

To: Members of the Communities
Scrutiny Committee

Date: 1 September 2021

Direct Dial: 01824 712554

e-mail: democratic@denbighshire.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held at **10.00 am** on **THURSDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2021** in **VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**.

Yours sincerely

G. Williams
Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

AGENDA

PART 1 - THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THIS PART OF THE MEETING

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (Pages 5 - 6)

Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in any business identified to be considered at this meeting.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

Notice of items which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

4 MINUTES (Pages 7 - 18)

To receive the minutes of the:

- (i) Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 1 July 2021 (copy enclosed); and
- (ii) Special Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 26 July 2021 (copies enclosed).

10.05am – 10.10am

5 WILDFLOWER MEADOW PROJECT (Pages 19 - 42)

To consider a joint report by the Head of Highways & Environmental Services and the Council's Ecology Officer on the Wildflower Meadow Project (copy enclosed). The Committee is asked to examine the progress made to date with the project's delivery and for its support for the project's principles and proposals for improving publicity and engagement with communities in relation to the project.

10.10am – 11am

6 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 43 - 66)

To consider a report by the Scrutiny Coordinator (copy enclosed) seeking a review of the committee's forward work programme and updating members on relevant issues.

11am – 11.20am

7 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

To receive any updates from Committee representatives on various Council Boards and Groups.

11.20am – 11.30am

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Councillor Huw Williams (Chair)

Brian Blakeley
Rachel Flynn
Alan Hughes
Tina Jones
Merfyn Parry

Councillor Graham Timms (Vice-Chair)

Anton Sampson
Peter Scott
Glenn Swingler
Cheryl Williams

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

Code of Conduct for Members

DISCLOSURE AND REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS

I, (<i>name</i>)	<input type="text"/>
a *member/co-opted member of <i>(*please delete as appropriate)</i>	Denbighshire County Council
CONFIRM that I have declared a *personal / personal and prejudicial interest not previously declared in accordance with the provisions of Part III of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members, in respect of the following:- <i>(*please delete as appropriate)</i>	
Date of Disclosure:	<input type="text"/>
Committee (<i>please specify</i>):	<input type="text"/>
Agenda Item No.	<input type="text"/>
Subject Matter:	<input type="text"/>
Nature of Interest: <i>(See the note below)*</i>	<input type="text"/>
Signed	<input type="text"/>
Date	<input type="text"/>

*Note: Please provide sufficient detail e.g. 'I am the owner of land adjacent to the application for planning permission made by Mr Jones', or 'My husband / wife is an employee of the company which has made an application for financial assistance'.

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COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held via video conference on Thursday, 1 July 2021 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Brian Blakeley, Rachel Flynn, Tina Jones, Merfyn Parry, Anton Sampson, Peter Scott, Graham Timms (Vice-Chair), Cheryl Williams and Huw Williams (Chair).

Cabinet Members – Councillor Brian Jones, Lead member for Waste, Transportation and Environment; Councillor Tony Thomas, Lead Member for Housing and Communities and Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets.

Observers – Councillors Meirick Lloyd-Davies and Barry Mellor.

ALSO PRESENT

Corporate Director: Economy and Public Realm (Graham Boase), Head of Highways and Environmental Services (Tony Ward), Flood Risk Manager (Wayne Hope), Asset and Risk Manager (Tim Towers), Lead Officer - Community and Housing (Geoff Davies), Lead Officer - Corporate Property & Housing Stock (Dave Lorey), Head of Finance and Property Services (Steve Gadd), Lead Officer – Strategic Asset Management (Tom Booty), Scrutiny Coordinator (RhE), Committee Administrator/Host (Kath Jones) and Democratic Services Officer/Minutes (Karen Evans).

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alan Hughes.

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Nominations were sought for the office of Vice-Chair of the Committee for the 2021/22 municipal year. Councillor Brian Blakeley nominated Councillor Graham Timms for the position of Committee Vice-Chair. Councillor Merfyn Parry seconded Councillor Timms' nomination. No other nominations were received and by a majority vote the Committee:

Resolved: to elect Councillor Graham Timms as its Vice-Chair for the 2021/22 municipal year.

Councillor Timms thanked the Committee for their continued support.

3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Cheryl Williams declared a personal interest in business item 7 as a tenant of a Council property.

4 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No urgent matters had been raised with the Chair prior to the meeting.

5 MINUTES

The minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 13 May 2021 were submitted.

No matters were raised in relation to the contents of the minutes.

It was:

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2021 be received and approved as a true and correct record of proceedings.

6 SECTION 19 INVESTIGATION REPORT ON THE FEBRUARY 2020 FLOODS IN DENBIGHSHIRE

In his introduction the Lead Member for Waste, Transportation and Environment in his introduction, Councillor Brian Jones, highlighted that the flooding experienced across Denbighshire in February 2020 had been a significant event. The Head of Highways and Environment (TW) introduced the Section 19 Flood Report (previously circulated) relating to the floods which had occurred as a result of Storm Ciara. Denbighshire County Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority had a duty under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act to investigate flooding and publish the findings.

The majority of the flooding had occurred from main rivers – Ceidiog, Clwyd, Elwy and Ystrad - which came under the remit of Natural Resources Wales (NRW) for investigation. There was also some surface water flooding which was the responsibility of Denbighshire County Council to investigate.

The report sought to answer 3 questions in relation to each area that was flooded:

1. Why did the flooding happen?
2. How likely was it for that scale of flooding to happen again in that location?
3. What improvement actions were needed to ensure that flood risk in the County was appropriately managed in future?

The majority of the recommended improvement actions fell to NRW to progress (pages 33 to 35) as they had the authority and the powers to take action on main rivers.

Members expressed disappointment that the majority of information contained in the report related to responsibilities that were within the gift of NRW but there was no NRW representative at the meeting to respond to questions arising from it. Officers advised that the report itself contained the findings of the Council's investigation into the flooding and its causes, the intention was to present the report, accompanied by the Committee's comments to County Council in September 2021. If members wished representatives from NRW could be invited to

attend that meeting. It was agreed to request an update from NRW on intentions relating to their recommended actions and timescales to be included in the report that was to go to full Council and that NRW representatives be invited to attend.

Members also requested that a historical report or presentation be provided by NRW on rainfall measurements over the previous 10 to 15 years (within Denbighshire), along with an analysis on the quality and reliability of data from rain gauges. This could assist the Authority to gauge the potential impact of climate change on flooding locally. This information could possibly form part of the business item at the County Council meeting in September, or presented to the Flood Risk Management and Riparian Land Ownership Task and Finish Group.

It was confirmed that NRW had already been invited to present the findings of their modelling work in relation to Rhyl Cut and Prestatyn Gutter, at Communities Scrutiny Committee on 9th September 2021.

Responding to members' questions officers' advised:

- Rain gauges and river level stations were the property of NRW. Clarification would be sought as to their degree of accuracy.
- With regards to data gathering DCC had some telemetry at key locations, their purpose was to notify the Authority of high river levels in order to respond to potential blockages. DCC were looking to add telemetry to smaller water courses in future.
- The Authority's remit was to understand the pattern of risk of flooding within the County.
- The assessment of risk terminology adopted by NRW e.g. 1 in 100, could be confusing and potentially led to the belief that it was a low risk of flooding.
- New housing developments were covered by TAN15 planning guidance which sought to achieve a protection of 1 in 1000 annual exceedance probability. There were no national standards for existing developments.
- There was no clear indication that climate change was having a significant effect on flooding as weather behaviour tended to be cyclical.
- Where possible the technical mitigation should be identified to alleviate the risk of flooding existing developments. However, sometimes there was no possible technical mitigation or the cost of implementing it was prohibitive.
- Priorities needed to be established around places where there could be a defence through mitigation – noting that the risk would only be impacted, not removed.
- That every effort had been made by Council officers to assist individual residents and communities affected by main river flooding to enter into dialogue with NRW about reducing the risk of flooding in future.

At the conclusion of an in-depth discussion the Committee:

Resolved: subject to the above observations and the provision of the additional information requested when the report is presented to County Council in September 2021, to recommend that the Council -

- I. seeks assurances from Natural Resources Wales at its September 2021 County Council meeting that the recommendations identified in the Natural Resources Wales' flood investigation reports will be carried out, and that the anticipated timescales for their implementation and completion be confirmed; and***
- II. through the Flood Risk Management and Riparian Land Ownership Task and Finish Group, seeks assurances from Natural Resources Wales that flood risk from main rivers in Denbighshire is being appropriately managed.***

7 COUNCIL HOUSING TENANTS SURVEY

The Lead Member for Housing and Communities, Councillor Tony Thomas introduced the report (previously circulated) informing the committee that of the 3277 Standardised Tenants and Residents (STAR) surveys sent out there had been 381 responses (11%). The survey results would also be shared with Denbighshire's Tenants Federation.

Whilst there was a statutory requirement to undertake the survey every 2 years some Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) had submitted data compiled pre Covid - 19. Denbighshire County Council had undertaken the survey during the autumn/winter of 2020/2021 and it was subsequently noted by Welsh Government that its response was impacted by the pandemic.

