

To: Members of the Communities
Scrutiny Committee

Date: 28 April 2023

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Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held at **10.00 am** on **THURSDAY, 4 MAY 2023** in **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCE.**

Yours sincerely

G. Williams
Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (Pages 3 - 4)

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 5 - 18)

To receive the minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 9th March 2023 (copy enclosed).

5 DRAFT TOURISM SIGNAGE STRATEGY FOR DENBIGHSHIRE (Pages 19 - 46)

To consider a report by Mike Jones, Traffic, Parking and Road Safety Manager (copy enclosed) on the draft Tourism Signage Strategy - including potential funding sources and the anticipated timescale for the Strategy's delivery.

6 FLOOD RISK WORKING GROUP (Pages 47 - 54)

To receive an update on the outcome of the previous Flood Risk Management Task and Finish Group and consider a report (copy enclosed) by Andy Clark, Interim Head of Highways & Environmental Services and Tim Towers, Risk and Asset Manager on the proposed next steps.

7 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 55 - 76)

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.

8 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

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

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Huw Williams (Chair)
Michelle Blakeley-Walker
Pauline Edwards
James Elson
Jon Harland
Alan James

Karen Anne Edwards (Vice-Chair)
Brian Jones
Delyth Jones
Merfyn Parry
Cheryl Williams

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All Councillors for information
Press and Libraries
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

Code of Conduct for Members

DISCLOSURE AND REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS

I, *(name)*

a *member/co-opted member of
*(*please delete as appropriate)*

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:-
*(*please delete as appropriate)*

Date of Disclosure:

Committee *(please specify)*:

Agenda Item No.

Subject Matter:

Nature of Interest:

*(See the note below)**

Signed

Date

*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 the Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held via video conference due to adverse weather conditions on Thursday, 9th March 2023 at 10am.

PRESENT

Councillors: Karen Edwards (Vice Chair), Pauline Edwards, James Elson, Jon Harland, Alan James, Brian Jones, Delyth Jones, Merfyn Parry, Cheryl Williams and Huw Williams (Chair)

Observers- Councillors Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones, Bobby Feeley, Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Gareth Sandilands and Andrea Tomlin.

ALSO PRESENT

Officers: Corporate Director: Environment and Economy (TW), Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services (EJ), Public Protection: Regeneration and Economic Manager (GR), Public Protection Business Manager (GO), Senior Countryside Officer (DS), Moorland Field Officer (GB), Strategic Planning Project Manager (LR) and Interim Waste Recycling Manager (JL). Scrutiny Coordinators (RE and KE) Senior Committee Administrator (KJ) and Committee Administrator (NH)

North Wales Fire and Rescue Representative- Tim Owen

National Resources Wales Representative- Rhys Ellis

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Committee Member Councillor Michelle Blakeley-Walker. Apologies for absence were also received from Lead Members Councillor Win Mullen-James, Lead Member for Local Development and Planning and Councillor Barry Mellor, Lead Member for Environment and Transport, both of whom had been invited to attend to present items from within their portfolios. However, both were unable to attend due to other pre-arranged meeting commitments.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Business item 6, 'Progress Report on the Denbighshire Moorland Project': Councillor Merfyn Parry declared a personal interest in this item as a 'named grazier' on Moel y Parc. He confirmed that he did not exercise those grazing rights or gain any financial benefits from holding the rights.

Councillor Huw Williams (Chair) declared both a personal and prejudicial interest in this item of business as the owner of a flock that grazed on Moel Famau. On this basis he indicated that he would leave the meeting for the

discussion on this item of business and that in his absence the Vice-Chair would assume the chairing duties.

During business item 6, Councillor Gareth Sandilands declared a personal interest in the discussion in his capacity as one of Denbighshire County Council's representatives on North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (NWFRA).

3. URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No matters of an urgent nature had been raised with the Chair of the Committee or the Scrutiny Coordinator ahead of the commencement of business.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19 January 2023 were submitted.

The Committee:

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2023 be received and approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

Matters Arising:

In response to a question the Scrutiny Coordinator confirmed that the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) had endorsed a request that a follow-up report on 'Engagement with Care Forum Wales and Care Providers in Denbighshire' with respect of social care provision and the setting of fees be provided to the Committee later in 2023. The report had been scheduled for presentation to the Committee at its meeting in September 2023.

5. MISTREATMENT OF DOGS

The Public Protection Business Manager, Glesni Owen introduced the report (previously circulated) to the Committee.

The report examined the extent of legal and illegal dog sales within Denbighshire (particularly during the COVID- 19 pandemic)- including the number of complaints received, investigated, and substantiated and how various agencies work together to tackle any problems reported.

The Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2014 replaced the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 in Wales and provided the licensing by Local Authorities (LAs) of persons involved in the breeding of dogs. The new regulations introduced stricter criteria for breeding establishments and

established an attendant to adult dog ratio at a minimum of one full time member of staff to 20 adult dogs. The regulations were the first of their kind in the UK and, whilst many welfare organisations and charities had differing views on the contents of the regulations, they were widely welcomed. Since the introduction of the regulations there had been ongoing concerns about the standards at some licensed premises in Wales and the resources and expertise available within Local Authorities to tackle the issues.

In September 2021 the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals (Wales) Regulations 2021 (LAIA Regulations) came into force. These Regulations changed the licensing arrangements for the sale of animals as pets in Wales, which included a ban on the commercial third-party sale of puppies and kittens. Optimising welfare standards across Wales was a priority and the intention of the new Regulations was to promote responsible breeding and ensure puppies and kittens were bred in suitable conditions.

There were currently 13 licensed dog breeders in Denbighshire. Licenses were renewed on an annual basis which included a visit undertaken by an Animal Welfare officer and regular engagement with an independent veterinarian.

It was highlighted that, whilst the number of complaints received in Denbighshire relating to alleged unlicensed/illegal breeding, more support was needed from the Welsh Government (WG) to enable Local Authorities to investigate illegal dog breeding. The WG had provided funding to enable the establishment of a National Team of Animal Licensing Officers to support local authorities to investigate alleged illegal breeding or breaches to licensing conditions. Denbighshire had called upon the services of the national team to assist it to investigate the small number of potential unlicensed breeders in the county. This request for assistance was made due to the very limited staffing resources the Council had to undertake this work.

The Public Protection Business Manager explained that the second part of the report looked at the impact the Pandemic had on the number of Stray Dogs and their impact on animal Rescue Centres. Two local charitable Rescue Centres were contacted to gauge their experiences of the impact the Pandemic may have had on their Services. One charity did not respond, however North Clwyd Animal Rescue (NCAR) provided useful information. The information provided by NCAR and the Council's own Dog Warden Service demonstrated that there was a significant decrease in stray dogs and dogs handed over during the Pandemic. However, there was a clear indication that the figures provided in appendix 2 (previously circulated) were now on the increase to pre-pandemic levels. NCAR confirmed that they had over 400 dogs on a waiting list waiting to be handed over and this was the highest that it had been since before the Pandemic. The waiting list pre-pandemic was approximately 100 dogs.

The Chair thanked the Public Protection Business Manager for the reports and welcomed questions from Members.

Members questioned how the Cost of Living Crisis had impacted the ability for some residents to feed their dogs. The Public Protection Business Manager stated that Food Banks often provided dog food however, this was dependent on donations from the public. Local charities such as NCAR did offer support in some cases. The charity People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) would help towards the costs of veterinary treatments etc. for animals if the owners were experiencing financial hardship.

