budget Forum
- Regional School Improvement (GwE) Joint Committee

Senior leaders and managers communicate high expectations for securing improvement and challenge schools to good effect through a range of forums. For school improvement these include regular meetings with the head teacher community, working through nominated representatives on the primary and secondary Head Teacher Federations, School Performance Monitoring Group and other specific groups e.g. Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator Forum, County Curriculum Steering Group and Emotional Health and Well-Being Strategy Group, Digital Advisory Group and Welsh in Education Strategic Forum. There is also effective monitoring and challenge for other areas of provision through the Youth Justice Executive Board, Children's Services Forum and the Corporate Safeguarding Panel. The key objectives of the Public Service Board are clearly aligned with the Council's and Portfolio's strategic improvement plans.

The Council and its partners have a clear commitment to learners and to developing a learning culture in the county, from early years to adulthood. They understand the impact of national and regional priorities and how these impacts on decision making locally for services e.g. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act, Education in Wales - Our National Mission, Cymraeg 2050 – Welsh Language Strategy and the North Wales Economic Growth Deal.

Whilst a lean team in terms of personnel, senior leaders in the Education Portfolio work in a collegiate way with a range of strategic partners across public services to set high level priorities together for the young people of Flintshire. They are well respected by elected members, external partners, regional colleagues and school leaders. There are effective performance management arrangements which bring about improvements. Managers ensure that objectives for individual officers link well to operational and strategic priorities.

The Council works effectively with GwE (Regional School Improvement Service). Since the inception of the service in 2013, there has been a good track record of engagement with the service to support its development and robust scrutiny of the service in holding it accountable for the scope of its delivery on behalf of Flintshire. GwE officers participate fully in Flintshire business and understand and contribute to the vision, aims and objectives of the Council. This is evidenced by the way in which GwE Business Plans support the Portfolio's Business Plan and the Council Plan. Roles and responsibilities of GwE officers in contributing to the delivery of the service within Flintshire are clearly articulated. This mutually supportive, yet challenging culture fostered between GwE and Flintshire officers, helps the Council maintain its focus on outcomes for learners across all phases. The Chief Officer for Education in Flintshire is currently the Lead Director on the GwE Management Board.

All schools have chosen to access the Human Resources, Employment Services and Occupational Health SLA provision which provides for a range of services to assist them in complying with their 'people related' statutory responsibilities and operational/ business obligations. Customer led solutions

manifest themselves in a wide range of service delivery including model policy and information provision, confidential telephone and face to face support, Heads Federation and cluster group briefings, conference sessions, case conferences and discrete advisory session. The take up rates, activity levels and repeat business support consistent 'buy back' levels and evidence that these services are valued and contribute significantly to school performance. Relationships between school leaders and central service providers are very good and the ethos is to support school leaders in their management functions.

Relationships between senior Council officers and trade union representatives are good and there is a high degree of engagement on key issues through the Education Consultative Committee and other statutory groups e.g. School Budget Forum. There is also a good level of informal interaction between the Portfolio's HR officers and local union representatives in individual school processes e.g. redundancy, absence management etc.

3.2 Self-Evaluation processes and improvement planning

The Council has a well-established process of evaluation, review and challenge. Leaders, managers and elected members have an accurate understanding of the Council's strengths and weaknesses. They routinely make good use of a range of rigorous monitoring activities.

The Education Portfolio undertakes a wide range of self-evaluation activities, first at a service level analysing any available data and first-hand evidence to make accurate evaluations of the quality and impact of individual services. The arrangements also identify clearly the areas for improvement and help ensure that progress against strategic plans are reviewed effectively and timely interventions made. This is then fed up into the Portfolio's overall evaluation of its annual Business Plan and into the Portfolio Annual Self Evaluation Report. This then links to the Council Plan which is regularly reviewed by Chief Officers and senior managers and reported on regularly to Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees.

Through its joint working with GwE there are clearly defined plans for primary and secondary schools which are agreed between the Chief Education Officer and Senior Manager for School Improvement and GwE Core Lead Officers. Agreed priorities in the business plans are based firmly on the findings of self-evaluation processes within schools. The plans accurately identify key issues and include bespoke improvement plans to address the specific challenges, drawing on the resources of both GwE and the Council's own services. Plans are regularly updated to reflect the outcomes of whole school reviews and support visits commissioned by the Education Portfolio. Progress towards achieving the agreed outcomes are regularly reviewed by the Senior Manager for School Improvement and the GwE Core Leads. This then feeds into termly Quality Board meetings with the Cabinet Member for Education, Chair of Education, Youth and Culture Scrutiny Committee, the Chief Executive and the Chief Officer for Education and Youth. This ensures that strategic leaders are fully informed on school performance in Flintshire.

The Portfolio works swiftly and effectively with GwE Officers to address 'Schools Causing Concern' and 360° support plans are put in place. Where rapid progress in some schools has been required, Accelerated Improvement Boards (AIB) have been used successfully to oversee progress. When deployed, these Boards meet regularly and include key officers of the Portfolio, GwE and school leaders, including governors. Where required, the Chief Officer has used statutory powers of intervention and established Interim Executive Boards (IEB) to replace traditional governance models. This has been successful in improving the pace of improvement in identified schools. GwE senior officers support the IEB alongside senior LA managers. At the current time there are no schools in Flintshire which have either an Accelerated Improvement Board or an Interim Executive Board.

Where it is available, education officers use data effectively to ensure areas for improvement are identified quickly and addressed robustly through detailed business planning. As a result, the quality of information shared within Flintshire is of a high standard, enabling members to scrutinise and challenge progress effectively. With the Welsh Government decision to remove a range of data sets that were traditionally used for accountability purposes, officers of the Local Authority, Elected Members and GwE Officers continue to enhance ways to effectively monitor performance and measure progress.

Education officers within the Council focus well on joint planning and resourcing as well as building capacity for continuous improvement. The Portfolio has strong links with the community, has good liaison and communication with schools, engages positively with parents and carers and works effectively with other Council portfolios and external agencies enabling officers to deliver joined-up programmes that improve outcomes and wellbeing for learners. Good examples of this include the statutory processes around provision for children with Additional Learning Needs, the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Steering Group, the Adult Learning Partnership with Wrexham County Borough Council and provision through the Youth and Youth Justice Services.

The Portfolio engages well with partners, service users and other stakeholders in its evaluation processes and in planning for improvement. For example, the Youth Services Strategy "Multiplying Impact" featured robust engagement of young people's representatives in its development. Any aspect of school organisational change includes consultation with the children and young people potentially impacted and school leaders are regularly consulted directly or through the Federations on major issues. The Council supports schools to make good use of surveys to improve provision and outcomes e.g. School Health Research Network and Sports Surveys and has engaged learners in evaluative activities in relation to school meal provision. Several young people from across Flintshire secondary schools were instrumental in developing and delivering the first ever 'Celebrating being Me' event alongside the Youth Service and Healthy Schools team in June this year.

The Council uses a corporate database for the recording of complaints, concerns and requests for services. A senior manager within the Portfolio is the link officer for complaints. Parental complaints about schools have to be re-directed back to the individual school to be dealt with via their own complaints' procedures. Complainants are advised of the correct procedure and as necessary, the Portfolio provides support to schools on ensuring its procedures are in line with the national guidance. On-line complaints training is available to all governing bodies. During the period April 2022 to March 2023, there were 6 formal complaints against the Portfolio received via the Council's Complaints process. These were in relation to school admissions, refusal of free school transport; statutory breach to ensure a school has a policy; SEN support and reference to drug use during a Community Justice project. No complaint was upheld. There were no complaints in relation to education services in Flintshire investigated by the Ombudsman in 2022-2023.

The Council is compliant with the requirement regarding partnership agreements with its schools.

3.3 Professional Learning

Relationships between the Education Portfolio and schools are strong and productive. Regular head teacher meetings and the partnership groups in the consultative structure form an effective mechanism for raising issues and agreeing actions to tackle them. Flintshire benefits from well-established learning networks within and across schools, and more widely across the region, enabling schools to develop and share their professional knowledge. Working in clusters and alliances has developed well in Flintshire over the last few years with all schools engaging in this co-operative learning approach. Key areas such as Additional Learning Needs, Digital Learning and Welsh Language have all benefitted

from a cluster training and support model.

Flintshire schools engage effectively with the range of professional development opportunities provided by GwE and the Council for school leaders, teachers and support staff at all levels. Flintshire staff have access to a comprehensive learning continuum provided by GwE which delivers appropriate training at all stages of professional development, from Newly Qualified Teacher to Executive Headteacher. Data shows that the take up of these opportunities from Flintshire schools is very positive. Staff within the Education Portfolio are able to access professional development opportunities within GwE where appropriate e.g. curriculum reform.

The Portfolio facilitates a professional network for deputy heads from across Flintshire primary schools. The network meets half termly and during the last academic year, seventeen primary colleagues from different schools shared good practice on aspects including positive behaviour management, assessment and curriculum planning. The senior Primary Learning Adviser brokers shadowing visits for deputies to other schools and signposts coaching opportunities to those seeking to further develop their leadership roles.

As part of the national Hub programme for digital learning, the Portfolio performs the intelligent client function for Ed Tech across all schools. This work is led by the Hwb Board, jointly chaired by the Chief Officer for Education and Youth and the Chief Officer for Governance. Annual meetings are held with all schools to ensure that they are meeting the requirements of the HWB programme and that sustainability of the IT infrastructure remains a key priority. The Portfolio brokers support for schools to develop provision in line with the digital competence framework and facilitates the sharing of effective practice through termly digital leader meetings. Bespoke professional development is provided for portfolio education colleagues on digital learning and recent technology. Flintshire has allocated funding during this academic year for schools and the English as an Additional Language Service to continue to support pupils who are digitally disadvantaged. This should enable up to 100 learners if required, to have additional resources to learn at home or within school to catch up and extend their learning and skills.

Partnership activities make a strong contribution to widening the range of choices for learners and this has benefits for their standards and wellbeing. The Council takes a leading role in developing joint working practices and promotes trust and good communication between partners. These include effective partnerships between the Council, North Wales Police, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, Youth Justice Board, Coleg Cambria, Wrexham Glyndwr University, Flintshire Local Voluntary Council and other local education authorities.

Partnership working between the Portfolio, further and higher education establishments, employers and secondary schools in developing the work of the 14-19 network is good. They successfully promote co-operation and enable school governors, Coleg Cambria, employers and the Council to plan, monitor and resource an effective 14-19 curriculum that meets the needs of learners.

The school improvement team works collaboratively to support schools in accessing appropriate services and educational activities. During the last academic year, ten schools provided adult community learning sessions and ten schools ran well-being sessions with a variety of mentors, introducing projects such as Foster Bear, working in partnership with social services.

One priority in the portfolio business plan has been to support schools to further improve provision for outdoor learning. Eighteen primary colleagues completed level 2 qualifications and six completed level 3. Thirty-five colleagues attended full day professional development courses on new curriculum projects based in the outdoors at Halkyn mountain and Talacre with a particular focus on Religion,

Values and Ethics (RVE). Following the implementation of the new Agreed Syllabus for RVE for primary schools in September 2022, the portfolio has also established a termly RVE network which has been well attended.

The Welsh Advisory Team in the Portfolio activelyencourages school staff at all levels, including head teachers, to engage in the Welsh Government sabbatical training programmes for practitioners who wish to teach through the medium of Welsh or wish to improve their Welsh-language skills. This is a key component of the Council's Welsh in Education Plan which has been approved by Welsh Ministers. Take up across the different sabbatical options are good and Flintshire staff represent a sizeable proportion of each cohort. This is extending the number of employees with improved Welsh language skills, which is contributing to the improving quality of provision for learners in both English and Welsh medium schools. The manager of the Welsh Advisory Team is a key member of the Regional Welsh Language Board. During the COVID-19 pandemic the Welsh Advisory Team rapidly and successfully adapted their professional learning offer from face to face to digital delivery which was very welcomed by schools.