Overall satisfaction rates were lower than the 2019 survey results reflected in the increase in non-committal responses (neither satisfied or dissatisfied) – indicating that tenants were not able to fully rate the service due to the pandemic lockdown.

The Lead Officer – Community Housing (GD) expressed disappointment at the reduced overall satisfaction rates but they were as could be expected on a limited service (emergency only during lockdown). Whereas previously residents prioritised the service standards for their own homes, during the pandemic their focus had transferred to the safety of their neighbourhood and community.

Areas for improvement had been identified including a re-running of the STAR survey at the end of the year to reset the data in order that all councils and RSLs could be compared with data within the same date range.

In response to members' questions the Lead Officer – Community Housing advised:

- it was important that tenants of social landlords received a similar service for the rent they were paying. Benchmarking data was published by Welsh Government. Information and would be circulated to members.
- That a good working relationship existed between the Council and RSLs in the county.
- There were more online and younger respondents to the survey than previous years.
- Endeavours were made to ensure that a representative sample responded to the survey. Dynamic surveys were also undertaken throughout the year.

- The biggest maintenance concern for residents was damp/condensation issues in older housing stock, whilst problems in relation to dog fouling featured amongst the highest number of complaints on a continuous basis.
- The quality of work on capital projects drew a high satisfaction rating on a regular basis, whilst communication with tenants registered a far lower level of satisfaction despite every effort being made to improve and adapt interaction and communication methods with the Council's tenants.
- There was an opportunity going forward under the carbon efficiency agenda to replace heating systems with energy efficient ones – air source heat pumps and solar panels etc.
- Tenants were responsible for their own garden maintenance. There was a proactive inspection routine by Housing Officers. Consideration was given to initiatives such as 'no mow May'. Where necessary the Council could help tenants maintain their gardens by providing them with necessary equipment.
- Tenants housed by Adra Housing Association at the new development in Trefnant were all selected from the common housing register – used by the Council and all RSLs which required prospective tenants to evidence a connection to the local area

The Committee:

Resolved: subject to the above observations to –

- (i) endorse and support the Community Housing Standardised Tenants and Residents (STAR) Action Plan 2021 drawn up to respond to the findings of the October 2020 survey of the Council's housing tenants and support the delivery of the Housing and the Resilient Communities corporate priorities; and***
- (ii) request that an Information Report be provided to Committee members detailing the benchmarking and satisfaction survey results of Registered Social Landlords operating in Denbighshire.***

8 COVID-19 RECOVERY THEME - COUNCIL BUILDINGS

The Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets, Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, updated the Committee on the Covid-19 Recovery Theme for Council Buildings since September 2020. He reminded the Committee that the remit of the report did not cover occupation of schools or housing stock.

The Authority was still operating under the Welsh Government guidance that advised that staff who can work from home should continue to do so. Attendance at the office where necessary was being managed by line management and the Facilities Management Unit to ensure compliance with the current regulations.

Once conditions allowed and staff moved back into offices it would be managed under a rota basis to limit the amount of staff in any building at any time, up to a maximum of 50% occupancy. Longer term it was anticipated that a hybrid system would be in use where attendance in buildings would be for meetings rather than transactional purposes.

In regard to buildings' maintenance there had been a reduction in reactive maintenance over the previous 12 months but that had given opportunity for work to be completed on larger scheme projects. There had not been any significant disruption to the programme of works.

Responding to members' questions the Committee was advised by the Lead Member and the Head of Finance and Property:

- That last year there were underspends generated as a result of staff working from home e.g. less heating, travel and printing costs, NNDR rebates. The closure of school buildings for prolonged periods had also reduced costs. However, moving forward costs incurred for ICT investments, Health and Safety and printing would increase again.
- It was anticipated that new ways of working would lead to lower occupancy but not necessarily less office buildings. Shared spaces were still being explored with partner organisations.
- Whilst generic guidance had been shared with Town, City and Community Councils on managing their buildings at the beginning of the pandemic, the Authority did not have sufficient resources to help with property management and maintenance.
- There was also a working group looking at new ways of working for elected members. It hoped to be completed and implement its work in time for the next local elections. All elected members had been given an opportunity to input into this work via a questionnaire/survey.

The Committee:

Resolved: - *subject to the above comments and observations, to receive the information provided in relation to the latest position with regards to Council office building arrangements and maintenance work undertaken throughout the pandemic and lockdown periods.*

9 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Coordinator presented the report (previously circulated) seeking members' review of the Committee's work programme and provided an update on relevant issues.

The Committee were reminded that there was a special meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 26th July to consider a report from the task and finish group established to support and monitor the process of developing the statutory Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).

The next meeting would be on 9th September. The only item on the agenda was one on the Flood Management Responsibilities in relation to the Rhyl Cut and Prestatyn Gutter. The Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs Group was meeting on the afternoon of 1st July which could potentially lead to further items being added to the work programme for September's Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting.

The information report on benchmarking with the RSL Surveys was requested for the next meeting.

The Committee:

Resolved: subject to the above comments and observations to confirm the Committee's forward work programme.

10 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Huw Williams advised that the Flood Risk Management and Riparian Land Ownership Task and Finish Group was ongoing, progress was being made.

Councillor Peter Scott advised that there had been several meetings of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Task and Finish Group which was also progressing well and would meet again on Monday 5th July.

It was:

Resolved: to receive the information provided on the work of the various groups by Committee representatives.

Meeting concluded at 12:30pm

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COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a special meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held via Video Conference on Monday, 26 July 2021 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Brian Blakeley, Alan Hughes, Tina Jones, Merfyn Parry, Peter Scott, Graham Timms (Vice-Chair), Cheryl Williams and Huw Williams (Chair).

Present at the Committee's invitation were:

Cabinet members: Councillor Hugh Evans (Leader of the Council) and Councillor Mark Young (Lead Member for Planning, Public Protection and Safer Communities)

Task and Finish Group members: Councillors Martyn Holland, Hugh Irving and Barry Mellor (Chair). [Councillors Peter Scott (Vice-Chair) and Alan Hughes were both members of the Committee].

Observer: Councillor Meirick Lloyd Davies

ALSO PRESENT

Head of Legal, HR & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer (GW), Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services (EGJ), Strategic Planning and Housing Manager (AL), Project Manager (KW), Scrutiny Coordinator (RhE) and Committee Administrators (KE and SJ).

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Graham Boase, Corporate Director: Economy and Public Realm.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No personal or prejudicial interests were declared.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No urgent matters had been raised with the Chair ahead of the meeting.

4 GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION ASSESSMENT - REPORT BY THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Chair welcomed Councillor Barry Mellor, Chair of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Task and Finish Group and other members of the Group to the meeting.

On behalf of the Task and Finish Group Councillor Mellor introduced the report (previously circulated) to Committee members. During his introduction Councillor Mellor advised that local authorities, under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, were legally bound to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) at least every five years. A current GTAA was also a requirement for the replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) and an approved GTAA required to be submitted by the Council to the WG by 24 February 2022. He reminded the Committee that Scrutiny, in recent years, had requested that councillors and the Council's scrutiny committees should be consulted on the development of the GTAA at an early stage with a view to securing timely and effective engagement with all stakeholders, in particular members of the Gypsy and Traveller community.

Whilst not a requirement of the Welsh Government's (WG) statutory guidance 'Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment', the Authority had decided that it would be prudent to adopt a project management approach to realise the delivery of a GTAA in accordance with the methodology set out in the guidance. In line with this approach a Project Board, comprising of the Council Leader, the Lead Member for Planning, Public Protection and Safer Communities, along with other senior Council officers, was established to manage the delivery of the project, secure the necessary resources for its delivery and to draw up a communications and engagement plan in relation to the work that was being undertaken. The Project Board felt that it would be key for the process to be seen to be open and transparent from the outset, hence their request that Communities Scrutiny Committee establish a Task and Finish Group to support and inform the development of the GTAA and ensure that its development complied with all aspects of the WG's guidance and took into account elected members' representations. As detailed in the report and associated appendices Communities Scrutiny Committee at its meeting in May 2021 endorsed the proposal to establish a task and finish group for this purpose and, with a view to ensuring cross county input into the process, it asked each of the Member Area Groups (MAGs) to appoint a representative to serve on the Task and Finish Group. A copy of the Task and Finish Group's terms of reference was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Councillor Mellor outlined the work undertaken by the Group to date, as detailed in appendices 1 and 2 to the report. He emphasised that the Group had agreed to take a two stage approach to the work. The first stage required the group to understand the Welsh Government methodology in order to develop a work brief and stakeholder communication and engagement plan with the Gypsy and Traveller community, elected members and other stakeholders. Stage two would focus on monitoring the process undertaken and the progress made to ensure compliance with statutory guidance and elected members' expectations. During its initial meetings the Task and Finish Group had reviewed the list of potential sources of data as set out within the WG's methodology, and identified some options for gathering additional qualitative data that may inform the understanding of need i.e. travelling patterns. This would include reviewing any additional information gathered from welfare visits to unauthorised encampments and an invitation to elected members and city, town and community councils to provide any local knowledge through an online survey. The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment would be undertaken by Opinion Research Services (ORS) the

external consultants appointed to undertake the GTAA by both Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council. Whilst the services of ORS had been jointly procured they would be undertaking two entirely separate GTAAs and producing two individual reports.