Queries were raised around how the public could report concerns around suspected illegal dog breeding. The Public Protection Business Manager informed Members that the public could visit the Denbighshire County Council (DCC) website and information regarding reporting any concerns could be found on there alternatively, the public could contact Trading Standards, via the Council's Customer Services Centre, and their concern would be investigated.

Questions were raised regarding the process of Dog Breeders obtaining a license and whether there was any assessment prior to owning a dog. The Public Protection Business Manager stated that Dog Breeders were expected do their own checks on the suitability of the buyers. Information was available on the Council's website on the steps prospective dog purchasers should undertake prior to buying a dog. The requirement for any member of the public who owned a dog to hold a dog license had been abolished some years ago.

Queries were raised around what resources were in place from DCC to tackle illegal Dog Breeding. The Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services explained that there was a small team of 3 animal welfare officers. The team had recently made changes to ensure that the team was as flexible as possible to respond quickly to concerns received.

Members questioned the length of time it took to investigate a case of illegal dog breeding once a concern had been raised. The Public Protection Business Manager stated that it was difficult to put a time frame on this. Usually, the team would start investigating the reported concern within a couple of days. Each case was unique and varying amounts of time needed to be taken to gather reliable evidence to take the case forward. This was where the services of National Team of Animal Licensing Officers was invaluable as it was in possession of valuable intelligence information and able to undertake investigatory work to support the work of the local authority in investigating incidents of alleged illegal breeding.

The Chair thanked the officers for their report, for answering members' questions and stressed the importance of the work they carried out.

The Committee:

Resolved: subject to the above observations –

- (i) to receive the report and the information provided during the discussion; and**
- (ii) support the work undertaken by the Council itself, and that delivered in partnership with other organisations and agencies, the aim of which was to secure the viability of properly licensed traders to operate in Denbighshire, thus reducing the suffering of animals.**

At this juncture the Vice-Chair assumed the chair for the next item of business as the Committee Chair had declared both a personal and prejudicial interest in business item 6. The Chair left the meeting at this point.

6. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DENBIGHSHIRE MOORLANDS PROJECT

Countryside Officer, David Shiel presented the report (previously circulated) to the Committee.

The report monitored progress against the objectives of the Denbighshire Moorland Project established as one of the recommendations of the Llantysilio Mountain Fire Review in 2019.

There were key areas of activity covered in the last 2 years. The current Partnership with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) had been very effective in sharing collaborative information. The NRW Partnership was due to expire in August 2023 and discussions were underway to seek to extend the Partnership.

Several methods had been used to enable the restoration of the fire damage to the mountain and the following details were given: -

- Heather was used to provide a protection to the soil from erosion by the elements and a microclimate for heather seed to naturally colonise. An upland grass seed mix was also sown under the heather brash to stabilise soil and act as a nursery crop for naturally colonising moorland plants.
- Surveys on the plots had shown reasonable success in establishing the grass seed mix where the heather brash was spread out thinly. A thick heather mulch was found to suppress natural regeneration and germination of grass seed.
- In October 2021, a 5-hectare area of Moel y Faen, which was most severely affected by the wildfire, was hydro-seeded with an upland grass seed mix. Working with a Specialist Contractor, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (NWFRS) and Severn Trent Water, over 100,000 Litres of water was pumped to the top of Moel y Faen where the hydro-seed slurry was mixed and spread.

- A further 5-hectares of accessible moorland on Moel y Faen and Moel y Gamelin were conventionally seeded using a specialist Alpine Tractor.
- Soil loss was a concern and would take many years to return.
- During the Project the main focus had been to engage with the farming community, learning about issues and barriers to managing the moorland and exploring solutions to their needs. The Moorland Field Officer had developed good working relationships with landowners and grazers. There was also a strong working relationship with the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service where joint training days had been undertaken and opportunities afforded to the Service to trial new equipment and methods to deal with wildfires.
- As a result of the Project, approximately 140 hectares of Moorland Management had been delivered across sites in Denbighshire covering Ruabon/Llantysilio Mountains and Minera, Llandegla Moor and at sites on the Clwydian Range (Moel Famau Country Park).
- The Project had also enabled the production of multi-agency public information communications and videos to be launched and shared on a national basis through various media outlets.

The Chair thanked the Countryside Officer for his detailed report and welcomed questions from Members of the Committee.

Councillor Merfyn Parry welcomed the report and the lessons that had seemingly been learnt from the past. However, he questioned that there was no mention of liaising with local Members regarding what was happening in the local area. Members knew their wards best so could also offer some valuable information to the Team. The Countryside Officer welcomed this liaison and stated that while the Partnership Board was an operational Board, he would look at providing updates to local Member Area Groups (MAGs) as and when appropriate.

Councillor Jon Harland queried the lack of tree planting mentioned within the report. The Countryside Officer explained that these were designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and were therefore subject to strict conservation regulations as national and internationally recognised areas of ecological interest. Whilst, possibly thousands of years ago trees may be grown on these heath and moorlands trees were not a main habitat on the moorlands and some trees were removed as they had the potential to aid wildfires by increasing the fuel load. Heathland and moorlands by their very nature were hugely valuable in the battle to combat the effects of climate change as they were of extremely useful for carbon sequestration purposes.

Members expressed concern that the current partnership with NRW was due to expire in August 2023 and whether there was a plan in place if the Partnership was not extended and funding not secured for the continuation of the Moorland Field Officer post. The Countryside Officer stated that

consultations with NRW had taken place and currently NRW were very supportive of continuing with the Project and the Partnership.

The Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services thanked Members for their feedback and reassured the Committee that they would be kept updated with future developments.

The Chair thanked officers for the report and their continued hard work on the Project.

A discussion took place on the advantages and disadvantages of planting trees on heathlands and moorlands for addressing climate change challenges, including the physical and legal barriers to undertaking such practices, its potential to significantly lead to the demise of well-established unique ecosystem along with the increased risk of significant devastation caused by wildfires.

At the conclusion of the discussion the following recommendations were proposed and seconded:

- (i) to endorse the progress made to date in delivering the Denbighshire Moorlands Project and support the efforts underway to extend the existing partnership with Natural Resources Wales;
- (ii) to request that officers of the Moorland Partnership Board regularly update local councillors on any Board decisions or operational work that affects their electoral ward; and
- (iii) to explore opportunities to plant trees on moorland areas in Denbighshire.

All of the above were put to the vote with recommendations (i) and (ii) being endorsed unanimously. Recommendation (iii) was defeated by a majority of 7 votes to 2.

Therefore, the Committee:

Resolved: subject to the above observations to –

- (i) endorse the progress made to date in delivering the Denbighshire Moorlands Project and support the efforts underway to extend the existing partnership with Natural Resources Wales;***
- (ii) request that officers of the Moorland Partnership Board regularly update local councillors on any Board decisions or operational work that affects their electoral ward.***

The Committee paused for a comfort break at this time.

On resuming the business, the Committee Chair who had re-joined the meeting assumed the chairing duties for the remainder of the meeting.

7. UPDATE FOR WASTE SERVICES REMODELLING PROJECT

Prior to the commencement of the business item the Corporate Director: Environment and Economy advised the Committee that the introduction of the new service was in line with the Welsh Government's (WG) blue print service model. He also advised that new depot under construction from where the new Service model would operate did not form part of the report under discussion at the current meeting. A report on the depot was due to be presented to Cabinet later that month with a report proposed for Scrutiny later in the year.

The Strategic Planning Project Manager outlined the details of the New Waste Service Implementation report (previously circulated) to the Committee.

The new `Kerbside Sort` model to collect household recycling waste would commence in March 2024. Recycling collections would change from a fortnightly service to a weekly service. This would provide households with increased capacity for recycling. Residents would be provided with a new trolley box unit and an additional sack for cardboard. The trolley box unit allowed for the sorted collection of household recycling such as glass, plastic, tins/cans, paper and cardboard.