The professional learning offer supports current school leaders across Flintshire but also invests in developing leaders of the future. Subscription rates to the NPQH and Aspiring Heads courses from Flintshire staff are strong. Newly appointed headteachers are supported through development programmes and are also allocated mentors and leadership coaches.

Networking and peer-to-peer work is a positive feature in Flintshire schools. This collaborative work has led to a shared understanding of what constitutes good leadership. Collaborative practice amongst leaders is reinforced through strategic forums, at both headteacher and deputy level. These forums support strong effective communication and nurture a mutual sense of common responsibility for the development of responses and actions to local and national challenges.

The Council promotes professional learning for its core portfolio team through structured learning opportunities, most visible through the Flintshire Academi Infonet, which provides learning and e-learning modules on leadership and management, personal development, specific professional development, equality and diversity, Welsh language, health and safety and ICT. Education Portfolio staff also access training opportunities offered by GwE e.g. the development of the new curriculum.

The Council has a well-established and successful Trainee (Apprentice scheme). The Council recruit local people every year to undertake work-based qualifications. The outcome of the scheme over the last 5 years is very positive.

- **97%** of those who have undertaken an FCC Apprenticeship have had a positive outcome.

  - The percentage of those gaining employment within the Authority after completing the programme **79%**
  - The percentage of those gaining employment externally **12%**
  - The percentage of those moving on to Higher Education or other professional training programmes **6%**

The positive outcomes have remained excellent due to Chief Officer intervention to prioritise apprentices who could not gain employment due to the recruitment freeze during the pandemic. The Council also took the brave decision to recruit apprentices during 2021, no other large employers in the area did this, as pandemic restrictions remained in place within workplaces in Wales.

All staff benefit from the annual appraisal scheme which ensures personal and professional objectives are linked to the annual corporate service and portfolio plans. Centrally employed teaching staff have statutory performance management. The process enables employees and managers to explore individual strengths and identify wider opportunities for these to be utilised effectively. These opportunities support succession planning at a time where central services remain under pressure from financial and recruitment/retention challenges, particularly post-pandemic and also focus strongly on staff wellbeing.

As part of its People Strategy, the Council takes a proactive approach to talent spotting and succession planning. Senior managers regularly identify officers who have potential and signpost them to learning opportunities to develop their skills. Many officers within the Portfolio have accessed professional development e.g. Institute of Leadership & Management qualifications and NVQs through a partnership arrangement with Coleg Cambria. Senior managers are identified for external learning opportunities through Academi Wales and SOLACE (Chief Executives' professional association).

Senior managers network and share good practice through quarterly Flintshire Academi sessions which not only provide key updates but also are the driver for developing cross-cutting policies and strategies e.g. the Council's People Strategy and Carbon Reduction Strategy. Specifically within the Portfolio, there are termly workshops for service managers to share updates, future plans and engage in consultation and professional development opportunities. There is a comprehensive online training programme available for all staff of the Council to access on corporate training priorities e.g. safeguarding, GDPR, leadership and management etc. Networking by senior managers through representation on various groups of the Association of Directors of Education in Wales ensures service planning is informed by current and best practice from across Wales. The Chief Officer for Education in Flintshire was elected to the Chair of ADEW for a two year period from May 2023 and is providing strategic leadership at a national level.

However, in more recent times, and particularly since the pandemic, there have been increasing challenges in recruiting into key posts both in the Education Portfolio and in schools. Educational psychology, youth work, youth justice work and IT systems administration have all experienced difficulties recruiting appropriately qualified staff with adverts having to be go out multiple times and Head teachers are reporting challenges in recruiting skilled classroom support staff as well as key roles such as caretakers. In the secondary sector there are recruitment challenges in key subjects including Welsh, Mathematics and the science subjects. Recruitment in the Welsh medium sector is even more challenging. The recruitment difficulties in relation to school cooks, catering staff and cleaners has also had an adverse impact on the Council's key partner, NEWydd, which has sometimes made their service delivery to schools challenging at times.

3.4 Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a corporate priority set out in the annual Council Plan and the Council has robust arrangements in place across all areas. The Corporate Safeguarding Policy provides a framework for all council services to safeguard and protect children and adults, ensuring that all are fully aware of their responsibilities. This policy applies to Flintshire County Council employees, councillors, volunteers and organisations commissioned to provide services on behalf of the Council. Flintshire County Council is a member of the North Wales Safeguarding Children's Board (NWSCB) and North Wales Safeguarding Adults' Board (NWSAB).

The Corporate Safeguarding Panel is well established and includes representation from all portfolios, including Education and Youth, to ensure that all services integrate safeguarding awareness into the

way they work. This panel receives information regarding the working practices and procedures of every service in the Council, providing assurance that the services are meeting their duties in accordance with the Corporate Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines and reports to Cabinet on an annual basis.

The Chief Officer for Education and Youth ensures that all the statutory requirements in terms of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults receive due consideration and that effective safeguarding arrangements operate within the Education and Youth portfolio at the three levels of responsibility of strategic, support and operational.

In order to further sharpen the focus on safeguarding, the Education Portfolio has established its own Safeguarding Panel, and this is attended by senior managers within Education and with representation from Children's Services. It has clearly defined terms of reference, an action plan and ensures that communication up to, and down from, the Corporate Safeguarding Panel is effective.

The Senior Manager for School Improvement has the lead strategic responsibility for Safeguarding in the Portfolio and is the designated contact for officers and schools. The Learning Adviser for Health, Wellbeing and Safeguarding is the deputy designated contact who provides operational activity support, including attendance at national and regional safeguarding meetings. This officer also co-ordinates training for schools, governors and portfolio staff and provides model policies for schools. There is effective communication between Education and Youth and other portfolios in the Council as well as with external partners. An annual safeguarding report is presented to the joint Health and Social Care/Education, Youth and Culture Scrutiny Committee to provide members with the assurance that safeguarding functions are being appropriately delivered and having a positive impact on the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

The Portfolio has appropriate arrangements for the strategic planning for safeguarding within both the core education service and schools, which includes monitoring. The safeguarding model policy for schools is updated regularly in line with revised national guidance (Keeping Learners Safe and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures). A structured training programme is in place which includes Level 3 training for new designated safeguarding persons (DSPs) and refresher training for existing DSPs, Level 2 safeguarding for managers and senior leaders including lead governor for safeguarding. Governor awareness training is also delivered termly. Materials and support are provided to DSPs to deliver regular basic awareness training to all school staff. Safeguarding basic awareness, and updates are also incorporated into local authority headteacher meetings and into planned LA training programmes for newly qualified teachers (NQTs) and new and acting headteachers. In addition, key safeguarding themes are addressed on a rolling programme including Prevent and Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual violence (VAWDASV). There are strong relationships with key local partners including North Wales Police, Hafan Cymru and the NSPCC.

During the 22/23 academic year 371 staff accessed Levels 2 and 3 safeguarding training from 23 courses. The number of attendees on training has continued to increase year on year from 262 staff in 20/21 from 15 courses to 299 staff in 21/22 from 17 equivalent courses. When including training from governor awareness courses, digital resilience and harmful sexualised behaviour for 22/23 the total number of staff trained was 423 staff from 29 courses.

The level 2 and 3 courses (including refresher and full course for new safeguarding leads) continue to be delivered online. The number of participants per course is limited to 20 to ensure the quality of the delivery and maximise opportunities for engagement. This year, the training reintroduced the input from colleagues in social services, following a pause during the pandemic, which has been

incredibly valuable to ensure key messages and local context is very much part of our delivery content.

Feedback from headteachers confirm the training and support for schools is welcomed and effective. Evaluation forms are completed at the end of each training delivery and the information is reviewed on an individual basis in addition to any immediate response that can be implemented. Feedback is also included in the annual report to the North Wales Regional Safeguarding Children's Board.

Support materials and model lessons for teachers at secondary level are produced to support schools to raise awareness of National Safeguarding Week each year.

Excellent partnership working with Theatr Clwyd has resulted in a powerful drama workshop for Key Stage 3 pupils on the issue of consent, that has proved highly effective in enhancing pupils' knowledge and skills in keeping themselves safe and encouraged some young people to come forward to request individual support. This year, the Consent Project was delivered in 10 mainstream secondary schools, targeting year 9 learners.

The Portfolio and schools operate safe recruitment procedures and make sure that all appropriate checks are carried out. All schools are routinely reminded of their responsibilities under Section 28 of the Children Act and as outlined in the Welsh Government guidance - Keeping Learners Safe. There is regular monitoring activity through audit procedures. Schools have been provided with a model annual monitoring report for school leaders to use to report to their governing bodies and the LA on safeguarding matters.

The purpose of completing the safeguarding audit tool is to support all schools to review their safeguarding arrangements in line with the Welsh Government guidance **Keeping Learners Safe (2022).** The audit tool is intended to help schools identify strengths and weaknesses in their safeguarding arrangements. As well as checking whether the school has robust safeguarding policies and practices in place, the tool asks headteachers/ designated safeguarding persons to make professional judgements on how effective and comprehensive they are by using the Red/Amber/Green (RAG) rating. Schools have a benchmark against which to work to continually develop and improve.

Flintshire schools were asked to complete the audit tool, in addition to the Safeguarding Children Annual Report in spring term 2022. The annual report is completed by schools for monitoring and includes review of DBS checks, staff training and policies. 74 from 78 schools returned a completed audit tool and all 78 completed the annual report. Data was reviewed and results shared with headteacher federations and individual schools were approached where further clarification or bespoke support was required. The Chief Officer wrote to all headteachers to highlight the common themes that were identified upon review of the audit tool/annual reports. Support has been prioritised accordingly; either on an individual school level or through a broader approach, including training or policy development or updates.

The audit tool will be requested for submission every two years with schools encouraged to update on an ongoing basis. The request for the Safeguarding Children Annual Report is scheduled to continue every 12 months. Submissions received are 27 from 78 at this point in the academic year, which is a decrease from previous years and in the main, as a consequence of the national action short of strike. The annual reports are currently under review and the findings will be shared in the autumn term.

Between April 2022 and June 2023, 15 primary schools, one Pupil Referral Unit and two secondary schools were inspected. All were judged to have safeguarding arrangements that meet requirements and provide no cause for concern. Three primary schools had health and safety issues relating to site security identified and the local authority provided advice and support to those schools in quickly responding to the issues raised.

The strategic lead for safeguarding and the learning adviser work effectively in partnership with managers from social services and the human resources team in the management of allegations against members of staff from schools. Online safety is an area regularly considered by the Education, Youth and Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The Council actively encourages all schools to use the 360° Safe Cymru Tool and the All Wales School Liaison Core Programme. The IT Service Level Agreement provides for web filtering in schools.

3.5 Use of resources

Flintshire's response to funding reductions in recent years has been measured and appropriate. The Council has adopted a systematic approach to ensure that efficiencies are secured across all services and the organisation has embraced alternative models of delivery where appropriate. There are plenty of examples of good practice and innovation within the Council.

Education reform and investment has remained a priority for the Council despite the challenging financial climate. The high strategic priority given to the education service is reflected in the Council's allocation of both revenue and capital resources. The schools' delegated budgets have been generally protected from efficiency reductions in recent years until the difficult decision taken this year to cut 3% from the earmarked uplift for schools, reducing it to 5.1% rather than the 8.1% originally planned. Risks related to the impact of poor funding on the quality of education services have been clearly set out and are understood by elected members and head teachers. The Council reviews the outcomes of its financial plans to make sure that funding is spent wisely and has a positive impact on standards.