The Task and Finish Group had agreed that in addition to the minimum requirements set out in the WG's methodology in relation to promoting the GTAA, additional steps should be followed in Denbighshire with a view to promoting the Assessment these were listed on page 6 of the GTAA Draft Work Brief (July 2021) attached at Appendix 2 to the report. Activities proposed included asking Elected Members to place posters in key community venues in their wards to encourage participation, promoting the Assessment and seeking people to come forward and engage with the Council on their needs, on-line surveys to county councillors and city, town and community councils and working with other stakeholders such as health visitors and the Police to promote the Assessment with families that they may have contact with. Further detailed information on the proposed activities were contained in the Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Plan (Appendix 3). In addition, the T&F Group had met with representatives from the ORS consultancy and as a result had been reassured that they were knowledgeable and experienced with regards this type of work.

If the Committee agreed to endorse the Assessment's commencement, the Task and Finish group would meet again in September and October to monitor progress with the work and ensure compliance with the statutory and additional requirements. The Task and Finish Group would report back to the Committee with its comments on this process. The draft GTAA would be presented by members of the Project Board to Communities Scrutiny Committee for examination before seeking final approval from Cabinet. If approved by Cabinet, the GTAA would be submitted to Welsh Government for approval.

Councillor Mellor emphasised that the T&F Group wanted to ensure that the Committee was satisfied with all steps taken thus far with regards to the GTAA process. It also wanted to seek the Committee's endorsement for the process followed, the work brief and Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Plan to enable the actual assessment itself to commence. In doing so he stressed that the T&F Group was not looking for potential residential and/or transit Gypsy and Traveller sites. Its remit was solely to ensure that the accommodation assessment was undertaken in accordance with WG guidance whilst also taking into account any locally identified considerations. The outcomes of the GTAA would determine whether the Council would require to identify potential sites at a later date.

Councillor Peter Scott, Vice-Chair of the T&F Group, echoed Councillor Mellor's comments on the diligent work undertaken to date by the Group which had held several meetings in a short period of time.

Responding to members' questions the Chair of the Task and Finish Group, the Head of Planning, Public Protection and the Strategic Planning and Housing Manager confirmed that:

- by procuring and engaging ORS as the consultants with Conwy County Borough Council both authorities aimed to reduce the risk of double counting and duplication in certain aspects of the work. However, ORS would be undertaking and producing two entirely separate GTAAs;
- in addition to working closely with Conwy CBC in appointing consultants the T&F Group had also asked officers to liaise closely with all other North Wales authorities in relation to the development of their GTAAs

Committee members praised the T&F Group for its work so far and thanked it for the informative report presented to them. It was felt that the approach taken towards planning and undertaking the new GTAA should result in the Authority being in a far better position if and when it required to look at potential sites for residential and/or transit Gypsy and Travellers in the county in future.

The Leader thanked the T&F Group and its Chair for a very comprehensive report. He emphasised the importance of involving all stakeholders throughout the development of the Assessment and at the same time ensuring appropriate levels of internal and external communications regarding the Assessment and its purpose.

The Committee Chair thanked the Task and Finish Group for its work and the MAG representatives on the T&F Group who were also members of the Council's scrutiny committees for regularly reporting back to their committees on the T&F Group's work.

During the discussion a number of members referred to a recent unauthorised encampment on public land near East Parade, Rhyl and the perception that the Council and North Wales Police had been slow to take enforcement action against those involved. Officers advised that there had been legal complexities in relation to this matter, but confirmed that all relevant public authorities were working together in an attempt to resolve the matter. It was stressed that matters relating to unauthorised encampments were not within the remit of the T&F Group and that a draft procedure and solutions for dealing with such encampments in future had recently been endorsed by Scrutiny and were in the process of being implemented.

The Committee:

Resolved: that Scrutiny having considered the information contained in the Task and Finish Group's report and imparted during the discussion, subject to the observations noted above –

- (i) endorse the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Work Brief (Appendix 2 to the report);***
- (ii) endorse the Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Plan (Appendix 3 to the report);***
- (iii) confirm its support for the approach adopted for the delivery of Denbighshire's Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment as being robust and in line with Welsh Government guidance; and***
- (iv) endorsed the start of the assessment.***

Meeting concluded at 10.30am.

Report to	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	9th September, 2021
Lead Member / Officer	Cllr Tony Thomas, Lead Member for Housing and Communities / Tony Ward, Head of Highways and Environmental (H&E) Services & Emlyn Jones, Head of Planning, Public Protection & Countryside (PPP&C) Services
Report author	Tony Ward / Joel Walley (Ecology Officer)
Title	Wildflower Meadow Project

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. This report provides an update on the Wildflower Meadow Project, which is a joint project between Highways and Environmental (H&E) Services and the Planning, Public Protection and Countryside (PPP&C) Services.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. To update Members on progress with the project and to enable Members to undertake their scrutiny function.
- 2.2. To seek the ongoing support of the Committee for this important project, which has been subject to opposition within some communities. Specifically, the Council has received challenges about the appropriateness of residential/urban areas as locations for Wildflower Meadows, including a petition presented to Council on 6th July 2021 on behalf of residents of Ffordd Nant in Rhuddlan.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee:

- 3.1. confirms its support for the principle that residential/urban areas can be appropriate locations for wildflower meadows.

- 3.2. supports the proposals for improved engagement and publicity that officers are proposing for the project.
- 3.3. confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix 1) as part of its consideration.

4. Report details

- 4.1. As a Local Authority, we have a statutory duty to enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of our ecosystems under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The Council has also declared a Climate Change and Ecological Emergency in July 2019 and adopted the Climate and Ecological Change Strategy in February 2021 including the Ecologically Positive Council by 2030 goal. It is within this context that the H&E and PPP&C Services have taken steps to enhance biodiversity by encouraging wildflower meadows to establish in suitable sites across the county.
- 4.2. Officers assessed sites managed by Street Scene for their wildflower habitat potential, and 21 sites were selected for the first-year pilot (2020). These were added to in 2021 and there are now 58 managed wildflower meadow sites that contribute to our improved species richness ambitions. These sites, along with our 11 roadside nature reserves, contribute to nearly 50 acres (equivalent to 30 football pitches) of native wildflower habitat in Denbighshire. This project also contributes to the Council's Bee Friendly status, signed up to in 2018, aimed at supporting the recovery of bees and other pollinators. Denbighshire is widely regarded as leading the way in Wales in relation to this work, and it is something that the Council, and our communities, should be very proud of.
- 4.3. These sites are *not* unmanaged or left to grow wild or to become rank. The sites are left uncut between March and August each year, except a small border mown around each site cut on a fortnightly schedule and a litter pick undertaken during this time too. More detail on the standard maintenance regime for Wildflower Meadow Sites is provided in Appendix 2. This management regime allows the flowers to set seed, and ensures that the meadow provides the greatest benefit to wildlife. At the end of the season, the whole site is then cut with specialist mowing equipment, and the cuttings are removed. This helps to lower the richness of the soil, and create the low-nutrient ground that our native wildflowers and grasses need to thrive. If necessary, we plant native wildflowers grown from local seeds or sow seeds collected from our other sites, to increase the species richness.

- 4.4. Wildflower meadows vary from site to site and usually contain a variety of native grasses and wildflowers. The wildflowers at our sites are mostly native perennial species, which return and flower each year. Wildflower meadows have a long flowering season and different species flower through the year.
- 4.5. Wildflower meadows sites are not pictorial meadows. Pictorial meadows are made up of mixes of plants and are often referred to as 'wildflower meadows'. Usually pictorial meadows include many non-native species, and no grasses. Pictorial meadows provide less benefits to biodiversity and need regular, costly maintenance. Our wildflower meadows often do still look beautiful, and some examples are provided in the resident letter template at Appendix 3.
- 4.6. The aims of the Wildflower Meadow Project have been stated objectives of the council for many years now. The project was included in our Biodiversity Duty Delivery Plan 2016-2019, which was debated at Partnerships Scrutiny Committee (11 July 2019) and adopted by Lead Member thereafter. The project also forms an important part of our strategy to achieve the biodiversity targets set out in our Corporate Plan 2017–22, and our ambition to become an Ecologically Positive Council by 2030.
- 4.7. On Page 43 of our [Climate and Ecological Change Strategy](#) we state to *“expand year on year the wildflower (deliberate non-cut) pilot conducted in 2020 to more areas the Council owns or manages e.g. more public realm sites, community housing sites, care home sites etc.”* The strategy was subject to a public consultation during November and December 2020, and the final document was adopted at Council on 23rd February, 2021, via unanimous vote. Importantly, the principle of developing wildflower meadows in residential/urban areas was consulted upon in 2020 and unanimously supported by Members in February 2021.
- 4.8. As context to this work, the UK has lost 20 species of bee since 1920, with 35 species currently at risk of extinction. Honey bees declined 23% in Wales between 1985 and 2005, and since 1930 the UK has lost 97% of its wildflower meadows. 41% of species has seen their populations decline since 1970, with 15% of species now facing extinction. The Council has a duty to try to save our native flora and fauna, and we are determined to restore wildflower habitats and increase pollinator numbers within the County. That is why we decided to make some operational changes to the way we manage a number of Street Scene sites, which were previously mown regularly.
- 4.9. Although there has been almost universal support for the vast majority of the sites across the County, we have received opposition from some residents

regarding a small number of sites, generally based on 2 factors: 1) People are used to seeing neatly mown grass, and prefer how that looks; and 2) People object to what they see as a loss of municipal or amenity space.