The residual waste change would commence in early Summer 2024 following the introduction of the kerbside sort system. This would allow residents to become familiar with the new recycling system and demonstrate the impact on reduced residual waste. Residual waste collection would be changing from a fortnightly collection to a 4 weekly collection. Households would be provided with larger residual waste bins to increase capacity by 33.3%, from 180 litres to 240 litres.

The Strategic Planning Project Manager continued to explain the implementation of the new Waste Collection Service. Its introduction would be supported by a robust communication and engagement exercise with the county's residents.

There were approximately 45,000 households who would require a new trolley box unit in readiness for the switch to kerbside sort in March 2024. Deliveries to households would commence in November 2023, with completion expected in late February 2024. Deliveries would take place Monday- Friday with an average of 800 deliveries per day. It was stressed that the assembly and delivery of the new kerbside units was a significant undertaking requiring significant resource. The new service required an increase in operatives to serve the new rounds. The new operatives would be phased in from

September 2023 in tranches to support the roll out activities, such as assembling trolley boxes and delivering new containers. Members were directed to a plan of the roll out previously circulated in Appendix 1. Members and residents would receive further communication on the area roll outs from late Summer 2023.

Food and garden waste collections would remain the same, food waste would continue to be collected weekly and garden waste fortnightly. The new recycling service would include, and extended textile collection service and new collections would be introduced for small electrical items and batteries. A new Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) collection would be introduced from September 2023. It was expressed that with this being a new service, demand was relatively unknown, but it was estimated that approximately 8% of residents were likely to sign up to the service. This service would be free however, residents would need to sign up to the service.

The Strategic Planning Project Manager explained that the roll out of the new Recycling System was supported by the Communications Team and they were working closely together to ensure that residents were given regular updates and information on the new system to ensure the implementation was as efficient as possible.

The Chair thanked the Strategic Planning Project Manager for her report and questions were welcomed from Members.

A discussion took place between Members and the following concerns were raised:-

- Due to the enormity of the change to the recycling system in the County, it would be beneficial if the Team attended City, Town and Community Council (CTCC) meetings to explain how the new trolley units worked.
- There were a significant number of residents who were still on black bin bags only collections and questions were asked regarding if they would be able to access the new trolley units.
- It was highlighted that more detailed communication with residents would be needed, this could involve education in schools.
- Concerns were raised around the period it would take to reach the Welsh Government's target of recycling 70% of household waste.
- In the report there was reference to Electric vehicles being implemented on new rounds. Members questioned the efficiency of these.
- Currently all household waste was collected on a specific day of the week, concerns were raised regarding the new collections stated in the report.
- Concerns around the trolley units blowing over were raised and that they may become a target for vandalism.

- In regard to the AHP Service, concerns were raised around how discreet this service would be. It was highlighted that many residents may not sign up to the service due to being too embarrassed to do so.
- With the residual bin not being collected for 4 weeks pet waste would be lingering in the bin for 4 weeks which would smell and possibly attract vermin.

Officers thanked Members for their questions and the following responses were given:-

- A request for the Roll Out Communications Plan to be considered by Scrutiny had already been submitted to the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG), as it was important that the roll out was clear to Members in order for them to promote it with their residents.
- Many more properties in Denbighshire would be able to have a trolley box unit compared to the number who had the current co-mingled blue bin due to new smaller electric vehicles being able to access streets/properties and the overall size of the trolley units.
- There would be a continuously updated schedule of activity in the Communications Plan prior to March 2024 and discussions were ongoing around educational establishments being involved.
- The Project Manager undertook to explore potential opportunities for the 3rd sector to be involved with the communication/engagement plan with a view to securing that the information about the changes reached and was understood by hard to reach individuals and groups.
- It would be difficult for the 70% target to be reached in the first year of the roll out of the new recycling system. There was a need to be realistic about hitting the 70% target but there were clear aspirations to reach this in the medium term.
- New electric vehicles would be rolled out when the new recycling system was implemented. There had been reports of difficulties with the vehicles from other authorities however, these difficulties had been resolved.
- Collection of waste from all households would remain on one specific day of the week. This would avoid confusion.
- Residents would be asked to put their trolley units out on the morning of their collection day and not the night before. Neighbouring Councils who had the trolley units in place had recorded very few complaints and were unaware of any vandalism.
- Potential technological solutions were being explored with a view to securing a viable textile collection service, particularly in more rural areas.
- The AHP containers were to be black and purple and were designed to be as discrete as possible. Research had been conducted on this and no complaints of embarrassment or stigma

issues had been raised in council areas where they were already available.

- Pet waste would continue to be placed in the residual waste bin and would be collected on a 4 weekly basis.
- Workable container and storage solutions for non-standard properties were currently being explored.
- Once implemented the revenue costs of operating the new service, including the costs of Prudential Borrowing, were estimated to be lower than the costs of operating the current model.
- An assisted waste collection service would still be provided to those residents who required it and had registered for the service.

The Corporate Director Economy and Environment stated that the Waste Service Remodelling Project was the biggest Service change in the history of Denbighshire County Council. It was going to be a major challenge for everyone involved and working together and communication was key to having a successful roll out of the new Recycling Collection Service. Elected members had an extremely important role to play in communicating the changes to residents.

The Chair thanked the Officers for the detailed report and thanked them for their continued hard work on the project. Future continual updates were welcomed by the Chair and Members.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Committee:

Resolved: subject to the above observations

- (i) to note the progress achieved to date with the implementation of the new service model;***
- (ii) endorse the future activities identified to be undertaken as part of the preparation for the roll-out of the new service; and***
- (iii) having as part of its consideration read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix 2) request that the Impact Assessment be regularly reviewed and updated as the project progressed.***

8. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Coordinator guided Members through the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme report (previously circulated). During the introduction reference was made to proposed additional reports relating to the Waste Service Remodelling Project which would be considered by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) at its meeting later that day. If the SCVCG permitted their inclusion for scrutiny they would most likely appear on the Committee's forward work programme later in the year.

The Scrutiny Coordinator advised that in December 2022, Cabinet had approved a New Capital Process and supported the Terms of Reference for a new Capital Scrutiny Group. This would be similar to the former the Strategic Investment Group (SIG) that had been in existence during the term of the previous Council. A request had been received that one representative from each Scrutiny Committee should be appointed to serve on this Group. There would be six meetings a year and the representative would be expected to report back to the Committee after they had attended the meeting. Therefore, it was requested that one representative and one substitute representative be nominated, chosen, and agreed by the Committee.

The Chair welcomed nominations from the Committee. Councillor James Elson nominated himself, this was seconded by Councillor Huw Williams with all Members of the Committee in agreement.

The Scrutiny Coordinator referred to a previous email she had sent to Member regarding Service Challenge Groups. There were 9 Services that needed a representative from the Committee to attend a meeting that would be held once a year. The Committee member would then feedback to the Communities Scrutiny Committee. The following Service Challenge Representatives were agreed:

- *Highways and Environmental Services – Councillor Jon Harland;*
- *Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Service – Councillor Pauline Edwards;*
- *Finance and Audit – Councillor James Elson;*
- *Community Support Services – Councillor Alan James; and*
- *Education and Children’s Services – Councillor Delyth A Jones.*

Representatives would need to be appointed for the remaining 4 Service Challenge Groups and this would be circulated to Members in due course.