The school funding formula is regularly reviewed in consultation with schools and reported to the School Budget Forum. Staffing, accommodation and financial resources are effectively managed and deployed to support learning and improvement. Partnership activity provides good value for money because it contributes to extensive opportunities and improved outcomes for learners in aspects which the Council and its schools alone could not provide.

The Council is committed to an ambitious school modernisation investment programme by maximising Welsh Government's Sustainable Learning Communities funding (previously 21st Century Schools) and its own capital funding. Flintshire is also a Pathfinder Council for the new Mutual Investment Model created by Welsh Government to deliver a new 3-16 learning campus in Mynydd Isa which will be the Council's first net zero carbon school in operation. The Council has also secured funding in recent times through Welsh Government's additional grant funding streams for Small and Rural Schools Infant Class Sizes, Welsh Medium, Childcare, Community Learning and Community Facilities and Additional Learning Needs. The Council has also maximised its investment programme through seeking additional external funding through Sports Wales to support schools to improve their facilities. The Council has a positive reputation for delivering quality projects on time and within budget.

The Council currently has an estimated Repair & Maintenance (R&M) of approximately £10.79m, which is a substantial improvement from the £35m backlog reported in the 2010 Strategic Outline Programme and has been achieved through targeted capital investment. However, the level of R&M remains a risk and is strategically linked to the Band B of the Sustainable Communities for Learning

Programme.

In response to a recommendation in its Estyn inspection of 2019, the Council had made significant progress in reducing the number of schools in deficit. It refreshed its policy for the management and monitoring of schools' deficits which is robustly applied. There are effective working relationships between senior council officers and school leaders to ensure an appropriate level of both challenge and support to control spending and reduce deficits in schools. With the level of inflationary pressures experienced over the last year and the 3% real terms cut to school budgets in this financial year, the number of schools declaring a deficit position is going to increase in the financial year 23-24. This worsening financial position is also reflected in a significant rise in the number of redundancies in teaching and support staff across the school network at the end of this academic year. Where balances are above the recommended levels, schools are required to submit spending plans to clearly demonstrate how resources are being invested appropriately for the benefit of current learners. An annual report on school balances is presented to the Council's Cabinet and Audit & Governance Committee for member scrutiny.

The Portfolio's services are heavily dependent on funding from Welsh Government through the Local Authority Education Grant and the Education Improvement Grant and any reduction/removal of these grants poses a risk. This is carefully monitored through the risk management processes within the portfolio and more widely across the Council. Nevertheless, there is clear evidence that grant funding is maximised to support strategic priorities and deliver quality services and drive positive change. Late notification from external funders for some services e.g. Youth Justice can make strategic planning difficult and create uncertainty within the workforce, impacting on recruitment and retention. In the best examples of targeted funding streams, early bespoke interventions with families make measurable contributions to improved educational outcomes.

There are detailed and rigorous financial management processes across the Council and regular reviews of portfolio budgets to ensure value for money and the identification of efficiencies. Cost pressures and other financial risks e.g. price volatility and inflation, are closely monitored. The Education and Youth Portfolio has delivered £3m of efficiencies through the business planning process over the last eight years. These efficiencies have been achieved whilst ensuring high quality services continue to meet need. Through regular portfolio budget management processes, senior managers take responsibility for their services budgets and are well supported by the corporate finance team. However, the Portfolio's budget has limited capacity for further efficiencies to support the Council's medium term financial strategy and is also facing a greater demand for services than ever before, particularly in relation to Additional Learning Needs and Education other than at School provision.

With a significant proportion of its budget used to commission the regional school improvement service, it is important that the Council is reassured that GwE has effective financial management processes in place. Communication and consultation about financial arrangements are effective with both core funding and grant-expenditure kept under regular review by GwE, the host local authority, the Joint Committee and all Chief Executives across the region. Detailed work has been undertaken to align grant allocations with priorities. Supporting Improvement Advisers to challenge schools on their use of grant funding to improve pupil outcomes remains a priority.

Overall, the Council's education services, including schools, continue to provide good value for money.

3. Leadership & Management Summary

Areas for ongoing improvement & sustainability
 • Maintain rigorous budgetary monitoring and management processes to protect the sustainability of Council funding in challenging financial times to protect the delivery of quality education services. • Maintain the effective monitoring and governance of the education service to drive continuous school improvement and deliver positive outcomes for learners. • Continue to improve the school estate through the School Modernisation Strategy and the maximisation of Welsh Government funding streams.

Tudalen 306

| **CABINET** | |

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 19th September 2023
Report Subject	Business Rates – Write Offs
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Individual bad debts more than £25,000, requires Cabinet to approve recommendations to write off debts.

A Business Rates debt totalling £36,798.60 for Outsourced Fulfilment Services Limited has been deemed to be irrecoverable, especially as the ratepayer is registered as an overseas company.

The company is not a UK listed company on Companies House and is registered in Hong Kong. The business rate liability ended from 23rd April 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS	
1	That Cabinet approve the Business Rate write off totalling £36,798.60 for Outsourced Fulfilment Services Limited.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAIING THE BACKGROUND TO THE WRITE OFF REQUEST
1.01	Outsourced Fullfilment Services Limited is a company registered in Hong Kong and was determined to be liable to pay empty business rates from March 2022 to April 2023 for the premises listed as 'The Original Factory Shop', Brunswick Road, Buckley.
1.02	The property has been vacant since September 2018. However, the unit has had two different previous short-term tenants liable to pay business rates for the period 19th September 2018 to 28th February 2022. These previous tenants were incorporated shortly before their lease commenced and entered insolvency quickly after taking over the lease. This can sometimes be used by occupiers to evade Non-Domestic Rates.
1.03	Outsourced Fulfilment Services Limited were made liable for business rates at the unit following an email dated 27th May 2022 from the existing tenant Pollco Trading Limited that confirmed that the premises had been sublet to Outsourced Fulfilment Services Limited with effect from 1st March 2022 - a company registered as a limited company in the Hong Kong Registry.
1.04	The company was incorporated in Hong Kong under Company Registration 2773227 on 4th December 2018 and is still listed as trading.
1.05	No business rate payments were received, nor was any contact received from the registered directors of Outsourced Fulfilment Services Limited.
1.06	The Council commenced legal action for non-payment of business rates and secured Liability Orders at Mold Magistrates Court in September 2022 and October 2022 for the unpaid balances.
1.07	The case was also referred to our external Debt Enforcement Agents in October 2022. Despite their further investigations including visits to the premises in Buckley, no contact was able to be made with the company or the registered directors. No monies or goods were identified or secured to repay the balance.
1.08	A full review of the liability on the account has also been undertaken to ensure that the liability should indeed fall with Outsourced Fulfilment Services Limited. A lease has been supplied to the Council confirming the position that they are liable at the unit from 1st March 2022.
1.09	Further to these investigations into liability, the managing agent of the premises has now confirmed the tenant`s responsibility ended on 23rd April 2023. Outsourced Fulfilment Services Limited have no other ongoing business rate liabilities in Flintshire currently.
1.10	The use of an overseas business which fails to make payment and does not engage with the Council, despite all available recovery methods being exhausted, has resulted in there is very little prospect of the Council

	receiving any further payment. There are outstanding Business Rates of £36,798 and a write off is necessary.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no direct financial implications for the Council or local taxpayers by writing off these debts as business rates losses are borne by the National Collection Pool for Wales. As the Collection Pool is supported by Welsh Government, non-payment of rates does though have a wider impact on the Welsh taxpayer.
2.02	Writing off the debt amounting to a £36.8k loss of income to the National Collection Pool, is being recommended as a last resort and only on the basis that there is no prospect of successfully recovering the debt from the overseas company.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	For those businesses who fail to pay, recovery action is always taken to secure payment. Measures include taking legal action to secure a Liability Order at the Magistrates Court, and in certain circumstances, the use of enforcement agents/bailiffs to take control of goods.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	All write offs must be approved by the Corporate Finance Manager. In the case of write offs over £25,000, Cabinet must make the decision.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	• Local Government Finance Act 1988 • Financial Procedure Rules (section 5.2)

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	**Contact Officer:** David Barnes, Revenues & Procurement Manager **Telephone:** 01352 703652 **E-mail:** david.barnes@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**
8.01	**Business Rates**: are a property based local tax on businesses calculated on the rateable value of the property. Although the rate of tax is set by Welsh Government, rates are administered and collected locally by each local authority and paid into a national collection pool for Wales. **National Collection Pool for Wales:** all business rates are collected and paid into the Welsh Government's Non-Domestic Rates Collection Pool. Councils in Wales receive a redistributed share based on a formula set by Welsh Government called the Local Government Funding Formula. The formula makes a theoretical comparative judgement on what each council needs according to its population size, its wealth and poverty, and its rurality.

CABINET	
Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 19th September 2023
Report Subject	A New Tribunal System for Wales
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources.
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Welsh Government has published a white paper on proposed reforms to the devolved tribunals to create a unified tribunal system comprising of the First-tier Tribunal for Wales and the Appeal Tribunal for Wales.

The devolved tribunals in Wales have developed piecemeal over the years spanning the pre and post devolution periods. The consultation seeks views on reforms to devolved tribunals in Wales to create a unified system.

RECOMMENDATIONS	
1	That Cabinet approves the draft response to the consultation.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	**EXPLAINING THE RESPONSE TO THE WHITE PAPER**
1.01	The Legal Services Manager has collated views from services that use the Tribunals proposed to be unified.
1.02	A draft response having regard to these views and with certain reasonable assumptions such as that there is agreement with the broad principle of a unified tribunal system for Wales. Broadly officers support the changes in principle.
1.03	The main point of disagreement to note is the proposed right of appeal on a point of law in respect of admission appeals. No such right exists at the moment. The proposal would result in a route of appeal that is free for parents, but which is un-costed and un-resourced for the Council. Officers therefore believe that the current remedy (of seeking Judicial Review) is preferrable.

2.00	**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**
2.01	None identified.

3.00	**IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**
3.01	None identified.

4.00	**CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT**
4.01	None required.

5.00	**APPENDICES**
5.01	App 1 - Flintshire County Council's draft response to a White Paper: A new tribunal system for Wales.

6.00	**LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**
6.01	https://www.gov.wales/a-new-tribunal-system-for-wales-chapter-1

7.00	**CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS**
7.01	**Contact Officer:** Matthew Powell **Telephone:** 01352 70354 **E-mail:** matthew.powell@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	None.

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn bwrpasol

A new tribunal system for Wales: white paper

Scope of our reforms

1. Do you agree with the tribunals we have identified as the devolved tribunals, as set out in paragraph 22?

Yes, those Tribunals listed at paragraph 22 would appear to be the relevant devolved tribunals within the meaning of the consultation.

2. Do you agree with the proposed structure of the unified tribunal system for Wales?

Yes.

3. Do you agree with the proposed structure for the tribunal membership in the unified tribunal system?

Yes.

4. Do you agree the jurisdictions of the Welsh Tribunals should be transferred to the First-tier tribunal for Wales?

Yes.

5. Do you agree that, in principle, the jurisdiction of the Valuation Tribunal for Wales should be transferred to the First-tier tribunal for Wales?

The current system and independence of the Valuation Tribunal for Wales is found to work well but subject to the various practical issues being resolved the Council supports the overall principle of creating a unified, coherent tribunal system and therefore – in principle - the jurisdiction of the Valuation Tribunal for Wales being transferred to the First-tier tribunal for Wales.

6. Do you agree that if the jurisdiction of the Valuation Tribunal for Wales is not transferred to the First-tier Tribunal for Wales, it should still be subject to the supervision of the President of Welsh Tribunals?

No. Given the Valuation Tribunal for Wales operates well as a standalone tribunal and given its current degree of uniformity with the Valuation Tribunal in England it is not considered that this would be helpful in and of itself.

7. Do you agree the jurisdiction of school exclusion appeal panels should be transferred to the First-tier Tribunal for Wales?