- 4.10. To be clear, aesthetic preferences are not a relevant factor in the site selection process. It's true that some people like the look of these sites, and some people do not. It therefore needs to be accepted that we may never get 100% of residents to support all of these sites being developed as wildflower meadows. However, it is important to remember that we are not doing this for aesthetic reasons; we are doing it for the environmental benefits.
- 4.11. The issue of losing municipal/amenity space is a relevant matter for consideration, and something that is taken into account when sites are assessed and selected. It is the view of officers that there is nothing in the 58 current sites that would stop people using the site for any other recreational purposes that would have previously taken place at these sites.
- 4.12. After just one year of changing management at these sites, we have recorded common spotted orchids in Stryd y Brython, Ruthin, as well as Hound's-Tongue and Toothed Medick at two of our Prestatyn sites. Toothed Medick has never had a confirmed record in Wales and Hound's-Tongue is a near-threatened plant on the GB red list, and has only been recorded 18 times in Denbighshire in the last 116 years. These examples not only demonstrate the importance of this work, they are also relevant because, in the case of the Prestatyn sites mentioned, they are sites where we originally received complaints from residents on the grounds that they weren't appropriate locations. If we had withdrawn those sites as a result of those complaints, we wouldn't have seen these important results.
- 4.13. This leads on to the issue of engagement and communication about potential sites. It has been suggested that the Council could have done more to communicate the location of the current sites within the Wildflower Meadow Project before they were taken forward, and that is accepted to some extent. County Councillors were made aware of the Wildflower Meadow Project, and what we intended to do in terms of changing the maintenance regime at suitable locations in 2020 and 2021. Looking specifically at 2021 communications, a [press release](#) was issued about the project in April 2021 which was reported by local newspapers and a specific email was sent on May 28th, 2021, to all Councillors who have wildflower meadow sites within their ward. We have also put regular updates on our social media accounts over the

past year, and we have specific information about it on our [website](#), including [digital mapping](#) showing the location of all sites.

4.14. However, it is acknowledged that we possibly could have done more to publicise information about the specific sites prior to them being developed, and this is something we have addressed going forward. That said, the response to the project has been almost overwhelmingly positive. Out of the sites we have selected so far, we have only had negative feedback about a few sites, and those concerns have largely been allayed through subsequent dialogue with those residents. Therefore, it is important that we have a proportionate response to the concerns about engagement and consultation, given the vast resource that could be required for such processes. Moving forward, our plan for communication and engagement for this project is outlined in Appendix 4.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1. The project forms an important part of our strategy to achieve the biodiversity targets set out in our Corporate Plan 2017–22, and our ambition to become an Ecologically Positive Council by 2030.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1. The work to assess and select sites, and also the work involved in the revised maintenance regimes, has been absorbed within existing staff workloads and budgets. Additional equipment has been required, but this has been funded via Welsh Government grants. Customers and Communities Service continue to support the project via communications and Webteam.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1. See Appendix 1 for full WIA.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1. Please see Appendix 6 for detail.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. As stated in section 6 there are no direct financial implications of this report with the work absorbed within existing workloads and budgets and use of grants.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1. The risks mainly relate to public perception and criticism of the Council if residents don't understand or support this project. These will be managed via the engagement and communication activities highlighted in paragraph 4.14 and Appendix 4.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. See Appendix 7 for detail.

Appendix 1

Wildflower Meadow Project

Well-being Impact Assessment Report


This report summarises the likely impact of the proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	966
Brief description:	The creation of Wildflower Meadow Sites across the County. The sites are left uncut between March and August each year, except a small border mown around each site cut on a fortnightly schedule and a litter pick undertaken during this time too. This management regime allows the flowers to set seed, and ensures that the meadow provides the greatest benefit to wildlife. At the end of the season, the whole site is then cut with specialist mowing equipment, and the cuttings are removed. This helps to lower the richness of the soil, and create the low-nutrient ground that our native wildflowers and grasses need to thrive. If necessary, we plant native wildflowers grown from local seeds or sow seeds collected from our other sites, to increase the species richness. This is primarily within sites managed by Street Scene but hopes to be extended to more areas the Council owns or manages e.g. more public realm sites, community housing sites, care home sites etc.
Date Completed:	Version: 0
Completed by:	
Responsible Service:	Planning & Public Protection
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	Internally - Street Scene - Site grounds maintenance providers (various) - Biodiversity Team - Communication and Web team - Councillors Externally - Wildlife - Species richness - Residents - Visitors - Regulators
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	No

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach


 (3 out of 4 stars) Actual score : 30 / 36.

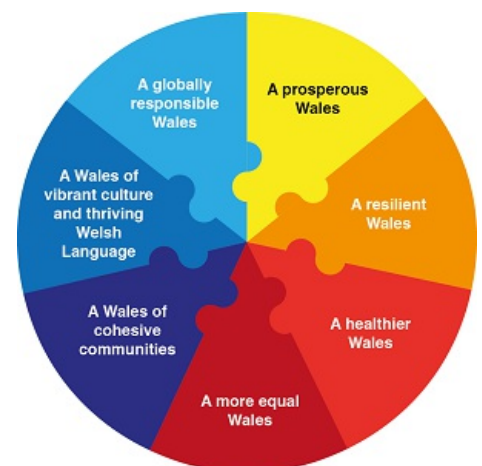
Summary for each Sustainable Development principle

Long term	This project has the long term at its heart, building resilience of natural assets and promoting natures recovery. How to secure the legacy of the proposal in particular the sustainable management of these sites has been a consideration from the get go and funding from Welsh Government secured to procure pieces of equipment to help ensure the manageability of these sites.
Prevention	The project is about encouraging less human intervention in a number of sites across the County, thus reducing reliance on public service at these sites and giving space and time to nature to recover and prevent the further decline in species.
Integration	The aims of the Wildflower Meadow Project have been stated objectives of the council for many years now. The project was included in our Biodiversity Duty Delivery Plan 2016-2019, forms an important part of our strategy to achieve the biodiversity targets set out in our Corporate Plan 2017-22, and our ambition to become an Ecologically Positive Council by 2030 in Climate and Ecological Change Strategy. This project also contributes to the Council's Bee Friendly status.
Collaboration	The Wildflower Meadow Project is a joint project between Highways & Environmental Service and Planning and Public Protection & Countryside Service and project managed by the Climate Change team. Biodiversity team and Street Scene teams have worked together on the project and project endorsed by external bodies such as Plantlife and Bionet.
Involvement	We continue to evolve the project in light of resident and councillor feedback as we build on the number of sites year on year.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

A prosperous Denbighshire	Neutral
A resilient Denbighshire	Positive
A healthier Denbighshire	Neutral
A more equal Denbighshire	Neutral
A Denbighshire of cohesive communities	Positive
A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Positive
A globally responsible Denbighshire	Positive



Main conclusions

As a local authority we have a statutory duty to function sustainably and lead by example when it comes to protecting and enhancing our natural environment. To meet the challenge of reversing the decline in biodiversity it is essential that we act now and ensure as a local authority we meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

This project outlines how, as an organisation, it can contribute to address its biodiversity duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and consequently help achieve its Well-being and Nature Recovery Plan objectives over the period 2016-19. In addition to delivering on the Council's Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Declaration and achievement of the Ecologically Positive Council by 2030 goal within our Climate and Ecological Change Strategy.

The Wellbeing Impact Assessment has shown that the adoption of this document will align the council with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. Although largely an internal document, the benefits will be felt by residents throughout the county.

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

- We have consulted published research or guides that inform us about the likely impact of the proposal
- We have involved an expert / consulted a group who represent those who may affected by the proposal
- We have engaged with people who will be affected by the proposal

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	Greener and more attractive environments in both towns and villages. Increased tourism potential. Especially as more rare species become present again within Denbighshire which may not have been recorded elsewhere in UK for decades.
Further actions required	n/a

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	n/a
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	n/a
Economic development	Greener and more attractive environments in both towns and villages. Increased tourism potential. Especially as more rare species become present again within Denbighshire which may not have been recorded elsewhere in UK for decades.
Quality skills for the long term	Increased opportunities to develop skills in the outdoor environment sector, with opportunities for staff throughout the authority to volunteer.
Quality jobs for the long term	A greener, more attractive county offers a more attractive place to work.
Childcare	n/a

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	n/a
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	n/a
Economic development	n/a
Quality skills for the long term	n/a
Quality jobs for the long term	n/a
Childcare	n/a

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	This project is all about increasing the resilience of our ecosystems and in supporting natures recovery.
Further actions required	n/a

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	The focus of this project is to protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment.
Biodiversity in the built environment	n/a
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	Removal of arisings from sites for use as feed for animals and creation of composting material
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	n/a
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	The project will engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity in peoples thinking.
Flood risk management	Restoring degraded habitats within the water catchment areas will help to slow the flow of water and reduce the likelihood of flooding. Removing arisings from sites will reduce likelihood these make there way to ditches, gullies and rivers which would prevent reduction of capacity in water routes.