Members:

Resolved: subject to the above observations, to

- (i) receive the report and confirm the Committee’s Forward Work Programme as set out in Appendix 1;***
- (ii) appoint Councillor James Elson to serve as the Committee’s representative on the Capital Scrutiny Group, with Councillor Huw Williams appointed as the Committee’s substitute representative on the Group; and***
- (iii) appoint the members named below to serve as the Committee’s representatives on the following Service Challenge Groups:-***

Highways and Environmental Services – Councillor Jon Harland;

***Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Service -Councillor
Pauline Edwards;
Finance and Audit – Councillor James Elson;
Community Support Services – Councillor Alan James; and
Education and Children’s Services – Councillor Delyth A Jones.***

9. FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

None.

The Chair thanked Officers and Member for attending the meeting.

Meeting concluded at: 13:00

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Report to	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	4th May 2023
Lead Member	Lead Member for Local Development and Planning, Councillor Wyn Mullen-James.
Head of Service	Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services, Emlyn Jones
Report author	Traffic, Parking and Road Safety Manager, Mike Jones
Title	Draft Tourism Signage Plan for Denbighshire

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. To provide Committee with an update on the Draft Tourism Signage Plan. (This was previously referred to as the Tourism Signage Strategy).

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. To provide the Committee with an update on progress in regard to brown tourist direction sign projects within Denbighshire.
- 2.2. To seek the views of Committee on the proposed Tourism Signage Plan.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 That the Committee confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (in Appendix A) as part of its consideration.
- 3.2 That Committee considers the content of the report and attached appendices, and provides observations on the proposed Tourism Signage Plan.

4. Report details

Background

- 4.1. Brown tourist direction signs are provided to assist visitors to find tourist attractions and facilities, where significant numbers of visitors are likely.
- 4.2. Denbighshire County Council is the local highway authority for all non-trunk roads in Denbighshire. The Welsh Government is the highway authority for all trunk roads within Denbighshire, namely the A55, the A494 and the A5.
- 4.3. Tourist direction signs are usually funded by the operator of the tourist attraction or facility.
- 4.4. A report was taken to Communities Scrutiny Committee in March 2020 regarding the development of Denbighshire County Council's Tourism Signage Strategy. The Strategy was an action within the Council's Tourism Strategy. A copy of the March 2020 report is contained within Appendix B.
- 4.5. The Tourism signage strategy contained actions to develop signage schemes on the A55 for the Vale of Clwyd, for Rhyl and for Prestatyn. It also included actions to review tourist direction signage in Ruthin and the Dee Valley; to develop scenic tourist routes; and to provide suitable "follow-on" signs for visitors once they reach tourist destinations.

Update on actions contained within Tourism Signage Strategy

- 4.6. The tourist direction brown signage scheme for the Vale of Clwyd has recently been completed. Our Tourism, Marketing and Events team have been working to promote the Vale of Clwyd to complement the provision of the brown signs. This includes a new brochure for 2023, *Discover Denbighshire by Trails*, which includes a section that promotes the Vale of Clwyd Trail. Copies of the new brochure can be found on-line at:
<https://www.northeastwales.wales/booklets/discover-denbighshire-by-trails/>
(Please go to page 16 of the brochure to see this content)
- 4.7. Funding has also been secured to replace the Rhyl key brown sign on the A55 westbound carriageway in advance of Junction 27 (the Talardy Junction), and to provide a similar sign on the eastbound carriageway in advance of Junction 23a (the Pensarn Interchange). An image of the existing Rhyl key brown sign on the A55 westbound carriageway is provided in Appendix C. Work can commence on this now that the Vale of Clwyd scheme has been completed.

- 4.8. Initial design work has been undertaken on the provision of a Prestatyn key brown sign on the A55 eastbound carriageway in advance of Junction 24 (the Faenol Interchange). However, existing signage and the close proximity of Junction 24 to Junction 23a, means that the sign would be significantly more expensive than normal, owing to the need to relocate several other signs.
- 4.9. Work to develop follow-on signage for visitors arriving at tourist destinations has been completed by the Tourism, Marketing and Events team. This includes providing information signs within car parks and at other key locations, providing Tourist Information Points throughout the county and funding Tourist Information Centres in Rhyl and Llangollen. Eight Town Trail maps are currently available and were updated in the first quarter of 2023.
- 4.10. Workload pressures from other projects has, unfortunately, meant that no progress has been made to review brown tourist signs on the A494 in Ruthin.
- 4.11. Some initial design work has been undertaken to review tourist direction signs within, and on the approaches to Llangollen.
- 4.12. The development of signage to complement “The Wales Way”, has not been progressed owing to competing workload pressures.

Proposed Tourism Signage Plan

- 4.13. In the three years that have passed since the Tourism Signage Strategy was last considered by Communities Scrutiny Committee; we have been through a pandemic and have seen numerous changes to our everyday lives. There has been an increased use of technology, such as, for holding video meetings or through increased use of contactless payment such as through smartphones.
- 4.14. There is increasing use of satellite navigation using smartphone apps, in particular. Such apps have the advantage of being able to provide re-routing of traffic in real-time by responding to changing traffic conditions, for example.
- 4.15. Significant increases in the costs of construction materials and fuel costs are significantly increasing the cost of traffic signage schemes.
- 4.16. There also continues to be an increasing desire amongst campaign groups to reduce the amount of street furniture to reduce the visual impact on the

environment. Less signage also reduces the number of physical assets we have to maintain as a highway authority.

4.17. For the above reasons, it is proposed that adopt a new, streamlined Tourism Signage Plan that reflects the work done to date, and the changes to the ways in which people navigate to tourist attractions.

4.18. The proposed actions for the new Tourism Signage Plan are as follows:

- Implement A55 key brown tourist signs for Rhyl on the eastbound and westbound carriageways at junctions 23a and 27 respectively.
- Further develop a proposal for a key brown sign for Prestatyn on the A55 eastbound carriageway at junction 24.
- Further develop the review of the brown tourist signs on the approaches to, and within Llangollen.
- Review existing trunk road signage for Ruthin and Corwen

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?

5.1. Improved brown tourist signage for key destinations will contribute towards the below themes within the Corporate Plan by enhancing signage to key tourist destinations, and helping with the management of visitor traffic in the process.

- A prosperous Denbighshire
- A better connected Denbighshire

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

6.1. The majority of funding is in place for the provision of A55 signs for Rhyl although this will need to be reviewed in light of increased construction costs due to inflation, particularly increases in steel and fuel costs.

6.2. Work to develop and review signage for Prestatyn, Ruthin and Llangollen as described will be dependent upon usage of some of the Traffic Block Capital annual allocation of capital funding. Where privately-run tourist attractions are included on signs, the operator would be expected to contribute to the costs where new signage was required.

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

7.1. The Wellbeing Impact Assessment (WIA) concludes that the Plan will have a positive impact. The WIA is provided in Appendix A.

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

8.1. A report was presented to Communities Scrutiny Committee in March 2020. A copy of the report is provided in Appendix B.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. It is important that services keep within their budget during this period of financial constraint. Future years allocations for all expenditure are currently under review for 24/25 and beyond.

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

10.1. A failure to replace the existing Rhyl brown sign could eventually result in the current sign failing structurally due to its age. The sign's existing condition is poor visually which doesn't give a good impression to visitors.

10.2. Failure to develop and implement the further actions identified within the proposed Tourism Signage Plan would be a case of failing to help the key attractions reach their full potential.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000

11.2. Section 7.4 of the Council's Constitution outlines Scrutiny's powers on relation to this matter.

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Tourism Signage Plan: 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: 1195

Brief description: Tourism Signage Plan for Denbighshire

Date Completed: 19/04/2023 23:34:46 Version: 1

Completed by: Mike Jones

Responsible Service: Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services

Localities affected by the proposal: Whole County,

Who will be affected by the proposal? Motorists, visitors, operators or some tourist attractions and facilities

Was this impact assessment completed as a group? No

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

2 out of 4 stars

Actual score : 22 / 36.