Yes. Given the significance of these decisions, the Council agrees they would benefit from being determined by a formal judicial process.

8. Do you agree the jurisdiction of school admission appeal panels should continue to be administered by admission authorities for the time being?

Yes. The manner in which admission authorities administer appeals though the use of independent panel members with the support of a legal clerk results in robust, consistent and independent decisions. Such appeals are frequent in nature meaning panel members remain current and familiar with the principles involved and have the support of an expert

legal clerk on matter of procedure and law when required as well as being able to impart their local knowledge.

9. Do you agree appeals from school admission appeals panels should be available on a point of law to the First-tier Tribunal for Wales?

Creating a no cost route of appeal to the tribunal would likely result in parents taking the view that they have "nothing to lose" by appealing a decision with which they are dissatisfied irrespective of whether the decision is "correct" or not, thereby potentially resulting in a large number of appeals that might not have merit. Such a number of appeals would be an un-resourced demand on not only on the education and legal teams within councils but also on the tribunal service itself. Whilst appeals would be limited to "points of law" experience suggests that whether a point of law is made out is often determined at a final hearings by which point resources are already expended.

The Council is therefore of the view that, in the absence of additional funding to meet the costs of attending tribunal hearings, Judicial Review remains a suitable and proportionate means of legal challenge. It provides sufficient safeguards against potentially unmeritorious appeals whilst still affording parents an appropriate remedy.

10. Do you agree with the initial chamber structure we propose for the First-tier Tribunal for Wales?

Yes.

11. Do you agree as a guiding principle disputes deriving from Welsh law should be heard in a Welsh judicial institution?

Yes.

12. Are there any particular types of dispute under devolved law which you believe lend themselves particularly well to being resolved by a tribunal?

As well as those identified within the White Paper, disputes relating Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 (i.e appeals against compliance notices and appeals against decisions not to issue a site licence) would likely lend itself to the First-tier Tribunal for Wales given that they derive from Welsh law.

13. Do you agree there should be an Appeal Tribunal for Wales?

Yes.

14. Do you agree the Appeal Tribunal for Wales should be the appellate body for appeals from the First-tier Tribunal for Wales unless there are exceptional reasons requiring different provision to be made?

Yes.

15. Do you agree jurisdictions should be transferred to the Appeal Tribunal for Wales over time, and that they should be organised into chambers by subordinate legislation made by the Welsh Ministers with the concurrence of the President of Welsh Tribunals?

Yes.

16. Do you agree with the proposed statutory duty to uphold judicial independence applying to all those with responsibility for the administration of justice as that applies to the reformed tribunal system in Wales?

Yes.

17. Who do you think should be included on the list of those with responsibility for the administration of justice as it applies to the reformed tribunal system in Wales?

Those persons responsible for the administration of justice in Wales within the reformed tribunal system but not extending to users of the First-tier Tribunal for Wales.

18. Is there a need for all members of the First-tier Tribunal for Wales and the Appeal Tribunal for Wales to take an oath or affirmation of their commitment to uphold judicial independence?

No, however given the historical and symbolic significance across the UK's justice systems and practical significance in terms of the perception of judicial independence this is supported.

19. Do you have views on the proposed formulation of the oath or affirmation, if one is adopted?

No.

20. Do you agree with the creation of a statutory body arms-length from Welsh Government to be responsible for the administration of the new tribunal system in Wales?

Yes.

21. Do you think the proposed statutory body should be constituted as a Welsh Government Sponsored Body, as a Non-Ministerial Department, or something else? Why?

The Council does not hold any strong views on the matter. Both proposed models appear to be appropriate.

22. Do you think the Chair of the Board of the statutory body should be a Welsh Ministers' appointment or the President of Welsh Tribunals ex officio?

The Council does not hold any views on the matter.

23. Do you have any other comments on arrangements for the administration of the new tribunal system at Table 1?

No.

24. Do you agree the President of Welsh Tribunals should be the presiding judge of the First-tier Tribunal for Wales and the Appeal Tribunal for Wales, able to sit as a judge in those tribunals?

Yes.

25. Do you agree with our proposals to enhance the office of President of Welsh Tribunals by conferring statutory duties, functions and powers on the office, as detailed in this white paper?

Yes.

26. Do you agree with our guiding principles for the appointment of members to the First-tier Tribunal for Wales and the Appeal Tribunal for Wales?

Yes.

27. Do you agree with our proposals for the appointing authority for members of the new tribunals:

a) except for Chamber Presidents and Deputy Presidents, members of the First-tier Tribunal for Wales to be appointed by the President of Welsh Tribunals; and

b) Chamber Presidents and Deputy Presidents of the First-tier Tribunal for Wales and members of the Appeal Tribunal for Wales to be appointed by the Welsh Ministers with the concurrence of the President of Welsh Tribunals.

Yes.

28. Do you agree the President of Welsh Tribunals and the Welsh Ministers when making appointments to the First-tier Tribunal for Wales and the Appeal Tribunal for Wales should be required to have regard to the need to encourage diversity in the range of persons appointed?

Yes.

29. Do you agree eligibility criteria for appointment to the First-tier Tribunal for Wales and the Appeal Tribunal for Wales should enable the pool of candidates eligible for appointment to be drawn as widely as possible?

Yes.

30. Do you agree the Welsh Ministers should set terms and conditions of appointment of members of the new tribunal service?

Yes.

31. Do you agree to there continuing to be a system of cross-deployment for judicial, legal and non-legal members in the new tribunal system?

Yes.

32. Do you think the appointment processes for the President of Welsh Tribunals should change in any way as part of the proposed reforms set out in the white paper?

The Council does not hold any views on the matter.

33. Do you agree with our proposals for managing complaints and making disciplinary decisions about members of the First-tier Tribunal for Wales and the Appeal Tribunal for Wales?

Yes.

34. Do you agree with the proposed investigatory role for an independent body or person? Who do you think that body or person should be?

Yes.

35. Do you agree with our proposals for the management of complaints about the administration of the new tribunal system?

36. Do you agree with the creation of a statutory committee with responsibility for developing Tribunal Procedure Rules, as detailed in paragraphs 173-177 and in Table 4?

Yes.

37. Do you agree with the proposed exercise of the power to make the tribunal procedural rules?

Yes.

38. Do you agree with the Tribunal Procedure Rules Committee developing common procedural rules across the new tribunal system whilst recognising and accommodating the unique characteristics of each jurisdiction?

Yes. It would be helpful for there to be provision for certain basic case management decisions to be made administratively without the need for formal application or referral to a Judge.

39. Do you agree with our proposal that the Tribunal Procedure Rules of the First-tier Tribunal for Wales and the Appeal Tribunal for Wales should include the following matters:

a) an overriding objective

b) a duty of the parties to cooperate with each other and the tribunal

c) provision for service of documents by electronic means;

d) a power for the First-tier Tribunal for Wales to review its own decisions, and

e) rules on remote hearings.

Yes.

40. Do you agree the operation of civil and administrative justice in Wales should be kept under review? And if so, how should this be done?

Yes.

41. We would like to know your views on the effects that our proposed reforms to devolved tribunals in Wales to create a unified, coherent tribunal system comprising of the First-tier Tribunal for Wales and the Appeal Tribunal for Wales would have on the Welsh language, specifically:

a) on opportunities for people to use Welsh and

b) on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

42. Please also explain how you believe the proposed reforms could be formulated or changed so as to have:

a) positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and

b) no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

It is not considered that the proposed reforms will have any negative effect on the Welsh Language.

Tudalen 319

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn bwrpasol

CYNGOR Sir y Fflint Flintshire COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET	

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 19th September 2023
Report Subject	Winter Maintenance Policy Review 2023-2025
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Regional Transport Strategy
Report Author	Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the winter maintenance service over the last season and responsibilities of the Council, as well as seeking approval for the review of the winter maintenance policy.

Winter service operations play a fundamental role in ensuring that highway networks are safe and available during adverse weather conditions from around October through to April each year. The winter maintenance service is recognised as one of the most important functions that the highway authority provides. Maintaining access to the network is crucial for emergency services, businesses, social services, education, and the public.

This report outlines the current winter maintenance policy (see **Appendix 1**), the legislative requirements for providing such a service, and the actions taken by the Streetscene and Transportation portfolio to support winter service operations. In addition, the report outlines the County's response to other adverse weather events, such as heavy rainfall and high winds.

We have committed to reviewing the winter maintenance policy every two years and this report explains winter maintenance operations and seeks approval of the proposed winter service plan and winter maintenance policy for the next two years 2023-2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS	
1	That Cabinet approves the refreshed winter maintenance service policy as presented in this report and as attached in **Appendix 1**
2	That Cabinets notes the portfolio's response to adverse weather events over the Winter season 2022-2023.
3	That Cabinet supports the continued need to maintain the revenue budget at present levels along with earmarked reserves of £250k.

4	That a further report is presented to Cabinet in 2024 following a review of the 2023-2024 season by the weather forecasting provider in relation to geographically specific treatment decision making.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	**BACKGROUND OF THE WINTER MAINTENANCE POLICY**
1.01	The Council, as the local highway authority for county roads, has a general duty, under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980, to maintain the highway network in a good state of repair to render it safe for ordinary traffic at all times of the year.
1.02	Highway authorities in England and Wales also have a duty "*to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice*" (Highways Act 1980, Section A1 (TA) as modified by Section 111 of the Railways and Transport Act 2003). The council's winter maintenance service is essential in aiding the safe movement of highway users, maintaining communications, reducing delays, and enabling everyday life to continue. The Council must prioritise its response to winter weather, whilst exercising due regard to logistics and available resources.
1.03	In addition, under Section 150(1) of the Highways Act 1980, there is a requirement for the highway authority to remove an obstruction caused by the accumulation of snow, subject to a number of factors stated in Section 150(3) of the 1980 Highways Act.
1.04	Furthermore, the Traffic Management Act 2004 has placed a network management duty on all local traffic authorities, which requires authorities to do all that is reasonably practicable to manage the network effectively to keep traffic moving. In meeting the duty, local authorities are required to establish contingency plans for dealing promptly and effectively with unplanned events, such as unforeseen weather conditions, in so far as is reasonably practicable.