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	n/a
Biodiversity in the built environment	n/a
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	n/a
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	n/a
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	n/a
Flood risk management	n/a

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	
Justification for impact	A more attractive, greener environment encourages people to spend time outdoors, and has known benefits to mental and physical health.
Further actions required	n/a

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	A more attractive, greener environment encourages people to spend time outdoors, and has known benefits to mental and physical health.
Access to good quality, healthy food	n/a

People's emotional and mental well-being	A more attractive, greener environment encourages people to spend time outdoors, and has known benefits to mental and physical health.
Access to healthcare	n/a
Participation in leisure opportunities	n/a

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	n/a
Access to good quality, healthy food	n/a
People's emotional and mental well-being	n/a
Access to healthcare	n/a
Participation in leisure opportunities	n/a

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The project isn't focused on creating a more equal Denbighshire but is being delivered in a way that doesn't prevent equality.
Further actions required	n/a

Positive impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	Any planting days or communication material will be planned and created to enable access for all.
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	n/a
People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes	n/a

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage	Some areas for wildflower meadows will be in areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage. The benefit of nature's recovery will be felt in these areas.
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Negative impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	n/a
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	n/a
People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes	n/a
Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage	n/a

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	It is important to remember that we are not doing this for aesthetic reasons; we are doing it for the environmental benefits. However, our wildflower meadows often do still look beautiful.
Further actions required	Increasing and continual education and awareness campaigns on what wildflower meadows look like and how they develop over time.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	n/a
Community participation and resilience	Arrangement of planting days and/or wildflower identification training, as appropriate, with local residents.
The attractiveness of the area	It is important to remember that we are not doing this for aesthetic reasons; we are doing it for the environmental benefits. However, our wildflower meadows often do still look beautiful
Connected communities	n/a
Rural resilience	n/a

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	n/a
Community participation and resilience	n/a
The attractiveness of the area	Wildflower meadows sites are not pictorial meadows. Pictorial meadows are made up of mixes of plants and are often referred to as 'wildflower meadows'. Usually pictorial meadows include many non-native species, and no grasses. Pictorial meadows provide less benefits to biodiversity and need regular, costly maintenance.
Connected communities	n/a
Rural resilience	n/a

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	This project has a positive contribution to make to securing a vibrant culture in Denbighshire based on survival of species of Welsh and UK importance. That heritage of nature's survival and encouragement is something that can be built on and marketed to celebrate locally and nationally.
Further actions required	n/a

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	n/a
Promoting the Welsh language	All signage and promotion material bilingual with Welsh featuring first
Culture and heritage	After just one year of changing management at these sites, we have recorded common spotted orchids in Stryd y Brython, Ruthin, as well as Hound's-Tongue and Toothed Medick at two of our Prestatyn sites. Toothed Medick has never had a confirmed record in Wales and Hound's-Tongue is a near-threatened plant on the GB red list, and has only been recorded 18 times in Denbighshire in the last 116 years. We also have a suspected record of sea-clover at Plas Lorna, which is a nationally scarce plant recorded just once before in North Wales, and recorded several hornet hoverflies at another site in Rhuddlan.

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	n/a
Promoting the Welsh language	n/a
Culture and heritage	n/a

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Project has a positive contribution to make because of its explicit intervention in reducing nature's decline.
Further actions required	Use local stockist or suppliers for specialist equipment who source equipment from further afield.

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	Local plants and seeds of local provenance will be used as supplementary planting/support to the development of the sites.
Human rights	n/a
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	n/a
Reducing climate change	The project is specifically about slowing and reversing nature's decline

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	Specialist equipment required tends to not be manufactured in Wales/UK, rather on mainland Europe
Human rights	n/a
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	n/a
Reducing climate change	n/a

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Appendix 2 - Street Scene standard maintenance regime for Wildflower Meadow Sites

Activity	Frequency
Cut a border edge around the wildflower meadow area of the site	Every 2-3 weeks (March to August)
Assessment of site for any environmental penalties (e.g. dog fouling).	Hot spots reported to Enforcement Team.
<p>Conduct a litter pick of the site.</p> <p>Site walked prior to cut to inspect for materials that would damage the mower.</p>	<p>Every 2-3 weeks (March to August) for mown edge.</p> <p>Every 2-3 weeks (August to November) for whole site.</p>
Empty rubbish bins if present on site.	As per required cleansing schedule.
Clean Signs	As required.
Conduct a full cut of the wildflower meadow area of the site once seeds have dropped.	From August each year
Continue with a full cut of whole site.	Every 2-3 weeks (August to end of season, October/November dependent on weather)

Appendix 3 - Resident Letter Template for sites in residential/urban settings

Dear Resident,

Re: Wildflower Meadow Project – [insert site name, location] site

The Council's Biodiversity Team wanted to contact you to tell you more about Denbighshire County Council's Wildflower Meadow Project.

As a Local Authority, we have a statutory duty to enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of our ecosystems under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Council has also declared a Climate Change and Ecological Emergency. We have therefore taken steps to enhance this area for biodiversity, by encouraging a wildflower meadow to establish. To give the site the best chance of success, it has not been cut between March and August to allow flowers to grow and drop their seeds. The site will undergo an end-of-season grass cut each year, which will take place from August onwards, as part of the Council's wildflower grounds maintenance management plan. The photographs below show an example of how some of our current wildflower meadows have altered over time.



Wildflower site – year 1



Wildflower site – year 2



Wildflower site – year 3

Should additional planting be required to encourage the site's transition to a wildflower meadow, we will source species native to your local area, which will be planted in the early autumn. The species chosen will be an important food source for rare and declining pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies. We would be happy to arrange a planting day and/or to provide you and other local residents with wildflower identification training, so that you can help to undertake monitoring and get more involved, should you wish. Please contact the Biodiversity Team on the contact details below to register your interest.

You can also find out more information about the project on our web page at <https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/environmental-health/climate-and-ecological-change/wildflower-meadow-project.aspx>.

We hope this goes some way to explaining the aims of the project and the importance of your site at [insert site name, location]. Your support in our efforts to protect and enhance our sites for wildlife is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

The Biodiversity Team

Denbighshire Countryside Service

E-bost: bioamrywiaeth@sirddinbych.gov.uk

E-mail: biodiversity@denbighshire.gov.uk

Appendix 4- Plan for Communication and Engagement

Estimated Date	Detail
January	New potential sites to be shared with Ward Members to enable feedback to be provided about any legitimate concerns about specific locations.
February	New sites to be publicised (in advance) to residents and City, Town & Community Councils, including the use of targeted letter drop at sites in residential/urban areas (see Appendix 2 for letter template).
February	New sites to be added to our public mapping tool for residents to easily view all site locations.
March and April	All on-site signage (to explain what we are doing) to be placed on site prior to non-cut starting on any new site.
March to September	Continuation of general and targeted communications about the rationale and benefits of the project, including regular updates of the web page on our website and social media posts. Engage with residents positively to involve them with the project and get more community buy in.
March to September	Provide concise and consistent communication to residents in response to negative feedback/challenges (see Appendix 5 for standard response to feedback).
Summer	Arrangement of wildflower identification training, as appropriate, with local residents.
Autumn	Arrangement of planting days, as appropriate, with local residents.

Appendix 5 – Copy of standard response to negative feedback/challenges

Dear [Resident],

Thank you for getting in touch. We have recently identified [enter wildflower site name] as a key area to increase local wildflower habitat. As a Local Authority, we have a corporate responsibility to enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of our ecosystems.

We have therefore taken steps to enhance this area for biodiversity, by encouraging a wildflower meadow to establish here. The site will undergo a biodiversity cut which will take place from 1st August onwards with the arisings being removed from site. This will ensure the nutrients are not returned to the soil and delay the sites transition to a wildflower meadow.

After the first year an assessment of the site and its wildflower species will be made. Should additional seeding be required, we will source a specially prepared seed mix of species native to your local area, which will be sown in the early autumn. The species chosen will be important food sources for rare and declining pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies, as well as being attractive in their own right.

To give the wildflower meadow the best chance of success, we will not be undertaking cutting between March and August to allow the flowers present on site to grow and drop their seeds before being cut. Meadow plant species may take several seasons to establish. Specific site conditions such as aspect, soil pH and local climate can affect which species flourish within the meadow and determine exactly how it will look once established.

You can find out more information on our web page at

<https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/environmental-health/climate-and-ecological-change/wildflower-meadow-project.aspx>.

Your support in our efforts to protect and enhance our sites for wildlife is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the team.