Summary for each Sustainable Development principle

Long term

This Tourism Signage Plan represents a reduction in the number of new brown tourist signs that were proposed in the 2018 Tourism Signage Strategy. This reflects that a desire to not increase the number of highway assets that need maintaining.

Prevention

Has neutral impact

Integration

Has neutral impact

Collaboration

Has neutral impact

Involvement

Has neutral impact

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals	Overall Impact
A prosperous Denbighshire	Positive
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

Project has many positive notes. Minimising signage clutter and thus the number of new signs required, plus minimising the number of signs to be maintained in the future is positive.

The likely impact on Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

Positive in terms of economic development

Further actions required

Recycle old signs appropriately.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society

Keeping signage to a minimum reduces future maintenance requirements potentially reducing carbon emissions associated with manufacturing, construction and transport

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

The proposal helps to manage visitor traffic for certain attractions

Economic development

The proposal helps guide visitors to tourist attractions that meet the criteria in terms of visitor numbers and facility type

Quality skills for the long term

N/A

Quality jobs for the long term

N/A

Childcare

N/A

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society

New signage that is being erected will result in carbon emissions associated with manufacturing and construction

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

[TEXT HERE]

Economic development

[TEXT HERE]

Quality skills for the long term

[TEXT HERE]

Quality jobs for the long term

[TEXT HERE]

Childcare

[TEXT HERE]

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

Recycling of old signs

Further actions required

Minimise new signage wherever possible

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

N/A

Biodiversity in the built environment

N/A

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

Old signs will be recycled

Number of new signs is being reduced

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

N/A

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

N/A

Flood risk management

N/A

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

N/A

Biodiversity in the built environment

N/A

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

[TEXT HERE]

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

[TEXT HERE]

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

[TEXT HERE]

Flood risk management

[TEXT HERE]

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

N/A

Further actions required

N/A

Positive 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

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

N/A

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

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/AN/A

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

Positive

Justification for impact

Good quality signage helps to manage traffic more effectively

Further actions required

Ensure signs are placed in suitable locations where visibility is good

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals

N/A

Community participation and resilience

N/A

The attractiveness of the area

N/A

Connected communities

Good quality signage helps to manage traffic more effectively

Rural resilience

N/A

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals

N/A

Community participation and resilience

N/A

The attractiveness of the area

N/A

Connected communities

[TEXT HERE]

Rural resilience

N/A

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

Bilingual signage and some signage leads to attractions which promote local culture and heritage

Further actions required

Not really anything else that can be done to maximise positives in this example

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh

Signs will all be bilingual Welsh above English as per our policy

Promoting the Welsh language

Signs will all be bilingual Welsh above English as per our policy

Culture and heritage

Signs direct visitors to some of our attractions which help inform people about local culture and heritage

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh

[TEXT HERE]

Promoting the Welsh language

[TEXT HERE]

Culture and heritage

[TEXT HERE]

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

Use of local suppliers

Further actions required

Seek to use local sign manufacturers where possible

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains

Local suppliers and contractors will be used where possible

Human rights

N/A

Broader service provision in the local area or the region

N/A

Reducing climate change

N/A

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains

[TEXT HERE]

Human rights

N/A

Broader service provision in the local area or the region

N/A

Reducing climate change

N/A

Report to	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	12th March 2020
Lead Member/Officer	Councillor Hugh H Evans (Leader)/Emlyn Jones (Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services)
Report author	Mike Jones (Traffic, Parking and Road Safety Manager)
Title	Tourism Signage Strategy for Denbighshire

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. This report is about the development of a Tourism Signage Strategy for Denbighshire. The Tourism Signage Strategy is one of the actions contained within the Denbighshire Tourism Strategy.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. To provide information regarding the development of the Tourism Signage Strategy, including a progress update on ongoing tourism signage schemes.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That the Committee considers the contents of the report, provides observations, and supports the continuation of work to develop the Tourism Signage Strategy.
- 3.2. That if the Committee wishes, a report on the final draft of the Tourism Signage Strategy comes back to the Committee in late 2020/early 2021.

4. Report details

Introduction

- 4.1. We are currently developing a Tourism Signage Strategy for Denbighshire. A strategy is required in order to provide some direction for identifying tourism signage schemes in a consistent way and to also consolidate some significant

existing schemes into one overall strategy. This is an action contained within the Denbighshire Tourism Strategy.

4.2. Although still at a draft stage, it is suggested that the Tourism Signage Strategy should contain the objectives listed overleaf. These objectives have been selected either because they relate to significant schemes already in development (such as the Vale of Clwyd scheme), because they are recommendations from a previous Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting, or because they are required to ensure a consistent approach to tourism signage across the County.

Proposed objectives for the Tourism Signage Strategy

- Ensure the Vale of Clwyd is adequately signed from the A55 trunk road
- Ensure Rhyl and Prestatyn are adequately signed from the A55.
- Ensure there is appropriate signage for major attractions in Ruthin and the Dee Valley from the A494 and A5 trunk roads, including the role of the A483.
- Identify and develop signage for a series of “scenic tourist routes” within Denbighshire to complement the Wales Way
- Provide suitable follow-on signage within town/village centres to tourist destinations

Policy background

4.3. The Welsh Government are the Highway Authority for all trunk roads in Wales, including the A55, A494 and A5 in Denbighshire. This means that tourism signage can only be placed on the trunk road network with prior approval from the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government published a policy for tourism signage on trunk roads in August 2013. A copy is attached in Appendix A. This policy provides strict criteria in terms of the type of tourist destination, minimum visitor numbers and the maximum permitted distance to the destination from the nearest trunk road.

4.4. The Council also has a policy for tourism signage on County (non-trunk) roads which was approved in 2006. A copy is provided in Appendix B. Like the WG policy, it sets criteria to determine whether a tourist destination is eligible for

signage. It is recommended to review this policy now that the Tourism Signage Strategy is being developed.

- 4.5. One of the overriding principles of providing signage is that the amount of signage is kept to a minimum to avoid unnecessary clutter and to ensure that motorists are not overloaded with information as this can cause distraction with potentially dangerous consequences. This is one of the reasons that the existing policies are written in order to avoid an over-proliferation of signage.

Objectives

- 4.6. A scheme has been developed to sign the Vale of Clwyd from the A55, including the “follow-on signage” to the destinations. Plans showing the proposed A55 signage are included in Appendix C. Rhuddlan Castle, Denbigh Castle and St Asaph Cathedral are the attractions included on the signs. We originally proposed to include Ruthin Gaol as well, however, it doesn’t meet the WG policy because the A55 is not the closest trunk road to Ruthin (the A494 is) and because Ruthin is more than 10 miles from the A55. A working group formed by Ann Jones AM has identified funding for approximately half of the £150k required. A bid for the remainder has been submitted to the Council’s Strategic Investment Group for financial year 2020-21. At the time of writing this report, we do not yet know whether that bid has been successful.
- 4.7. We proposed to develop a scheme to replace the existing Rhyl key tourist sign on the A55 westbound carriageway at Junction 27 as it is in a very poor condition. The scheme would also include a new sign on the eastbound carriageway at Junction 23a where presently there is no brown sign for Rhyl. Please see photographs and location plans in Appendix D. It is also proposed that SC2 would be one of the attractions included on the new signs. A bid for the signage has been submitted to the Council’s Strategic Investment Group for financial year 2020-21. At the time of writing this report, we do not yet know whether that bid has been successful.
- 4.8. A new key tourist sign for Prestatyn was placed on the A55 at Junction 31 in 2016. The tourism signage within the town has been renewed within recent

months. As part of the draft Strategy, we are proposing to consider the potential for a brown sign for Prestatyn on the A55 eastbound carriageway at Junction 24 (see Appendix E for further details).