We are also required to conduct our operations having due regard to the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Driver Hours Regulations. |
| 1.05 | The legislation does not impose an absolute duty, but rather involves a balance between the degree of risk and the steps necessary to eliminate the risk. This legislation informs the best practice identified to highway authorities on winter service operations, which has changed in recent years. Given this duty, the industry has developed a best practice guide to manage the network with the principles set out in the new national code of practice, the latest version of which is the Well Managed Highway Infrastructure 2016 Code of Practice (COP), which provides a broader view of asset management. It is supplemented by Practical Guidance from the National Winter Service Research Group (NWSRG) which was issued in 2020. The COP reflects many years of operational practice and current issues and problems and is regarded as a benchmark by which local authorities will be assessed by both the public and the courts should disputes occur. |

1.06	Flintshire County Council liaises with other North Wales highway authorities and the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency (NMWTRA) to ensure a consistent approach is adopted when reviewing operations and introducing changes or improvements. The council also liaises closely with NMWTRA during the winter service operational period.
1.07	Under the COP, local authorities must have a policy on winter maintenance services, which should be reviewed on a regular basis. In Flintshire, we have committed to reviewing the policy every two years, the previous policy reviewed in 2021.
1.08	The winter operating period starts in October and continues until April each year and is a year-round process with planning and preparations for each season commencing in the preceding Spring/Summer. For this reason, the response to winter weather is linked to the authority's resilience planning and it is important that the performance of the service is reviewed at the end of each season and that any learning is used to improve the delivery of the service in the future.
1.09	Planning and preparation work over the summer period includes the following operations: - carrying out maintenance work on salt storage facilities - ensuring that salt stocks are replenished - checking and replacing salt bins where required - reviewing arrangements with snow ploughing contractors - recruiting staff for the delivery of the winter service - arranging and delivering training for all staff involved in the winter service - arranging and delivering training to all driving and loading staff and ensuring that they have achieved the appropriate accreditation before the start of the season - ensuring that all gritters and equipment are serviced and calibrated, including vehicle telematics - liaising with neighbouring local authorities and NMWTRA to identify best practice
1.10	Below is a summary of the winter service operations delivered over the 2022-2023 winter period: - - Number of miles/km covered by the gritters: 70,000km / 43,495 miles - Tonnages of salt spread by the gritters: 7,012 tonnes - Tonnages of salt used for salt bins: 510 tonnes - Number of turnouts: 125 (average year is 115 turnouts) - Number of labour hours used in response to the weather: 84,373 hrs
1.11	At the end of each season, a review of the operational service is undertaken by officers from the Streetscene and Transportation portfolio and considers the following key areas: 1. Compliance with statutory requirements 2. Any changes to standards that should be incorporated into the new policy 3. Any local concerns or complaints with the service that may require a change to operational working practices 4. Any changes in local circumstances that may require changes to policy

	5. Effectiveness of the current supply chain to support the service 6. Adequacy of current salt stocks for delivering the service effectively 7. Effectiveness of salting car parks and footways 8. Effectiveness of communications during a weather event
1.12	The review has concluded that the current operating model is adequate in responding to the risk presented during periods of adverse weather. The service is effective in the deployment of resource, whilst limiting the impact of disruption to the rest of the operational service and road users.
1.13	The following factors have, however, resulted in increased costs for the service: ● Developments to the resources and equipment required during the winter maintenance season ● Steadily increasing average numbers of callouts and application of preventative salting due to more frequent and more severe winter weather ● Price rises in fuel, labour, and materials (gritting salt).
1.14	The conclusion of the review is that no changes are required to the standards set out in the policy. However, we continue work to improve the timing of communications and the channels for communication both internally, through better use of technology, and externally, through increased access to social media. It is important that the public are aware of and understand the council's approach to delivering its winter maintenance service. It is intended that this will be achieved by issuing a pre-season press statement with all relevant information made available on the council's website.
1.15	The review has highlighted that there is an opportunity to reconsider the structure for winter maintenance decision making, as well as the format for the weather forecast, which is currently based on two weather stations located in Hendre and Brynford. Officers have been exploring the use of route-based forecasting or domain-based forecasting instead of the current approach. Work will be undertaken during 2023-2024 with MetDesk, our current weather forecasting providers, to analyse the results collected over the forthcoming winter season, to determine whether this weather forecasting modelling may offer any savings and can be adopted by Flintshire in the future. It is proposed that a further report will be presented to Cabinet in the summer of 2024 once this work has been completed.
1.16	Adverse weather arrangements (i.e., high winds, heavy rain) are planned in advance of the winter season and have now been included within the Winter Maintenance Operational Handbook, which had been revised and will be distributed to all personnel involved annually and updated as a controlled document throughout the season.
1.17	The decision-making process for carrying out winter maintenance action is carried out by nominated Duty Managers. Five Duty Managers will be rostered throughout the winter period to monitor weather forecast information and decide on appropriate preventative action. This decision will be based largely on predicted road surface temperatures (NOT air temperatures), the amount of moisture on the road and/or the amount of residual salt on the network from previous treatments. All Duty Managers are required to have received advanced weather forecast training and to have undertaken at least six months of continuous shadowing before commencing in the role.

1.18	A minimum of 26 operational staff will be rostered to be on-call throughout the season to respond to adverse weather. There are also on-call highways response teams, if necessary, alongside the wider operational teams in times of prolonged adverse weather, such as high winds or heavy rainfall.
1.19	Normally, on receipt of a severe weather warning (high winds, flooding, snow event, etc.) an operational control room will be established in Alltami. It will be operated by staff from Streetscene & Transportation, who will act as a dedicated point of contact for the Contact Centre staff and coordination of the response. The staff within the operational control room have direct contact with Streetscene area coordinators and supervisors, who will be on-site to investigate complaints, inspect the network and mobilise dedicated gritting vehicles and operational teams under their direct control. It also acts as a single point of contact for the senior leadership team and corporate communications, through which communications will be made.
1.20	If high winds are forecasted, the details of the forecast are examined by the Duty Officer and consideration will be given as to whether or not to close the Flintshire Bridge (A548). The process to follow in the event that the bridge needs to be closed is set out within the updated Winter Maintenance Service Policy 2023-2025.
1.21	**Allocation of Salt Bins/Sandbags** Salt bins are provided for residents to self-help in salting the adopted highway in their areas (not for private footways and driveways). Requests for additional salt bins across the county are subject to an assessment scoring matrix and must conform to the policy for the purpose of consistency. Requests for community council funded salt bins will be supported with the installation of green bins. At the start of each winter all salt bins will be filled with salt, the cost of which will be borne by the council. In the event of severe weather, further refills will be carried out as time and resources permit.
1.22	The distribution of sandbags in the event of heavy rainfall and flooding will be applied as described in the Sandbag Policy adopted in September 2017.
1.23	In January 2021, a joint portfolio project was set up in response to Storm Christophe between Streetscene & Transportation and Planning, Environment & Economy and the group has been meeting regularly to prioritise investigations and works for managing flood risk on roads and highways within the county. The purpose of the joint project group is to identify assets and responsibilities of those assets and address any infrastructure issues across the county. This has resulted in infrastructure improvements; new maintenance programmes and response plans being developed in each case. The group oversees the developments and progress of each scheme and programme.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The winter maintenance service budget is ringfenced and earmarked reserves are reviewed annually to ensure that adequate funding is available throughout the season. The demand on the budget is subject to weather conditions and every effort will be made to contain expenditure within the overall budget. In recent years, the average number of turnouts per season has increased steadily and the running costs of operations, including labour and fleet costs, have also risen. Consequently, earmarked reserves have regularly been used to meet the shortfall in revenue budget.
2.02	Winter maintenance operations on the highway network are carried out by Streetscene staff and resources are supplemented by local agricultural contractors as necessary.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	The winter maintenance service has undertaken various risk assessments on the provision of road surface treatments, which are outlined within the policy.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
4.01	Consultation has taken place with: • With the Cabinet Member • Operational service teams and stakeholders • Neighbouring local authorities in relation to their Winter Maintenance Operations • North and Mid-Wales Trunk Road Agency (NMWTRA) • Trade Unions Following consideration of the report at Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee a verbal update will be given at Cabinet on any comments made.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 - Winter Maintenance Policy

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Highways Act 1980.
6.02	Railways and Transport Act 2003
6.03	Traffic Management Act 2004

6.04	Well-managed Highway Infrastructure (2016) (UKRLG)
6.05	Planning For Winter Service Delivery (2020) (NWSRG)
6.06	Quarmby Report – July 2010
6.07	Welsh Government Trunk Road Maintenance Manual
6.08	Welsh Government Advice Documents
6.09	WLGA Advice Documents

7.00	**CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS**
7.01	**Contact Officer:** Barry Wilkinson, Highway Network Manager **Telephone:** 01352 704656 **E-mail:** barry.wilkinson@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**
8.01	**Financial Year (FY):** the period of 12 months commencing on 1 April. **Budget:** a statement expressing the Council's policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them. **Winter Maintenance:** the particular network management requirements during winter are not 'maintenance' in the traditional sense, but specialist operational services responding to adverse weather events.

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Winter Maintenance Policy
2023-2025

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1 | Background

1.1 Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 places a statutory duty on the Highway Authority to maintain the highway, as follows:-

> *"(1A) In particular, a Highway Authority is under a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that a safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice."*

1.2 The legislation does not impose an absolute duty but rather involves a balance between the degree of risk and the steps necessary to eliminate the risk.

1.3 In order to provide a statutory defence, a County Policy on winter maintenance services is required which should be reviewed on a regular basis.

1.4 The requirement to ensure compliance with Section 1.3 has been emphasised in collaborative meetings that have taken place amongst the six North Wales Authorities following the Coroner's inquest into the winter maintenance incidents that have occurred in North Wales Authorities during recent years.

1.5 The level of service for County Roads is determined by the elected Members of each Council. This is based on a risk assessment approach to determining a cost effective hierarchy of routes and treatments. The Authority believes that the level of service meets the requirements on the current interpretation of *'reasonably practicable'* but will continue to keep service provision under review, particularly in respect of any legal judgements. A review of the Winter Maintenance operations is undertaken each year before the winter season.

2 | Purpose of Policy

2.1 To demonstrate compliance with the statutory duties of the Highway Authority by recording a managed, cost effective approach to providing winter maintenance service in the interest of public safety.

2.2 To provide a statutory defence against third party claims.

2.3 To inform and involve Members in the procedures associated with the winter maintenance service

2.4 To set out the aims and standards for the winter maintenance service, the facilities and resources available and guidance as to how the aims and standards are to be achieved.

3 | Procedures

3.1 Winter Weather Forecasts

3.1.1 Daily weather forecasts are received throughout the winter period and are specific to Flintshire County Council. The forecast is currently provided by MetDesk. MetDesk utilise their experience at weather forecasting combined with additional data from weather models and information provided by Ice Prediction sensors situated at:

1. A55 at Brynford

2. A541 at Hendre

to predict the weather for a 36 hour period from approximately 12-noon daily. The weather forecast is provided through a web based system and this forms the basis of the decision making process with regards to gritting actions taken in the interest of road safety over the succeeding 24 hours.

3.1.2 The Forecast Provider provides forecast information in the in the following format:

- ► Projected road surface temperature graphs for two ice sensor sites within the County and others in the neighbouring Counties. These sites have been specifically chosen to provide information which is considered representative of the whole County.
- ► A site specific forecast for each of the ice sensor sites covering a 36-hour period from the time of issue (normally 12:00 hrs).
- ► A 24-hour consultancy service, staff can talk to forecasters at the Weather Centre to expand on the general forecast.
- ► A 2-5 day forecast text indicating the outlook.
- ► A morning summary in text describing the events of the night before and a preliminary forecast covering the succeeding 24 hours.
- ► Alerts and forecast amendments electronically and by direct contact throughout the 24 hour period.

3.1.3 A cross boundary partnership approach is adopted throughout the North Wales Authorities and in conjunction with North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency (NMWTRA) to ensure an effective and consistent service delivery.

3.1.4 A North Wales protocol for distributing daily weather forecasting information and proposed action details has been formally adopted. This has been coordinated through the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency (NMWTRA) and has established improved communications between neighbouring Authorities, NMWTRA and North Wales Police. The actions of all the North Wales Authorities are recorded on the Forecast Provider web page for all partner authorities to view.

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3.2 Priority of Roads

3.2.1 Roads within the Authority have been prioritised for treatment into Priority 1, 2 and 3 routes.

3.2.2 <u>**Priority 1 routes**</u> are roads carrying substantial volumes of traffic having characteristics, which require protection from frost throughout the night. These routes form the spinal road network of the Authority and merit high priority to sustain the free flowing movement of traffic. They include:-

- ► Trunk Roads (48kms)
- ► Class A Roads (151kms)
- ► Class B and C Roads (351kms)
- ► Strategic Core Bus Network
- ► Main access roads to schools or establishments of higher education
- ► Town centre access and distributor roads through villages and housing estates
- ► Industrial Estate Roads (10.1Kms)

The 12 **Priority 1** precautionary gritting routes total **45%** of the total County highways network.