Kind regards,

The Biodiversity Team

Denbighshire Countryside Service

E-bost: bioamrywiaeth@sirddinbych.gov.uk

E-mail: biodiversity@denbighshire.gov.uk

Appendix 6- Detail of consultation

Forum	Detail
Partnership Scrutiny Committee	As highlighted in paragraphs 4.6 and 4.7, the Wildflower Meadow Project has been discussed at as part of the discussions about the Biodiversity Duty Delivery Plan 2016-2019 and the Climate and Ecological Change Strategy.
Cabinet	
Council	
Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Working Group	The Wildflower Meadow Project was discussed in July 2021 and the Group are supportive of the Wildflower Meadow Project and look forward to hearing the debate at Scrutiny.
Public consultation	The Climate and Ecological Change Strategy, which included the action to extend the Wildflower Meadow Project, was subject to consultation with the public during November and December 2020.

Appendix 7- Relevant Powers and Duties

Powers/ Duties	Detail
Section 21, Local Government Act 2000	Scrutiny's powers to examine the matter and to review and develop policies.
Sections 7.2 and 7.4 of the Council's Constitution	
Environment (Wales) Act 2016	As a Local Authority, we have a statutory duty to enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of our ecosystems.
Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Declaration	Council declared a Climate Change and Ecological Emergency in July 2019 which included the action to improve biodiversity across Denbighshire.
Section 13.2 of the Council's Constitution- Principals of Decision Making	<p>All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • having regard to tackling climate and ecological change.

Report to	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	9 September 2021
Lead Officer	Rhian Evans, Scrutiny Co-ordinator
Report author	Rhian Evans, Scrutiny Co-ordinator
Title	Scrutiny Work Programme

1. What is the report about?

The report seeks Communities Scrutiny Committee to review its draft forward work programme. In doing so the Committee is asked to reflect on the implications of the focus on business critical operations during the emergency phase of the COVID -19 pandemic and the programmes of work underway or being planned under the recovery phase, whilst also having regard to items of business already on its forward work programme prior to the pandemic.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To seek the Committee to review and agree on its programme of future work, and to update members on relevant issues.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee

- 3.1 considers the information provided and approves, revises or amends its forward work programme as it deems appropriate; and
- 3.2 identifies key messages and themes from the current meeting which it wishes to publicise via the press and/or social media.

4. Report details

- 4.1 Section 7 of Denbighshire County Council's Constitution sets out each Scrutiny Committee's terms of reference, functions and membership, as well as the rules of procedure and debate.
- 4.2 The Constitution stipulates that the Council's scrutiny committees must set, and regularly review, a programme for their future work. By reviewing and prioritising issues, members are able to ensure that the work programme delivers a member-led agenda.
- 4.3 For a number of years it has been an adopted practice in Denbighshire for scrutiny committees to limit the number of reports considered at any one meeting to a maximum of four plus the Committee's own work programme report. The aim of this approach is to facilitate detailed and effective debate on each topic.
- 4.4 In recent years the Welsh Government (WG) and Audit Wales (AW) have highlighted the need to strengthen scrutiny's role across local government and public services in Wales, including utilising scrutiny as a means of engaging with residents and service-users. From now on scrutiny will be expected to engage better and more frequently with the public with a view to securing better decisions which ultimately lead to better outcomes for citizens. AW will measure scrutiny's effectiveness in fulfilling these expectations.
- 4.5 Having regard to the national vision for scrutiny whilst at the same time focussing on local priorities, the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) recommended that the Council's scrutiny committees should, when deciding on their work programmes, focus on the following key areas:
- budget savings;
 - achievement of the Corporate Plan objectives (with particular emphasis on their deliverability during a period of financial austerity);
 - any other items agreed by the Scrutiny Committee (or the SCVCG) as high priority (based on the PAPER test criteria – see reverse side of the 'Member Proposal Form' at Appendix 2);

- Urgent, unforeseen or high priority issues; and
- Supporting the Council's recovery work in relation to the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on Council services, the local economy and the county's communities

4.6 Scrutiny Proposal Forms

As mentioned in paragraph 4.2 above the Council's Constitution requires scrutiny committees to prepare and keep under review a programme for their future work. To assist the process of prioritising reports, if officers are of the view that a subject merits time for discussion on the Committee's business agenda they have to formally request the Committee to consider receiving a report on that topic. This is done via the submission of a 'proposal form' which clarifies the purpose, importance and potential outcomes of suggested subjects. No officer proposal forms have been received for consideration at the current meeting.

- 4.7 With a view to making better use of scrutiny's time by focussing committees' resources on detailed examination of subjects, adding value through the decision-making process and securing better outcomes for residents, the SCVCG decided that members, as well as officers, should complete 'scrutiny proposal forms' outlining the reasons why they think a particular subject would benefit from scrutiny's input. A copy of the 'member's proposal form' can be seen at Appendix 2. The reverse side of this form contains a flowchart listing questions which members should consider when proposing an item for scrutiny, and which committees should ask when determining a topic's suitability for inclusion on a scrutiny forward work programme. If, having followed this process, a topic is not deemed suitable for formal examination by a scrutiny committee, alternative channels for sharing the information or examining the matter can be considered e.g. the provision of an 'information report', or if the matter is of a very local nature examination by the relevant Member Area Group (MAG). No items should be included on a forward work programme without a 'scrutiny proposal form' being completed and accepted for inclusion by the Committee or the SCVCG. Assistance with their completion is available from the Scrutiny Co-ordinator.

Flood Management Responsibilities in relation to the Rhyl Cut and Prestatyn Gutter

- 4.8 The above report was scheduled for presentation to the Committee at the current meeting. However, as consultation on Phase 3 of this project which focussed on maintenance plans for these structures continued until the end of August Natural Resources Wales (NRW) was not in a position to finalise its report in relation to this work in time for the report deadline for the current meeting. Consequently, the Chair has permitted the deferral of its presentation until the Committee's next meeting on 21 October 2021 (see Appendix 1).

Cabinet Forward Work Programme

- 4.9 When determining their programme of future work it is useful for scrutiny committees to have regard to Cabinet's scheduled programme of work. For this purpose, a copy of the Cabinet's forward work programme is attached at Appendix 3.

Progress on Committee Resolutions

- 4.10 A table summarising recent Committee resolutions and advising members on progress with their implementation is attached at Appendix 4 to this report.

Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group

- 5.1 Under the Council's scrutiny arrangements the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) performs the role of a coordinating committee. The Group met on 1 July 2021. At that meeting the Group considered a number of scrutiny requests and referred the following to this Committee for detailed examination. They were:

- Wildflower Meadow Project (listed on the current meeting's business agenda)
- Safeguarding Welsh place names in Denbighshire (potentially October 2021, awaiting confirmation)

Its next meeting is scheduled to be held on the afternoon of 9 September 2021.

- 5.2 With a view to raising Scrutiny's profile and encouraging public engagement the Group recently decided that all three scrutiny committees should, for a trial period, identify key themes or messages arising from their meetings for publication via the Authority's social media pages and the local press. The Committee is therefore

asked to identify which themes or messages it wishes to highlight from the current meeting.

6. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

Effective scrutiny will assist the Council to deliver its corporate priorities in line with community needs and residents' wishes. Continual development and review of a coordinated work programme will assist the Council to deliver its corporate priorities, improve outcomes for residents whilst also managing austere budget and resource pressures.

7. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

Services may need to allocate officer time to assist the Committee with the activities identified in the forward work programme, and with any actions that may result following consideration of those items.

8. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

A Well-being Impact Assessment has not been undertaken in relation to the purpose or contents of this report. However, Scrutiny through its work in examining service delivery, policies, procedures and proposals will consider their impact or potential impact on the sustainable development principle and the well-being goals stipulated in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

9. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

None required for this report. However, the report itself and the consideration of the forward work programme represent a consultation process with the Committee with respect to its programme of future work.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

No risks have been identified with respect to the consideration of the Committee's forward work programme. However, by regularly reviewing its forward work programme the Committee can ensure that areas of risk are considered and examined as and when they are identified, and recommendations are made with a view to addressing those risks.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

11.2 Section 7.11 of the Council's Constitution stipulates that scrutiny committees and/or the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group will be responsible for setting their own work programmes, taking into account the wishes of Members of the Committee who are not members of the largest political group on the Council.

Contact Officer:

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Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Note: Items entered in italics have not been approved for submission by the Committee. Such reports are listed here for information, pending formal approval.