- 4.9. There will be a need to review the condition of the existing tourism signage on the A494 and A5 trunk roads and to consider whether the attractions in Ruthin and the Dee Valley are adequately signed from the trunk road network, subject to the Welsh Government's policy for tourism signage on trunk roads. The role of the A483 is also important and should also be considered.
- 4.10. *Visit Wales* have identified three routes across Wales, as part of the Wales Way project. One of these routes is the "North Wales Way" which broadly follows the A55. However, to complement this main route, a number of circular routes have been developed through the Visit Wales Regional Tourism Engagement Fund by the six North Wales Local Authorities in conjunction with the 10-year Wales Way Project. These routes will appeal to visitors who wish to explore our region further and stay in the area; they will lead visitors to smaller tourist attractions which would not qualify for signage from the trunk road network.
- 4.11. An Officer/Member working group has been set up to continue the development of the Tourism Signage Strategy. The working group includes two members from each of the MAGs. The first meeting of the working group took place on the 24th February 2020.

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

- 5.1. The Tourism Signage Strategy is an action within the Denbighshire Tourism Strategy. It will also contribute towards the Corporate Priority of Connected Communities as quality signage is a component of good infrastructure.

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

- 6.1. In Denbighshire and across the UK, Tourism signage is normally funded by the operator of the tourist attraction or facility. As well as the cost of the sign manufacture and installation, the amount that the operators pay also includes

design costs and an allowance for future minor sign maintenance. In some cases, the Council is the operator of an attraction and contributes accordingly.

- 6.2. There is no existing Council budget for the provision of new tourism signage, nor a budget for the replacement of existing tourism signage. The implementation of signage schemes identified within the Tourism Signage Strategy will therefore depend upon funding from private sector tourism operators where signage is for privately-run attractions, or from Council capital funding in the case of Council-run attractions.

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

- 7.1. A Well-being Impact Assessment is proposed to be carried out within the next few months as the Tourism Signage Strategy is developed further.

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

- 8.1. The need for a Tourism Signage Strategy was originally raised by Communities Scrutiny Committee in May 2018.
- 8.2. It is proposed that we engage with Denbighshire Tourism Forum in the summer of 2020 to seek the views of local tourism operators.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 9.1 The Council has to prioritise funding commitments in light of the funding available and competing pressures such in Social Care, Schools, Highways for example. However the Capital Plan for 2020/21 does include a total of £150k funding for traffic signage schemes Vale of Clwyd and Rhyl brown tourism signage schemes which were requested by the service. It is welcome that external income is maximised in this area.

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

- 10.1. The main risk is that a failure to secure funding could inhibit the delivery of the Tourism Signage Strategy.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1 Section 7.4.1 of the Council's Constitution outlines Scrutiny's powers with respect of policy development and review.

Contact officer:

Traffic, Parking and Road Safety Manager.

Tel: 01824 706959



Image of existing Rhyl Key Brown Tourism Sign on A55 Westbound Carriageway at Junction 27

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Report to	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	4th May 2023
Lead Member / Officer	Cllr Barry Mellor, Lead Member for Highways & Environment) / Andy Clark, Interim Head of Highways & Environmental Services.
Report author	Tim Towers, Risk and Asset Manager / Andy Clark
Title	Flood Risk Working Group / Flood Risk Management Strategy

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. The report is about the requirement for the Denbighshire Council to produce a new Flood Risk Management (FRM) Strategy by 2024.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. To update the Committee on work that has taken place since the previous report from the multi-agency and riparian landowners information sharing working group was presented to the Committee on 10th March 2022.
- 2.2. To request that the Committee support a proposal to re-establish a DCC Working Group to oversee the development of a new FRM Strategy.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That the Committee support the proposal to re-establish a DCC Working Group to oversee the development of a new FRM Strategy.

4. Report details

Update since previous report to the Committee

- 4.1. A report was presented to the Committee on 10th March 2022 to highlight the findings of the multi-agency Flood Risk Management and Riparian Land Ownership Working Group. That report explored potential methods for strengthening communication channels and building effective working relationships between all parties and organisations that have responsibilities for managing flood risk from rivers and watercourses across Denbighshire. The committee resolved to endorse the contents of the report, including the following recommendations:
- 4.1.1. that a Flood Risk Working Group comprising of the flood risk management authorities and landowner representatives continue to meet on an annual basis for an updated position on issues and expectations, and report on its discussions to Communities Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.1.2. that the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy page on the Council's website be re-launched including:
- a) links to related Natural Resources Wales and Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water web pages; and
 - b) an explanation of the responsibilities of Flood Risk Management Authorities and riparian landowners,
- 4.1.3. that working in partnership with Natural Resources Wales and Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water a generic information leaflet/letter be created on the responsibilities of riparian landowners and distributed to properties adjacent to the Rhyl Cut and Prestatyn Gutter; and
- 4.1.4. that the report presented to the Committee be translated and circulated to City, Town and Community Councils for inclusion on their websites.
- 4.2. With respect to these actions the update is as follows:
- 4.2.1 The Flood Risk Working Group hasn't met recently but this current paper is designed to give it new impetus and focus.
- 4.2.2 Due to the loss of a member of staff it hasn't been possible to improve communication relating to the web page or with Town and Community Councils but this will remain as an action that we will work to achieve in the next few months.

4.2.3 Meetings and discussions with Officers from DCC and those from NRW are taking place and progress is being made. Both organisations have commission work to look at the issue and it is anticipated that a draft document will be available to share shortly.

Proposal to re-establish a FRM Working Group

4.3. DCC currently has a local Flood Risk Management Strategy, but all local authorities are required to produce and publish a revised Flood Risk Management Strategy during 2024. Officers are proposing to establish a member-led Working Group to oversee the development of our new FRM Strategy. A draft Terms of Reference is attached at Appendix A.

4.4. There is an existing Flood Risk Management Strategy which has been in place since 2014 but there is a requirement now to revisit, revise and adapt it to create a new one. At the beginning of that document the Executive Summary included the following:

The Local Strategy will complement and support the National Strategy published by Welsh Government, which outlines a national framework for flood and coastal risk management that aims to balance the needs of communities, the economy and the environment. The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (Wales) sets the following objectives:

1.Reducing the impacts on individuals, communities, businesses and the environment from flooding and coastal erosion;

2.Raising awareness of and engaging people in the response to flood and coastal erosion risk;

3.Providing an effective and sustained response to flood and coastal erosion events; and

4.Prioritising investment in communities most at risk.

Although the parameters now might have altered, the desired outcomes for Denbighshire will be fundamentally the same.

4.5. An important part of the document is ensuring it links with other Strategic documents, amongst which will be the Flood Strategies for Natural Resources

Wales so this will be a development of the work done by the previous Task and Finish Group.

- 4.6. Communication of the new Strategy is a key element of it but it is likely to be a sizeable document so the intention will be to work with Members to create a smaller, more approachable summary so that communication of the principles can be understood more readily.

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

- 5.1. This proposal supports the theme called “A Greener Denbighshire” in the 2022-27 Corporate Plan. This specifically highlights the need to “mitigate and work with communities to cope with the impacts of climate change”. It also states that we aim to “support communities to mitigate and cope with the impacts of climate change by...delivering schemes to reduce coastal and in-land flood risk. This includes support for the management of land adjacent to waterways”. Our new FRM Strategy will clarify how we will go about working to achieve these objectives.