3.2.3 <u>**Priority 2 routes**</u> are formed from the unclassified roads that form main distributor routes in both the urban and rural areas. They include:-

- ► Housing Estate Roads
- ► Access routes between smaller rural communities
- ► Remaining bus routes
- ► Known problems, including significant gradients, exposed areas and other topological factors
- ► Council maintained Car Parks

Priority 2 gritting routes will be treated upon satisfactory completion of the Priority 1 routes providing the criteria set out in 3.2.3 are met and adequate resources are available.

3.2.4 <u>**Priority 3 routes**</u> are all the remaining adopted roads within the County.

3.2.5 <u>**Priority of Roads**</u>

3.2.5.1 All Priority 1 routes will be subject to precautionary gritting operations throughout the winter period at the discretion of the Highway Network Manager or his representative. The decision to undertake precautionary gritting actions is made daily at around 13:00hrs between the period from 1 November to 30 April of the following year.

3.2.5.2 Priority 2 routes will only be treated in the event of icy conditions or a forecast of prolonged icy conditions, and following the satisfactory treatment of the Priority 1 routes. The Duty Officer will make the decision whether or not to proceed to Priority 2 routes. The protocol for treatment during this period will be for a continued action on the Priority 1 gritting routes as required with discretionary actions being taken on Priority 2 routes in response to known or observed problem areas, or in relation to requests that have been assessed and justified by staff of

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Flintshire County Council. If temperatures remain below zero with prolonged icy conditions the winter maintenance teams will continue to undertake inspections and liaise closely with the Duty Officer. The level of actions will be dictated by the available resources and the weather forecast outlook. Bulk gritting vehicles and manual salting gangs will be deployed for this purpose. A discretionary decision to suspend further actions pending improving weather conditions may be taken.

3.2.5.3   Priority 3 routes will normally be treated dependent upon the availability of appropriate resources following the satisfactory attention to Priority 1 and 2 routes and will be restricted to normal working hours, and in response to known or observed problem areas, or in relation to requests that have been assessed and justified by staff of Flintshire County Council..

3.2.6   During the onset of snow conditions and the satisfactory treatment of the Priority 1 routes, all available plant and resources will be deployed to clear snow within the Priority 2 routes. During such operations the gritting appliances will be directed by Flintshire County Council staff who will patrol their respective areas and liaise with the Duty Officer.

3.2.7   The Authority employs 38 No. agricultural snow ploughing contractors to clear the highway during periods of snow conditions. Each Contractor has a dedicated route which enables the Authority to clear the entire adopted highway network within the County. During snow conditions contractors may be hired at the discretion of the Duty Officer or his representative at the tendered rates. The schedule of the snow ploughing contractors is available to all winter maintenance staff to access as required.

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3.2.8 Road Priority/ Treatment Matrix Treatment

Route type	Precautionary Salting	Salting	Times
Priority 1	At any time of the day	At any time of the day	When ice is predicted Priority 1 routes will be pre salted before the on-set of frost. Where severe conditions such as snow or ice persist resources will remain on Priority 1 routes
Priority 2	None	At any time of the day	Priority 2 routes will only be treated if severe weather conditions persist and the Priority 1 routes have been completed
Priority 3	None	At any time of the day	On satisfactory completion of Priority 1 and Priority 2 routes and if severe weather conditions persist these roads will be treated on a reactive basis dependent upon resources

3.3 De-icing Materials

3.3.1 Flintshire County Council procures its de-icing materials through a tendered process. The current tender is with Compass Minerals through the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation and the life of the contract is 3rd March 2022 – 21st February 2026.

3.3.2 6.3 mm nominal size rocksalt

This is the most commonly used material for general purpose gritting. It is spread at a prescribed rate of 10 – 15 grams per square metre for precautionary gritting. This rate can be increased to 40 grams per square metre when treating snow conditions. These rates are in accordance with the recommendations made in the Code of Practice for Highways Maintenance Management and the Trunk Road Maintenance Manual.

6.3 mm nominal size coated rocksalt (Safecote)

This material is standard rocksalt with an applied coating which enhances its performance to treat ice at lower temperatures (conventional rocksalt has a reduced efficiency at temperatures below -6 degrees centigrade). It has a greater adhesion to the applied surface and is effective over a longer period.

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3.3.3 A total of 2200 tonnes of coated rocksalt (Safecote) is currently stored in a storage dome at Alltami Depot. A stock management service is operated in collaboration with the Compass Minerals, Winsford. The stock management system highlights the requirement for the delivery of rocksalt which is triggered by predetermined maximum and minimum intervention stock levels throughout the winter season. This service provides the following benefits:-

- ► Fresh stocks of rocksalt which retain maximum salinity values.
- ► Controlled levels of stock to meet storage availability and providing the ability to avoid storing large volumes of rocksalt outside of the winter period.
- ► Avoidance of a shortage of rocksalt during periods of high demand
- ► Regional proximity of supplier provides reduced delivery times.

3.3.4 Strategic Salt Stocks

Due to national shortages of rock salt in previous years and following advice from WLGA and Welsh Government, an additional strategic salt stock of 7000 tonnes is stored under sheeting at the Greenfield Recycling Site at Greenfield.

3.3.5 Most of the road de-icing salt used in the UK is derived from a non-renewable source through mining a natural salt bed stretching from North West England to Ireland. The majority of rock salt is a 10mm grain size to British Standard BS3247. However, a trend is emerging in the UK where a number of Highway Authorities are moving toward a 6.3mm grain size. BS3247 requires the rock salt to contain no more than 4% moisture by weight and the soluble Sodium Chloride content to be not less than 90% of the dry salt mass.

Flintshire County Council introduced using 6.3mm grain size coated salt in 2005/2006. The proprietary name of this product is Safecote.

3.3.6 To effectively remove ice from the road surface the rock salt requires the action of traffic, which assists in the process of breaking down the salt granules into a saline solution. This rapidly melts the ice and prevents further ice forming for several hours.

3.3.7 Salt in solution freezes at a lower temperature than water and if spread before the onset of freezing conditions can be effective in preventing ice from forming on road surfaces at temperatures down to -7°c. However, salt is only effective if it can form a solution with the water on the road surface. If this water has already frozen before the salt is applied, the salt is much less effective in combating the slippery conditions. The generic term 'gritting' is often used to describe what is actually "pre-salting" or "precautionary salting", i.e. spreading salt before the onset of ice or frost formation.

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3.3.8 The significant benefits of using Safecote Salt are:-

- ► more accurate spreading of the salt
- ► more salt remains on the road surface
- ► reduced wastage
- ► faster de-icing effect
- ► increased longevity on the road surface
- ► less Sodium Chloride used
- ► less corrosive to the gritter vehicles
- ► less corrosive to the highway infrastructure.
- ► cost benefit

3.3.9 **Treatment Matrix**

Carriageways - The Council operations will follow the standard guidance issued by Welsh Government as part of the Trunk Road Maintenance Management Policy and the Code of Practise for Highway Maintenance and any subsequent amendments. The de-icing material will continue to be Safecote.

Footways - Following successful trials of alternative de-icing materials heavily used footways in town centres, car parks and sheltered accommodation will be treated with a product called 'Safethaw'. This product is a brine solution mixed with agricultural by-product similar to that used on the highway. 'Safethaw' is sprayed by using a knapsack sprayer or a self-propelled spray bar fitted to an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) or a pickup and will be applied in periods of heavy snow and prolonged icy conditions in accordance with the risk assessment for each element.

3.4 Operational Practices

3.4.1 The winter period is defined as between 1st October and 30th April each year. Streetscene drivers are contracted to deliver the service and standby payments will apply from November to March.

3.4.2 Forecasts are received at approximately 06.00hrs, 12.00hrs and 18.00hrs every day within the period between 1st October and 30th April each year by the duty Officer at Alltami Depot or the on-call Duty Officer at weekends.

3.4.3 A decision on the appropriate action will be made by the Duty Officer, and the supervisory staff and standby crew will be informed accordingly. Standby crews are available to respond to forecast changes and subsequent actions/decisions outside of normal working hours.

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3.4.4   Priority 1 routes will be treated before the formation of ice. The average route treatment time of 3.0 hours will be taken into account in making the decision to ensure that all pre-cautionary Priority 1 routes are completed on time. Any changes to the pre-determined actions will be verified with the Duty Officer before notification to the workforce. The situation may be varied by weather conditions such as heavy rain immediately before a frost, which may restrict the time to carry out the work.

3.4.5   Depending on the forecast, further actions may be required to support the precautionary gritting decisions. Whilst every effort will be made to plan this action it may be considered necessary to obtain updated forecast information from the Forecast Provider prior to a decision being made. The weather forecast update will be carried out by the Duty Officer at any time of the day or night, to ensure that appropriate actions are carried out in the interest of public safety and to provide a cost-efficient service.

3.4.6   In the event of a forecast of snow the Priority 1 routes will be pre-treated prior to the event. Where this is not possible, for example when it starts as rain and turns to snow, a decision to delay action until the rain stops in order to prevent the salt from being washed away will be taken. It should be noted that this situation can be even more difficult if it occurs during the rush hour as traffic congestion impedes the progress of the gritting vehicle.

3.4.7   Following snowfall with significant accumulations, clearance work will continue around the clock until all Priority 1 roads are clear. When the Priority 1 roads are cleared to a standard which safeguards the safe passage of vehicular traffic, all available resources will be dedicated to attend to Priority 2 roads.

3.4.8   Priority 3 routes will receive attention when resources are available and after all Priority 1 and 2 roads have received appropriate treatment.

3.4.9   Services across Streetscene & Transportation (and possibly others across the wider Authority) will support the Winter Service during periods of prolonged disruption to the county. It may be necessary to curtail certain services during these periods, for reasons such as practicality or safety, and the resource and labour will be redirected to the Winter Service operations as appropriate.

3.4.10   During periods of snowfall, all gritting vehicles will be equipped with snow or slush ploughs depending on the type of snow being cleared. Snow ploughing contractors will be deployed at the discretion of the Duty Officer.

3.4.11   The decision to deploy contractors to clear roads of accumulated snowfall will be made at the discretion of the Duty Manager and subject to local condition and the prolonged impact of restricted access and treacherous conditions at the time.

3.4.12   Following periods of heavy snowfall, priority should be given to the inspection and clearance of gullies to ensure that meltwater from snow on verges and central reservations can quickly drain away.

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3.5 Communication

During periods of severe or prolonged adverse weather conditions, the service will provide updates to the senior leaders group (including the Chief Officer Team and Cabinet Members, along with relevant operational managers) advising them of the impact of the current weather conditions, a summary of the weather forecast, a briefing on the allocated resource and operational response, and an outline of the operational plans in place to deal with the forecast.

3.6 Partnership Working

3.6.1 Liaison and cross boundary operational practices are established between Flintshire County Council and its neighbouring Authorities and North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency, with the intention of maintaining a consistency and continuity of winter services throughout the region.

For this purpose the following cross boundary precautionary gritting arrangements are in place:-

Wrexham County Borough Council will treat the following roads for **Flintshire County Council**:-

► B5102 from County boundary Llay to A541 Mold Road (Hollybush)

Flintshire County Council will treat the following roads for **Wrexham County Borough Council:**

► B5430 Bwlchgwyn from County Boundary to Four Crosses

► B5373 County Boundary to Miners Road (Sharps)

Flintshire County Council will treat the following roads for **Denbighshire County Council**:

► Section of road from A5151 to Gwaenysgor Crossroads

Denbighshire County Council will treat the following roads for **Flintshire County Council:**

► Section of the A494 from County Boundary, Cadole to Cadole junction

3.6.2 It is the responsibility of each individual Highway Authority to ensure adequate treatment of the roads under their jurisdiction. A protocol of daily communications between neighbouring authorities / agencies has therefore been established to ensure continuity of actions.

3.7 Footways and Cycleways

3.7.1 Footways, pedestrian areas or cycleways are not included in precautionary salting operations. Nevertheless, there will be a certain amount of overspill of salt onto footways and cycleways when precautionary salting is being carried out on adjacent carriageways.