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
21 October	Leader	1. <i>Draft Tourism Signage Strategy for Denbighshire (tbc)</i>	<i>To examine the draft Tourism Signage Strategy for the county developed by the Working Group including potential funding sources and the anticipated timescale for the Strategy's delivery</i>	<i>The development of a tourism signage strategy that complements trunk road signage and technological innovations in the field of tourism, takes into account the aims of 'The Wales Way' project, attracts visitors and increases the value of tourism spend in the county in line with the corporate priority relating to the Environment, and in-keeping with the outcomes of Denbighshire's Tourism Strategy</i>	<i>Mike Jones/Peter McDermott</i>	<i>March 2020 (rescheduled due to COVID-19 (Sept & Dec 20))</i>
	Cllr. Brian Jones	2. <i>The Role of Denbighshire in Public Transport and Active Travel Provision (tbc)</i>	<i>To examine the Council's work to date in planning public transport and active travel provision in readiness for the likely growth in demand due to the response to the public's response to climate change and sustainable living requirements</i>	<i>Input into future service provision that will meet residents and businesses' needs and help support the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities and Corporate Plan</i>	<i>Peter Daniels/Mike Jones/Emlyn Jones</i>	<i>By SCVCG March 2020 (rescheduled due to COVID-19 (Sept 20 & Jan 2021))</i>

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
NRW reps to be invited	Cllr. Brian Jones	3. Section 19 Flood Investigation Report into the January 2021 floods in the county <i>(if report unavailable for 21 Oct item to be rescheduled for 9 December 2021)</i>	To examine the findings, actions and recommendations emanating from the investigation into the flooding incidents that occurred in the county in January 2021	(i) Assurances that the reasons for the flooding are all understood and that all agencies are taking suitable actions to manage the future risk of flooding in these areas (ii) Identification of measures that can be taken to enhance effective partnership working to reduce the risk of future flooding and the damage caused by it and to support the delivery of the Council's Environment corporate priority	Tony Ward/Wayne Hope	By SCVCG April 2021
	Cllr. Brian Jones Reps from NRW to be invited	4. Flood Management Responsibilities in relation to the Rhyl Cut and Prestatyn Gutter	To present the conclusions of the joint study into whether improvements could be made to the management of the Rhyl Cut and Prestatyn Gutter, adjacent drains and sewers, and to outline each organisation's responsibilities in relation to flood management and flood mitigation	An assessment of whether the Council effectively fulfils its responsibilities in relation to flood management and mitigation and works effectively with partner organisations to reduce the risk of flooding and deliver the Environment and Resilient Communities priorities of the Corporate Plan	Tony Ward/Wayne Hope	March 2018 (rescheduled February 2019, June 2019, November 2020, March & August 2021) until conclusion of the Phase 3 study which has been delayed due to COVID-19

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
Potentially October (tbc)	Cllr. Huw Hilditch-Roberts	5. Safeguarding Welsh place names in Denbighshire (tbc)	To detail the Council's powers in relation to safeguarding Welsh and historical place names in the county	A detailed examination of whether the Council is fully utilising all its powers in relation to safeguarding Welsh and historical names in both the natural and built environment to ensure that Welsh names are not replaced or displaced by English names	Manon Celyn/Liz Grieve/Alan Smith/Emlyn Jones/Gary Williams/Lisa Jones	By SCVCG July 2021
9 December	Cllr. Brian Jones	1. New Waste & Recycling Model: Pilot Projects Update (TBC)	To detail the results and outcomes of the pilot projects undertaken in the West Rhyl and Bron y Crest, Denbigh areas as forerunners for the new model	Identification of any problems or issues raised during the pilots and solutions to address them ahead of the final design of the new Service model prior to its rollout countywide in order to support the delivery of the Council's Environment corporate priority whilst meeting statutory recycling targets	Tony Ward/Tara Dumas	May 2021
	Leader & Cllr. Mark Young	2. Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) process (tbc)	Pre-decision scrutiny of the process undertaken to develop the draft GTAA under the auspices of the Task and Finish Group prior to its submission to Cabinet for approval	Assurances that elected members and representatives of the Gypsy and Traveller community have been engaged and involved with the development of the draft GTAA prior to its submission to Cabinet for approval	Emlyn Jones/Angela Loftus/Kim Waller	May 2021

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
20 January 2022	Cllr. Mark Young	1. <i>Planning Compliance Charter</i> <i>(may be presented earlier if other items are not available (tbc))</i>	<i>To examine the effectiveness of the Planning Compliance Charter with the county's city, town and community councils in addressing planning contraventions, non-compliance and enforcement issues across the county</i>	<i>An evaluation of the Charter's effectiveness in order to determine whether recommendations are required to strengthen the Charter or increase resources available for planning enforcement across the county</i>	<i>Emlyn Jones/Adam Turner</i>	<i>By SCVCG October 2020 (rescheduled by Committee January 2021 due to COVID-19)</i>
	Leader	2. <i>Rhyl Regeneration Programme</i>	<i>To examine the effectiveness of the Programme Board's work in delivering the regeneration programme</i>	<i>Identification of any barriers or slippages and the formulation of recommendations to try and address them and sustain the delivery of the programme to secure the regeneration of Rhyl to benefit the economy and the lives of the town's residents and the county in general</i>	<i>Graham Boase/Nicola Caie</i>	<i>January 2021</i>
10 March						
30 July						
8 September						
20 October						

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
8 December						
June/July 2023	Cllr. Brian Jones	1. <i>Llangollen Car Park Tariff Pilot Scheme</i>	<i>To outline the effectiveness of the pilot scheme for varying car park tariffs in Llangollen</i>	<i>Identification of lessons learnt from the pilot scheme's implementation and operation in readiness for the introduction of similar schemes in other areas in future</i>	<i>Emlyn Jones/Mike Jones/Peter Lea</i>	<i>January 2021</i>

Future Issues

Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
Flood Risk Management and Riparian Land Ownership (late 2021 tbc)	To present the findings and conclusions of the Task and Finish Group established to examine methods of strengthening interaction and working relationships between public flood risk management authorities and riparian landowners across the county	To identify methods and make recommendations in relation to the provision of clear communication channels, building levels of mutual trust, and strengthening working relationships between public flood risk management authorities, riparian landowners and their representatives to ensure effective management of watercourses with a view to reducing the risk of flooding in future	Tony Ward/Wayne Hope	December 2020

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

For future years

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Information/Consultation Reports

Information / Consultation	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Author(s)	Date Entered
INFORMATION (for circulation in September 2021 <i>tbc</i> once COVID-19 restrictions permit the work to take place)	Community Impact Assessment on the communities of Rhewl and Llanynys	To present the findings of the community impact assessment undertaken following the closure of Ysgol Rhewl as agreed as part of the modernising education programme	Geraint Davies/James Curran	December 2020
INFORMATION (for circulation Dec 2021/Jan 2022) (<i>tbc</i>)	Central Rhyl Coastal Defence Scheme & the Central Prestatyn Coastal Defence Schemes	To examine the work undertaken to date, in consultation with the two local Member Area Groups (MAGs), on the design and development phases of both schemes in order to secure effective and efficient use of the substantial funding allocated to both schemes with a view to securing their delivery and realising value for money	Tony Ward/Wayne Hope	December 2020

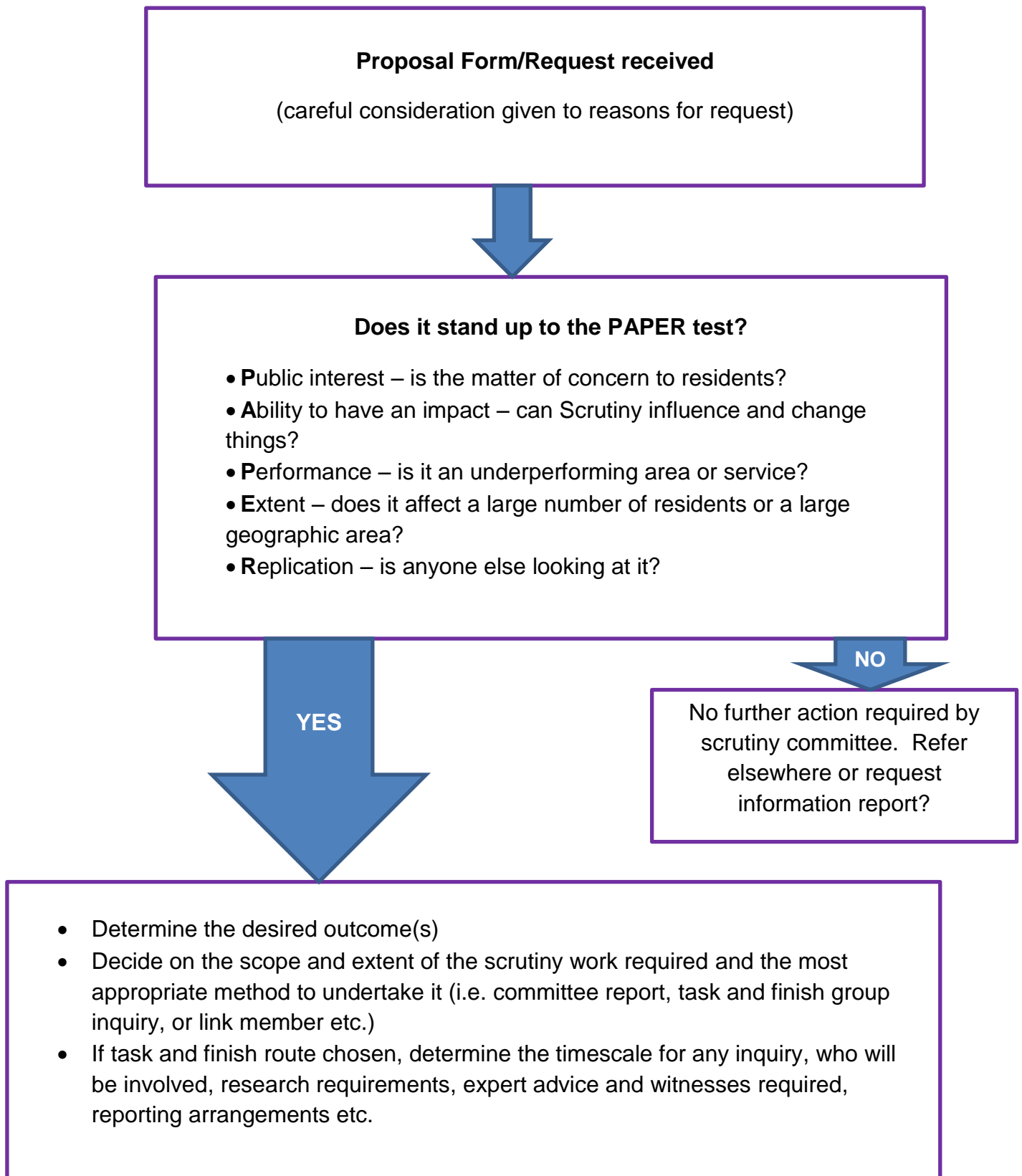
Note for officers – Committee Report Deadlines

Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline
21 October	7 October	9 December	25 November	20 January 2022	6 January 2022

25/08/2021 RhE

Member Proposal Form for Scrutiny Forward Work Programme	
NAME OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
TIMESCALE FOR CONSIDERATION	
TOPIC	
What needs to be scrutinised (and why)?	
Is the matter one of concern to residents/local businesses?	YES/NO
Can Scrutiny influence and change things? (if 'yes' please state how you think scrutiny can influence or change things)	YES/NO
Does the matter relate to an underperforming service or area?	YES/NO
Does the matter affect a large number of residents or a large geographical area of the County (if 'yes' please give an indication of the size of the affected group or area)	YES/NO
Is the matter linked to the Council's Corporate priorities (if 'yes' please state which priority/priorities)	YES/NO
To your knowledge is anyone else looking at this matter? (If 'yes', please say who is looking at it)	YES/NO
If the topic is accepted for scrutiny who would you want to invite to attend e.g. Lead Member, officers, external experts, service-users?	
Name of Councillor/Co-opted Member	
Date	

Consideration of a topic's suitability for scrutiny



Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
21 Sept	1	External Enveloping and Energy Efficiency Framework for Council Housing	To award suppliers to the framework	Yes	Councillor Tony Thomas / Christopher Morris / Glyn Forsdick
	2	Denbighshire Learning Disability Community Living Schemes – Temporary extension and retendering of existing contracts	To ask Members to approve a further extension to 34 Learning Disability Supported Living Contracts that are due to expire. In addition, to request approval of the procurement timetable for the retendering of these contracts	Yes	Councillor Bobby Feeley / Alison Heaton
	3	Contract Award – Construction of 15 apartments for social rent at The Dell, Prestatyn	To award the construction contract for council housing development	Yes	Councillors Tony Thomas & Julian Thompson-Hill / Mark Dixon
	4	Contract Award – Redevelopment of the former library in Nant Hall Road, Prestatyn	To award the construction contract for council housing development	Yes	Councillors Tony Thomas & Julian Thompson-Hill / Mark Dixon
	5	Strategy for the Prevention & Detection of Fraud, Corruption & Bribery and the associated Fraud Response Plan	To seek Cabinet approval of the Strategy	Yes	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Gary Williams / Steve Gadd / Lisa Lovegrove
	6	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
			current financial position of the Council		Hill / Steve Gadd
	7	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
19 Oct	1	Replacement LDP revised Delivery Agreement and Covid Impact Assessment	To seek Cabinet approval for revisions to the Replacement LDP Delivery Agreement and accompanying Covid19 impact assessment for submission to Welsh Government	Yes	Councillor Mark Young / Angela Loftus
	2	Replacement LDP - Report back on Preferred Strategy consultation	Replacement LDP Preferred Strategy consultation and seek approval for subsequent proposed amendments to the Preferred Strategy	Yes	Councillor Mark Young / Angela Loftus
	3	Graphic Design and Print Framework	To seek approval for the tender award to suppliers	Yes	Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts / Sian Owen / Cheryl Evans
	4	Award of the Concession Contract for the operation of Household Recycling Centres	To seek approval of the contract award [by Conwy County Borough Council]	Yes	Councillor Brian Jones / Tony Ward / Tara Dumas / Alan L Roberts

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
		(Conwy and Denbighshire)			
	5	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Steve Gadd
	6	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
23 Nov	1	Corporate Plan Update: July to September 2021	To monitor the Council's progress in delivering the Corporate Plan 2017 – 2022	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Iolo McGregor
	2	Queens Market Phase 1 – award construction contract'	To seek approval to award a contract for the delivery of Phase 1 of the Queens Building Rhyl	Yes	Councillor Hugh Evans / Russell Vaughan
	3	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Steve Gadd
	4	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
14 Dec	1	Prestatyn Flood Defence Scheme	To recommend that Council agree the funding for the schemes and permit the	Tbc	Councillor Brian Jones / Tony Ward / Wayne Hope / Matthew Hazlewood

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
			service to proceed to the construction phase		
	2	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Steve Gadd
	3	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
	4	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan	To approve the new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan before submission to Welsh Government.	Tbc	Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts/ Carwyn Edwards
18 Jan	1	Central Rhyl Flood Defence Scheme	To recommend that Council agree the funding for the schemes and permit the service to proceed to the construction phase	Tbc	Councillor Brian Jones / Tony Ward / Wayne Hope / Matthew Hazlewood
	2	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Steve Gadd
	3	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Note for officers – Cabinet Report Deadlines

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>7 September</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>5 October</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>9 November</i>

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Cabinet Forward Work Programme.doc

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Progress with Committee Resolutions

Date of Meeting	Item number and title	Resolution	Progress
1 July 2021	6. Section 19 Investigation Report on the February 2020 Floods in Denbighshire	<p>The Committee:</p> <p><i>Resolved:</i> <i>subject to the above observations and the provision of the additional information requested when the report is presented to County Council in September 2021, to recommend that the Council -</i></p> <p><i>I. seeks assurances from Natural Resources Wales at its September 2021 County Council meeting that the recommendations identified in the Natural Resources Wales' flood investigation reports will be carried out, and that the anticipated timescales for their implementation and completion be confirmed; and</i></p> <p><i>II. through the Flood Risk Management and Riparian Land Ownership Task and Finish Group, seeks assurances from Natural Resources Wales that flood risk from main rivers in Denbighshire is being appropriately managed.</i></p>	<p>The Lead Member and officers have been advised of the Committee's recommendations and</p> <p>(i) have liaised with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) with respect of the requested information to be presented to County Council at its meeting in October 2021 (rescheduled from September 2021); and</p> <p>(ii) the Task and Finish Group, as part of its work, will seek assurances from NRW that flood risk from main rivers in the county is being appropriately managed.</p>
	7. Council Housing Tenants Survey	<p>The Committee:</p> <p><i>Resolved:</i> <i>subject to the above observations to</i></p> <p>–</p>	<p>Lead Member and officers informed of the Committee's recommendations.</p>

		<p>(i) endorse and support the Community Housing Standardised Tenants and Residents (STAR) Action Plan 2021 drawn up to respond to the findings of the October 2020 survey of the Council's housing tenants and support the delivery of the Housing and the Resilient Communities corporate priorities; and</p> <p>(ii) request that an Information Report be provided to Committee members detailing the benchmarking and satisfaction survey results of Registered Social Landlords operating in Denbighshire.</p>	<p>(ii) an e-mail was sent to Committee members and observers on the 13 July with a link to the requested information. The same link has been included in the 'Information Brief' document circulated to members ahead of the current meeting.</p>
	8. COVID-19 Recovery Theme – Council Buildings	<p>The Committee:</p> <p><u>Resolved:</u> - subject to the above comments and observations, to receive the information provided in relation to the latest position with regards to Council office building arrangements and maintenance work undertaken throughout the pandemic and lockdown periods.</p>	<p>Lead Member and officers informed of the Committee's recommendation.</p>
Special Meeting 26 July 2021	4. Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment – Report	<p>The Committee:</p> <p><u>Resolved:</u> that Scrutiny having considered the information contained in the Task and Finish Group's report and imparted during the</p>	

	<p>by the Task and Finish Group</p>	<p><i>discussion, subject to the observations noted above –</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(i) endorse the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Work Brief (Appendix 2 to the report);</i> <i>(ii) endorse the Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Plan (Appendix 3 to the report);</i> <i>(iii) confirm its support for the approach adopted for the delivery of Denbighshire’s Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment as being robust and in line with Welsh Government guidance; and</i> <i>(iv) endorsed the start of the assessment.</i> 	<p>Lead Member and officers informed of the Committee’s recommendation and the assessment has commenced.</p> <p>A further report from the Task and Finish Group following the conclusion of the assessment is provisionally scheduled into the Committee’s forward work programme for consideration at the Committee’s meeting on 9 December 2021 (see Appendix 1)</p>
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