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

- 6.1. The cost of developing the new FRM Strategy will be covered from existing service revenue budgets.

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

- 7.1. A Well-being Impact Assessment (WBIA) is not required for this report, but one will be required to support the development of the new FRM Strategy. The proposed Working Group would be involved in the development of the WBIA.

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

- 8.1. The Lead Member has been consulted on, and supports, the proposal to establish a Working Group for the purposes of developing a new FRM Strategy.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 9.1. It is important that services keep within their budget during this period of financial constraint. Future years allocations for all expenditure are currently under review for 24/25 and beyond.

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

- 10.1. There are some minor risks around this proposal related to the need for wide consultation within a short space of time but these can be mitigated by good project management and diarised meetings.

11. Power to make the decision

- 11.1. Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

- 11.2. Section 7.4.1 (d) and (e) of the Council's Constitution

Flood Risk Management Strategy Task and Finish Group

1. Membership

6 elected members – representatives appointed by each of the Council's Member Area Groups

2. Officer Input

Officers from the Council's Highways and Environmental Services department, along with Officers from Planning and Public Protection plus others as appropriate.

3. Purpose of the Study

To explore options and outcomes required within the new Flood Risk Management Strategy. This document is a Statutory requirement placed upon all councils by the Welsh Government and needs to be ratified in 2024.

4. Sphere of Study

To:

- (i) examine and review the current Flood Risk Strategy document and to make recommendations for amendments and improvements.
- (ii) To review any recent changes to legislation and to contribute as to how these can be applied to Denbighshire.
- (iii) To work with relevant officers to gain an understanding as to how decisions can be implemented. This will include any implications with regards to both budget and policy.
- (iv) To use their local knowledge of flooding issues such that a new Strategy might serve to alleviate / resolve these.
- (v) To build on previous good work in terms of liaison with stakeholders such as NRW, landowners etc. so as to ensure a new Strategy links into these groups.

5. Timescales

The Task and Finish Group will determine its timescale for undertaking the work and inform Communities Scrutiny Committee of the anticipated timeframe. It should be noted however that the draft strategy document will need to go out for wider consultation before ratification in Spring 2024 so any meetings will need to fit in with this.

6. Governance

Upon the conclusion of its work the Task and Finish Group will contribute to the completed draft Strategy document. Ultimately this will be reviewed and ratified by Full Council.

7. Administration

An officer from Highways and Environmental Services will provide administrative support to the Task and Finish Group. They will be responsible

for keeping an appropriate record of the Group's proceedings which shall be made available upon request to elected members and/or Democratic Services staff.

Elected Members:

1 representative from each Member Area Group (MAG)

Dee Valley: to be appointed

Denbigh: to be appointed

Elwy: to be appointed

Prestatyn: to be appointed

Rhyl: to be appointed

Ruthin: to be appointed

Officer Support to the Group:

Andy Clark (Acting Head of Highways and Environmental Services)/Tim Towers (Section Manager – Network Management, Highways and Environmental Services or representative)

Representative of Denbighshire County Council's Planning Service: to be appointed

Administrative Support (Highways and Environmental Services)

*Lead Member(s) can be invited as expert witness(es)

Report to	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	4 May 2023
Head of Service	Lisa Jones, Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Report author	Karen Evans, Scrutiny Co-ordinator
Title	Scrutiny Work Programme

What is the report about?

1.1. The report seeks Communities Scrutiny Committee to review its draft forward work programme (see Appendix 1). As part of its review 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 work underway under the recovery phase, whilst also prioritising matters which the Committee deems important to scrutinise.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 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;
- 3.2 appoints representatives to serve on the vacant positions on the Council Service Challenge Groups; and;
- 3.3 determines whether any key messages or themes from the current meeting should be publicised 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 themes (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 Scrutiny's business agenda they have to submit a formal request to the SCVCG seeking Scrutiny to consider 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.

- 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.

Cabinet Forward Work Programme

- 4.8 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

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

5. 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 9 March 2023. At that meeting the Group requested that this Committee added an item on the updated Waste Collections Policy, Communication Plan and Waste Service Change Roll Out to its meeting on 29 June 2023 and an update on the progress of the new

Waste Service Model roll out / Waste Transfer Station (Denbigh Depot) to its meeting on 19 October 2023 (appendix 1 refers).

- 5.2 The SCVCG is scheduled to hold its next meeting during the afternoon of 27 April 2023. Therefore, any items it refers to this Committee for future consideration will be reported verbally to members at the meeting on 4 May 2023

6. Committee representation on Council Boards and Groups

Service Challenge Groups

- 6.1 Periodically the Committee is asked to appoint representatives to serve on various Council Boards or Groups.
- 6.2 Following the Chief Executive's restructure of the Council's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) the Committee is asked to appoint representatives to serve on the three vacant Service Challenge Groups shown on Appendix 5

7. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?

- 7.1 Effective scrutiny will assist the Council to deliver its Corporate Plan 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 themes, improve outcomes for residents whilst also managing austere budget and resource pressures.
- 7.2 Whilst the decision on the Committee's forward work programme itself will have a neutral contribution on the Council's aim of becoming Net Carbon Zero and Ecologically Positive by 2030, the Committee by effectively scrutinising all matters examined by it can help support the delivery of this ambition.

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

- 8.1 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.

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

- 9.1. 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.

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

10.1. 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.

11. Chief Finance Officer Statement

11.1. Not applicable

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

12.1. 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.

13. Power to make the decision

13.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

13.2 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.

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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
29 June	<i>Cllr. Barry Mellor</i>	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>
				<i>(i)</i>		
	<i>Leader</i>	2. Rhyl Regeneration Programme and Governance	To examine the effectiveness of the Programme Board's work in delivering the regeneration programme to date	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>Emlyn Jones/Nicola Kneale/Lois Lambie</i>	<i>June 2022</i>
	Cllr. Barry Mellor	3. Updated Waste Collections Policy, Communication Plan & General Update on Waste Service Change Roll Out	To examine in detail the updated Waste Collections Policy, the communication and engagement plan and the progress of the new service roll out (incl. the impending implementation of the new AHP Service)	Identification of any gaps or omissions in the updated Policy and the proposed Communication & Engagement Plan with residents will help the Service to address any shortfalls ahead of their implementation, thus ensuring a smooth rollout of the new service and residents' buy-in to the new waste and recycling service that will support the Council's ambition in relation to carbon reduction.	Tony Ward/ Andy Clark/ Jamie Lees/ Lowri Roberts	By SCVCG March 2023

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
7 September	Cllr. Elen Heaton	1. Engagement with Care Forum Wales (CFW) & Care Providers in Denbighshire	To examine the progress made in encouraging CFW and local social care providers to engage with the Council in relation to social care provision and the setting of fees	The establishment of open communication channels between care providers, their representative body and local authorities locally and regionally for the purpose of setting realistic and fair fees for social care provision which is based on up to date verified data	Nicola Stubbins/David Soley	By SCVCG January 2023
19 October	Cllr. Barry Mellor	1. New Waste Service Model – Progress Report	To examine the progress in relation to the activities associated with rollout of the new Service (incl. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the imminent rollout of the trolleybox units to residents • update on the implementation of the AHP Service • latest position on the development of the Waste Transfer Station 	Identification of actions or resolutions to any gaps or obstacles encountered to date with the rollout process with a view to addressing them in time to secure a seamless rollout of the new Service and ensure residents' buy-in and compliance with the new waste and recycling service which will support the Council's ambition in relation to carbon reduction.	Tony Ward/ Andy Clark/ Jamie Lees/ Lowri Roberts	By SCVCG March 2023
7 December	Cllr. Win Mullen-James	1. <i>Second Homes and Short-term Holiday lets</i>	<i>To report the findings and conclusions of the</i>	<i>(i) An assessment of the proposals' anticipated impact on Denbighshire County Council,</i>	<i>Emlyn Jones/Angela Loftus/Lara</i>	<i>June 2022 (rescheduled November)</i>