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3.7.2 Resources will be deployed to treat footways once snow has settled or during periods of prolonged freezing conditions on a priority basis at locations including:

- ► Town centre footways and footways in the vicinity of shopping areas
- ► Footways around Pay & Display Car Parks including areas around Pay & Display machines
- ► Footways in the vicinity of civic buildings
- ► Public highway in the vicinity of hospitals
- ► Public highway in the vicinity of residential homes / old age pensioners flats
- ► Public highway in the vicinity of day care centres
- ► Public highway in the vicinity of Schools (during term times only)
- ► Footbridges
- ► Bus Stops
- ► Cemeteries

If any reports of icy footways are received for locations not included in the above criteria, the footway will be inspected to assess whether treatment is appropriate, however this is dependent upon available resources.

3.8 Salt Bins and Salt Heaps

3.8.1 **Streetscene Services** Salt bins (Yellow Bins) are located in areas for the use of pedestrians and motorists to treat the public highway only. The decision for the distribution of salt bins is that of the Highway Network Manager or his representative in the interest of financial management.

3.8.2 Salt bin locations will be individually assessed against criteria which include:-

- ► Non precautionary gritting routes
- ► Location within bounds of public highway
- ► Benefit to road safety, i.e. areas with steep inclines
- ► Traffic volumes
- ► Proximity to schools and locations of public interest.

A Pro Forma to aid in the assessment of suitable salt bin locations has been created and will be distributed to staff as required.

3.8.3 All salt bins will be filled at the start of the winter season and refilled once again in January, if necessary. Similarly, salt heaps will be provided before the winter season and replenished once during the winter months.

3.8.4 Salt heaps in the rural areas will also be subject to the same assessment criteria as the salt bins.

3.8.5 Streetscene Services will provide salt bins and rock salt within Council establishments on request at cost to the relevant Department. Every effort is made to establish and meet the requirements of each Department prior to the onset of the winter season. The availability of resources will dictate the priority allocated to provide this service during the winter season.

3.8.6 Provision is available to purchase for salt bins Community Councils (Green Bins), along with rock salt from Streetscene Services with the intention of supplementing

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the Authority's winter maintenance services to the benefit of the general public. Salt bins purchased by the Community Council will be distinguishable from Streetscene salt bins and will be maintainable by the Community Council. Location of the salt bin on the public highway will require prior approval of the Highway Authority.

3.9 Resources

3.9.1 The workforce involved will all be part of Streetscene Services and all drivers will be trained and assessed. Additional resources can be sought from other sections within the service if required.

3.9.2 The Council's winter maintenance fleet consists of 12 frontline gritting vehicles and 2 spare gritting vehicles. These are stored at Alltami Depot. These are supported by 3 trailer type Gritters operated by contractors should they be required.

3.9.3 Welsh Government and WLGA have suggested that all Authorities in Wales hold a strategic salt stock to ensure resilience in the event of further winters of extreme weather and national shortages of rock salt. For this coming season Flintshire will hold an additional residual salt stock of 7,000 tonnes covered and sheeted at the Greenfield green waste recycling site.

3.9.4 The suggested minimum stock levels is based on the last six-year average usage figure and with a multiplier of 150%. The tonnage of salt held in Flintshire for the period 2023-2025 will be a minimum of 9,000 tonnes.

3.10 Standards Monitoring

3.10.1 Flintshire County Councils service delivery is benchmarked against National performance statistics to ensure that a comparative cost-effective service delivery is being maintained.

3.10.2 Regional and National meetings of operational staff and support service providers creates the opportunity for continual assessment of operational practices, standards and resources.

3.11 Vehicle Tracking

3.11.1 Flintshire County Council's fleet of 14 bulk gritting vehicles have all been fitted with an innovative GPS tracking system. The tracking system is a monitoring device that interfaces with the control systems on the vehicles so not only do we know where the vehicle has been, but exactly what it was doing and, because it is web based, the information can be accessed remotely. The tracking system operates in real time and therefore it is easy to find out exactly where a vehicle is and to check its activity. This gives the Duty Officers the confidence to ensure that any operational decisions that they make are based on accurate live information.

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3.11.2 In these increasingly litigious times it is vital that Managers are able to provide positive supporting evidence in the event of a claim. The GPS tracking system will monitor how much salt was spread on what roads, at what rate and at what time. The system is able to provide a record of all control box functions, route time, salt sensor data, spread rate/width and vehicle speed.

3.11.3 The Council operates a fleet of gritting vehicles all equipped with an Autologic system which spreads the amount of salt required based on the location, so gritter drivers can concentrate solely on the road and not have to focus on the vehicles spreading settings. The Autologic system has been pre-loaded with the Authority's road widths and ensures the optimal amount of salt has been spread to maximise the treatments, meaning salt is not wasted. The system provides optimisation and higher levels of road safety, leaving drivers free to concentrate on driving, and providing flexibility in staff deployment as route knowledge is not necessary for the driver.

3.12   Extreme Weather Protocol

3.12.1 On receipt of a severe weather warning an operational control room will be established in Alltami and manned by staff from Streetscene Services who will act as a dedicated point of contact for the Contact Centre staff. The staff within the operational control room will have direct contact with Streetscene Coordinators/Supervisors who will be on-site to investigate complaints and mobilise dedicated gritting vehicles under their direct control.

3.12.2 The operational control room will be responsible for directing all operations and act as a liaison contact to the press office through which all press releases with be made.

3.13   Community Engagement

3.13.1 Flintshire County Council is committed to provide assistance in the form of small quantities of rock salt and tools to community and local groups to enable them to assist with the removal of snow and ice off the footpaths within the urban areas.

3.13.2 The Highway Network Manager will write annually, prior to the winter, to all Community Councils and known action groups for contact details of interested parties and for their requirements.

3.13.3 Contact details provided by these groups will receive daily weather forecasts and details of the proposed daily winter maintenance action, by e-mail, direct from the forecast provider.

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3.14   High Winds - Flintshire Bridge Closure/Restriction Procedure

3.14.1   **Forecasts** - Weather forecasts are received daily via e-mail from MetDesk for the next 3 days. These should be reviewed daily by the Duty Officer to anticipate likely restrictions and resources required to implement a bridge closure or lane closures.

3.14.2   When wind gusts are forecast over 50 mph within the next 24 hours the Duty Officer should ring Weather service provider and seek advice from a forecaster of the risk of high winds in excess of the criteria described below.

3.14.3   Based on the advice of the forecaster the Duty Officer will decide on any necessary restriction using the criteria described below.

3.14.4   Experience has shown that a planned closure based on forecasts is preferable to waiting until wind speeds increase and reacting to them at short notice. If a closure is planned, due to a forecast advice from MetDesk, the FCC Press Office should be informed immediately so they can list the closure on the FCC web site and inform local radio stations in advance of the closure.

3.14.5   **Criteria for Traffic Restrictions for A548 Flintshire Bridge**

Wind Speed (miles/h)	Wind Speed (km/h)	Wind Speed (m/s)	Restriction
50-55	80-88	22-25	No restriction – Monitor wind speeds
55	88	25	Close bridge or Down-wind lane closures (see note (i)
60	95	27	Close bridge

Notes:-

(i)   In exceptional circumstances a down-wind lane closure can be implemented to allow the bridge to remain open for wind speeds above 55 mph. Generally this method of restriction would only be considered when there is advance notice of anticipated high wind speeds over a prolonged period. A down-wind lane closure provides an empty lane in the event that a vehicle is blown off course or blown over. In addition traffic speed is generally reduced.   For down-wind lane closures there will be a slow lane closure on one carriageway and a fast lane closure on the other.

(ii)   The above allowable wind speeds may be increased by 5 mph if the wind is a head or tail wind i.e. blowing along the bridge in a due East or Westerly direction.

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3.14.6 **Closure** - If a full closure is decided upon, the duty officer will:

    .►   Arrange for warning and diversion signs to be deployed and for the bridge to be close.

    ►   Inform all listed in the Contact List contained within the FCC Winter Maintenance Operation Plan handbook which is issued to all nominated personnel.

    ►   The police will inform the media and other emergency services of the closure

3.14.7 If a lane closure is decided upon the Duty Officer will arrange this and inform FCC Street works Section and the Police.

3.14.8 **Monitoring** - If it is decided that no immediate action is required, the situation shall be monitored by the Duty Officer until the risk of high winds has receded.

3.14.9 If a restriction/closure is implemented the Duty Officer shall monitor the situation and contact the Police to keep them informed of the anticipated re-opening time.

3.14.10 **Re-Opening** - When the weather improves the Duty Officer shall decide on a time for the removal of any restriction. PA can give advice on timing of reducing wind gust speeds.

3.14.11 The Duty Officer shall arrange for the removal of signs, cones and diversion signs used for the closure and inform the FCC Street works Section & Press Office, Police, Shotton Paper and FCC Business Development when the bridge is re-opened.

3.15 Flooding

3.15.1 **Forecasts** - Weather forecasts are received daily from MetDesk (forecast provider) for the next 2-5 days. The service is also in receipt of national flood guidance alerts. These should be reviewed daily by the Duty Officer to anticipate likely impacts and resources required to respond.

3.15.2 The nature of flooding tends to be very localised and is difficult to predict accurately, however resources will be allocated to inspect known hotspot and drainage infrastructure prior to forecasted events.

3.15.3 The Duty Manager should refer to the Flintshire County Council Sandbag Policy when considering the prioritisation of requests.

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4 | Risk Assessment

4.1   The winter maintenance service has undertaken various risk assessments on the provision of road surface treatments as follows:

- ►   Precautionary Treatment on Priority 1 Roads
- ►   Salting on Priority 2 Roads
- ►   Salting on Priority 3 Roads
- ►   Salting Town Centre Footways
- ►   Salting footways with low footfall
- ►   Salting Council maintained Car Parks

5 | Background Documents

5.1   The additional documents outlined below provided further detail and background information relating to the contents of this policy:

- ►   Highways Act 1980
- ►   Railways and Transport Act 2003
- ►   Traffic Management Act 2004
- ►   Code of Practice for Well-managed Highway Infrastructure (2016)
- ►   Quarmby Report – July 2010
- ►   Trunk Road Maintenance Manual
- ►   Welsh Government Advice Documents
- ►   WLGA Advice Documents

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**EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS - DECISIONS TAKEN
REPORTED TO CABINET – 19.09.23**

Revenues

- **Business Rate Write Off**
  Finance Procedure Rules requires the Corporate Finance Manager and the Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources to write off debts between £10k and £25k.

  A Business Rates debt totalling £12,591.20 has been written off for Cytori Ltd, a company formerly trading from Unit 68, Deeside Industrial Estate. Liquidators were appointed to the company in February 2021 and a dividend will not be declared to non-preferential unsecured creditors as no assets were realised. All recovery options have been exhausted and following the liquidation the company has now been dissolved from the Companies House Register.

Streetscene and Transportation

- **Prince of Wales Avenue, Park Avenue, St Catherine's Close and Allt Goch, Flint – Proposed Prohibition of Waiting and Waiting at Any Time Restrictions**
  To advise Members of the unresolved matters received following the advertisement of the proposed Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time on the roads listed above.

Copies of the Delegated Powers reports are retained by the Team Leader – Committee Services and available to view on request by Members.

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn bwrpasol

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS
COUNCIL, CABINET, AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE & SCRUTINY
1 September 2023 TO 29 February 2024

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
September					
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	7/09/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (S&HC OSC)** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	7/09/23	Social Services	**C2A Update (to inc. Arosfa additional placements)** To highlight to elected members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee the work undertaken withing the Child to Adult team (C2A)	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	7/09/23	Social Services	**Strategic Capital Plan Prioritisation** To ensure members are supportive of the prioritised schemes which will be taken forward with business Cases submitted to Welsh Government (WG) for consideration for Capital funding.	Strategic	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	7/09/23	Social Services	**Comments, Compliments & Complaints** To consider the Annual Comments, Compliments & Complaints report.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/09/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (E&E OSC)** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/09/23	Streetscene and Transportation	**Review of Winter Maintenance** To seek Scrutiny recommendation for the approval of the revised Winter Maintenance Policy which includes details of the Council's response during other emergency inclement weather events.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/09/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	**Public Spaces Protection Order Review (PSPO's)** To review the current PSPO's prior to consideration by Cabinet.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/09/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	**Renewal of Public Space Protection Orders – Alcohol and Dog Control** To consider the results of the public consultation with respect to the renewal of Public Space Protection Orders relating to dog control and alcohol.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/09/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	**Ash dieback Update** To update members on how Flintshire County Council has confronted ash dieback in 2022/23 in line with the 2019 Ash Dieback Action Plan.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/09/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (C&H OSC)** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/09/23	Housing and Communities	**Disabled Adaptations Policy** To present the updated Policy for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG).	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/09/23	Housing and Communities	**Flintshire Housing Need Prospectus** The report provides the annual update on the Council Housing Needs prospectus which allows the local authority to identify their priorities for Social Housing Grant as part of the WG Grant framework. The prospectus also provides a clear and concise summary of the housing need and demand.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/09/23	Housing and Communities	**Housing Strategy Action Plan Performance Update** To provide an update on the Housing Strategy.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/09/23	Housing and Communities	**Void Management** To provide a detailed update to the Committee on Void properties and the work undertaken to bring the properties back into use.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/09/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Action Tracking** To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/09/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Forward Work Programme** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/09/23	Finance	**Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2024/25** To update on the budget estimates and strategy for the setting of the 2024/25 budget.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/09/23	Finance	**Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 4) and Capital Programme Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 4)** To provide the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 4) Report and the Capital Programme 2023/24 (Month 4) Report.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/09/23	Chief Executive's	**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.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/09/23	Chief Executive's	**Corporate Self-Assessment 2022/23** To provide Members with the final report, detailing a summary of the findings following Stage 2 completion including a summary of feedback following consultation and stakeholder engagement.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/09/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (EY&C OSC)** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/09/23	Education and Youth	**Self-Evaluation Report Education Services 2022-23** To update Members on overall service performance 22-23 and Learner Outcomes from 2022.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/09/23	Education and Youth	**Annual Report from Regional School Improvement Service (GwE)** To receive an update on the support provided by the regional school effectiveness and improvement service, GWE and its impact on schools.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/09/23	Education and Youth	**School Reserve Balances year ending 31 March 2023** To provide the Committee with details of the closing balances held by Flintshire schools at the end of the financial year.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Cabinet	19/09/23	Social Services	**Strategic Capital Plan Prioritisation** To seek support of the prioritised schemes which will be taken forward with business Cases submitted to Welsh Government for consideration for Capital funding.	Strategic	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Cabinet	19/09/23	Governance	**Business Rates - Write Offs** To approve the write off of individual bad debts for Business Rates in excess of £25,000.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Cabinet	19/09/23	Chief Executive's	**Council Plan 2022/23 End of Year Performance Report** To review the Council Plan annual out-turn of progress against the Council Plan priorities identified for 2022/23.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Cabinet	19/09/23	Chief Executive's	**Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23** To present the draft Annual Treasury Management Report for 2022/23 for recommendation to Council.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Cabinet	19/09/23	Chief Executive's	**Capital Programme Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 4)** To present the Month 4 Capital Programme information for 2023/24.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Cabinet	19/09/23	Social Services	**Croes Atti Residential Home Capital Development** To seek approval for Flintshire County Council to enter into a contract with Willmott Dixon to build a new 56 bed residential care home in Flint.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Cabinet	19/09/23	Chief Executive's	**Approach to Holiday Pay** To discuss and agree the approach to Holiday Pay in light of the Supreme Court Judgment in the case of Harpur Trust and Brazel.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Cabinet	19/09/23	Education and Youth	**To present the annual self-evaluation report of Education Services in Flintshire** The Education & Youth Portfolio undertakes an annual self-evaluation of the provision of education services to provide assurance to members that standards of education in Flintshire are good and that the needs of children and young people are being met. The report is produced in line with the Estyn Inspection Framework for Local Government Education Services.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Cabinet	19/09/23	Streetscene and Transportation	**Review of Winter Maintenance Policy** To seek approval of the revised Winter Maintenance and Severe Weather Policy and provide a review of the previous year's activities.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy
Cabinet	19/09/23	Chief Executive's	**Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 4)** This regular monthly report provides the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2023/24 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The position is based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 4, and projects forward to year-end.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Cabinet	19/09/23	Governance	**A New Tribunal System for Wales** To consider and approve Flintshire County Council's response to a White Paper: A New Tribunal System for Wales.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

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COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Cabinet	19/09/23	Chief Executive's	**Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2024/25** To update on the budget estimates and strategy for the setting of the 2024/25 budget and to refer to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Flintshire County Council	26/09/23	Governance	**Committee Sizes and Political Balance** To consider setting Committee sizes to an odd number of seats and recalculating Political Balance to reflect the new sizes.		
Flintshire County Council	26/09/23	Governance	**Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2022/2023** To receive the first Annual Report of the Standards Committee		
Flintshire County Council	26/09/23	Chief Executive's	**Annual Performance Report 2022/23** To endorse the Annual Performance Report 2022/23 prior to publication		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Governance and Audit Committee	27/09/23	Education and Youth	**School Reserve Balances Year Ending 31 March 2023** To provide the Committee with details of the closing balances held by Flintshire schools at the end of the financial year.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Governance and Audit Committee	27/09/23	Governance	**Audit Wales 2023 Detailed Audit Plan** To review the Audit Wales - Audit Plan 2023 for the Council which sets out the proposed audit work for the year along with timescales, costs and the audit teams responsible for carrying out the work.	All Report Types	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Governance and Audit Committee	27/09/23	Governance	**Internal Audit Progress Report** To present to the Committee an update on the progress of the Internal Audit Department.	All Report Types	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Governance and Audit Committee	27/09/23	Governance	**Governance and Audit Committee Action Tracking** To inform the Committee of the actions resulting from points raised at previous Governance and Audit Committee meetings.	All Report Types	
Governance and Audit Committee	27/09/23	Governance	**Forward Work Programme** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Internal Audit Department.	All Report Types	
October					
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10/10/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (E&E OSC)** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10/10/23	Streetscene and Transportation	**Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transition Plan** To consider the Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transition Plan.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10/10/23	Governance	**Consultation on Member Role Descriptions** To consult Members on the draft role descriptions as provided in the revised draft Model Constitution.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/10/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (C&H OSC)** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/10/23	Housing and Communities	**Temporary Accommodation Audit Update** To provide a progress report on the action plan for service improvement following the audit of the Temporary Accommodation.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/10/23	Governance	**Consultation on Member Role Descriptions** To consult Members on the draft role descriptions as provided in the revised draft Model Constitution.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/10/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Action Tracking** To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/10/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Forward Work Programme** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/10/23	Social Services	**Joint Funded Care Packages - Update Report** To share an update on the current situation on the long term debt with the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board since the last report was received.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/10/23	Governance	**Consultation on Member Role Descriptions** To consult Members on the draft role descriptions as provided in the revised draft Model Constitution.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/10/23	Governance	**Cyber Resilience** To share with the Committee Audit Wales' national report on Cyber Resilience.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/10/23	Finance	**Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 5)** To provide Members with the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 5) Report and Significant Variances.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Cabinet	17/10/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	**Renewal of Public Space Protection Orders – Alcohol and Dog Control** To determine the renewal of Public Space Protection Orders relating to dog control and alcohol.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection
Cabinet	17/10/23	Chief Executive's	**Corporate Self-assessment** To provide Members with the final report, detailing a summary of the findings following Stage 2 completion including a summary of feedback following consultation and stakeholder engagement.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Cabinet	17/10/23	Chief Executive's	**Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 5)** This regular monthly report provides the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2023/24 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The position is based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 5, and projects forward to year-end.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19/10/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (EY&C OSC)** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19/10/23	Governance	**Consultation on Member Role Descriptions** To consult Members on the draft role descriptions as provided in the revised draft Model Constitution.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Flintshire County Council	24/10/23	Governance	**Rolling Review of the Employees Code of Conduct** As part of the rolling review of the Constitution, we need to consider whether the Employees Code of Conduct needs any amendments to keep it up to date.		
Flintshire County Council	24/10/23	Chief Executive's	**Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23** To present to Members the draft Annual Treasury Management Report 2022/23		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	26/10/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (S&HC OSC)** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	26/10/23	Social Services	**Social Care Commissioning** To receive an update on Audit Wales Report into OP Care Home Commissioning in North Wales. Oversight by Member of the Dom Care Framework refresh for North Wales.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	26/10/23	Governance	**Consultation on Member Role Descriptions** To consult Members on the draft role descriptions as provided in the revised draft Model Constitution.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	26/10/23	Social Services	**North Wales Regional Partnership Board (NWRPB) Annual Report** Members note the work and progress undertaken in 2022/23 on the work areas being taken forward through the North Wales Regional Partnership Board.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
November					
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/11/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (E&E OSC)** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/11/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	**FCC Social Enterprise Update Report** To provide an update of social enterprise activity, achievements and future priorities	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15/11/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (C&H OSC)** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16/11/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Action Tracking** To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16/11/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Forward Work Programme** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16/11/23	Finance	**Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 6) and Capital Programme Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 6)** To provide the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 6) report and the Capital Programme 2023/24 (Month 6) report.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Cabinet	21/11/23	Governance	**Council Tax Base for 2024/25** To approve the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2024/25 as part of the process of the revenue budget setting and Council Tax setting process for the new year.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Governance and Audit Committee	22/11/23	Governance	**Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter 2022-23 and complaints made against Flintshire County Council during the first half of 2023-24** To share the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) Annual Letter 2022-23 for Flintshire County Council and an overview of the complaints received against Council services in the first half of 2023-24.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Governance and Audit Committee	22/11/23	Chief Executive's	**Corporate Self-assessment** To provide Members with the final report, detailing a summary of the findings following Stage 2 completion including a summary of feedback following consultation and stakeholder engagement.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Governance and Audit Committee	22/11/23	Governance	**Governance and Audit Committee Action Tracking** To inform the Committee of the actions resulting from points raised at previous Governance and Audit Committee meetings.	All Report Types	
Governance and Audit Committee	22/11/23	Governance	**Forward Work Programme** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Internal Audit Department.	All Report Types	
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	30/11/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (EY&C OSC)** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
December					

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	7/12/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (S&HC OSC)** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/12/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (E&E OSC)** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/12/23	Streetscene and Transportation	**Outcome of Adoption of Local Toilet Strategy** To update members on the outcome.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/12/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (C&H OSC)** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/12/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Action Tracking** To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/12/23	Overview and Scrutiny	**Forward Work Programme** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/12/23	Finance	**Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 7)** To provide Members with the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 7) Report and Significant Variances.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Cabinet	19/12/23	Governance	**Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter 2022-23 and complaints made against Flintshire County Council during the first half of 2023-24** To share the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) Annual Letter 2022-23 for Flintshire County Council and an overview of the complaints received against Council services in the first half of 2023-24.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
January					
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/01/24	Finance	**Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 8)** To provide Members with the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 8) Report and Significant Variances.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
February					

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) *(Cabinet only)*	PORTFOLIO *(Cabinet only)*
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	8/02/24	Finance	**Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 9) and Capital Programme Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 9)** To provide the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 9) report and the Capital Programme 2023/24 (Month 9) report.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

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Eitem ar gyfer y Rhaglen 15

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