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
		<p><i>and their impact have been fully assessed)</i></p> <p>(timing tbc – once the full details of the WG proposals are known (incl. Licensing Scheme proposals)</p>	<p>Welsh Government's study in relation to addressing the impact of second home ownership in Wales, including its proposals for reviewing the regulatory framework and system as they apply to holiday accommodation, along with national and local taxation systems (the WG's "three-pronged approach to address [the] second homes crisis"</p>	<p><i>residents, businesses and local economy</i></p> <p>(ii) <i>Formulation of recommendations with a view to realising maximum benefits for the Council, residents businesses and the economy, or for mitigating the impact of any risks that may arise from any proposals</i></p>	<p>Griffiths/Paul Barnes/Gareth Roberts</p>	<p>2022/ March 2023)</p>

Information/Consultation Reports

Information / Consultation	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Author(s)	Date Entered
<p>INFORMATION (for circulation early autumn 2023 <i>once work has been undertaken</i>)</p>	<p>Community Impact Assessment on the communities of Rhewl and Llanynys</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Geraint Davies/James Curran</p>	<p>December 2020</p>

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

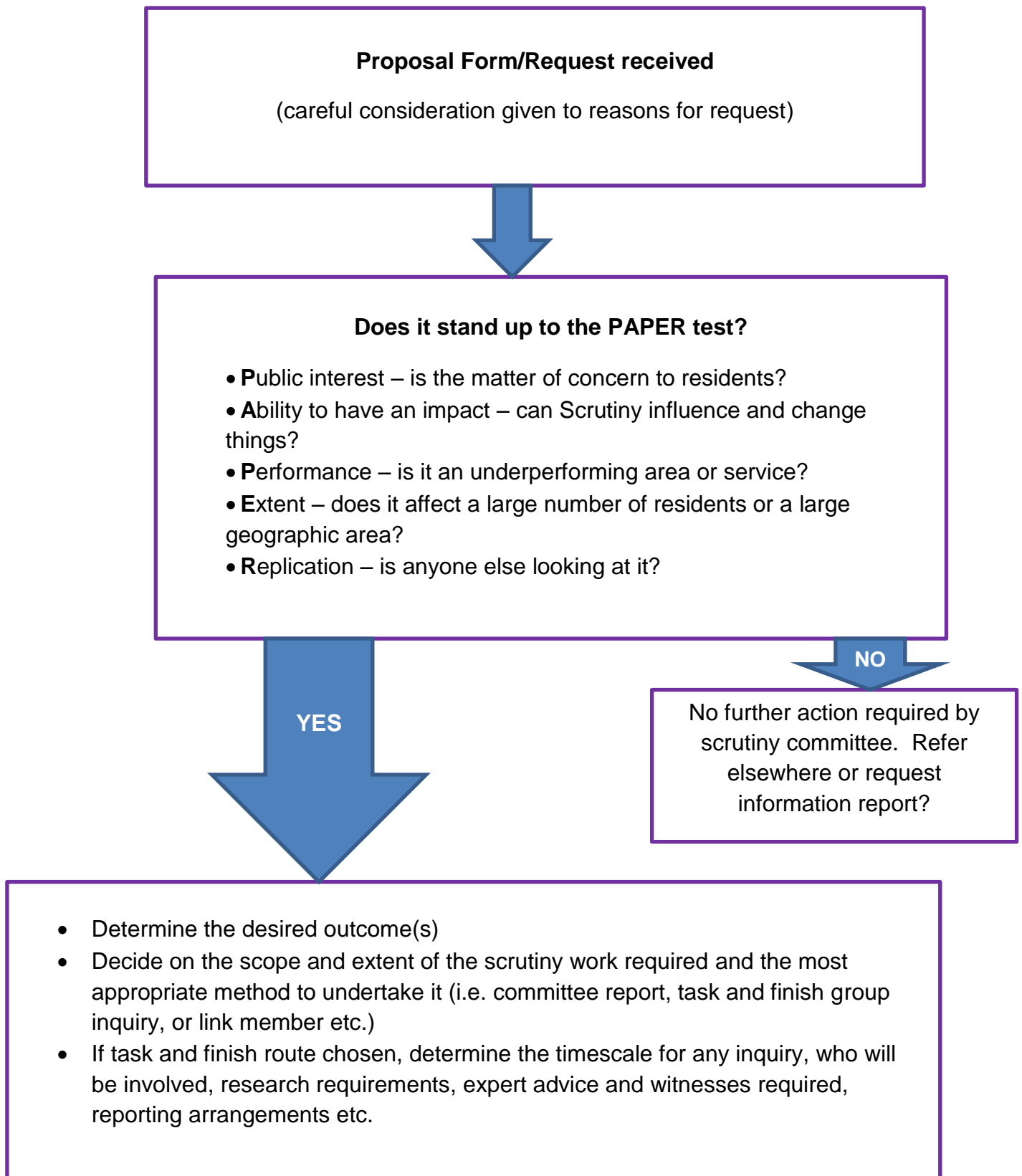
Note for officers – Committee Report Deadlines

Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline
4 May	19 April (due to B/H)	29 June	15 June	7 September	23 August (due to B/H)

12/04/2023 KE

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 themes? (if 'yes' please state which theme(s))	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
23 May	1	Phase 2 of Waste Depot in Colomendy, Denbigh	To seek Cabinet approval of the preferred strategy for managing the main contract for Phase 2 of the Colomendy Depot build	Yes	Cllr Barry Mellor Lead Officer – Tony Ward Report Author – Peter Clayton
	2	North Wales Construction Partnership Framework, 3 rd iteration	To seek Cabinet approval to develop and progress the 3 rd iteration of the North Wales Construction Partnership Framework	Yes	Cllr Julie Matthews Lead Officer – Lisa Jones Report Authors – Karen Bellis / Helen Spafford
	3	Long Term Empty and Second Homes Premium	To provide members with information for their consideration, to review the recommendations and agree a way forward	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Steve Gadd / Paul Barnes / Leah Gray
	4	Agile Working Policy	To approve the Agile Working Policy	Yes	Cllr Julie Matthews Louise Dougal / Andrea Malam
	5	LUF Governance	To consider the formal arrangements required by the UK Government for the oversight and governance for delivering the LUF Clwyd West projects	Tbc	Cllr Jason McLellan Nicola Kneale

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
	6	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Steve Gadd
	7	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet’s attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator
27 June	1	Rhyl Business Improvement District (BID): ballot for 2 nd 5-year term	To request a decision on whether DCC should vote “yes” or “no” in the ballot to determine whether there should be a 2 nd 5-year term for the Rhyl BID	Yes	Cllr Jason McLellan Lead Officer – Tony Ward
	2	The Council acting as the Lead Body for the renewal of the Regional North Wales Domiciliary Care Agreement	To seek Cabinet approval for Denbighshire County Council to act as the ‘Lead Body’ on an Invitation to Tender for Domiciliary Care & Support Services for Children / Young People and Adults	Yes	Cllr Gill German/Elen Heaton Lead Officers –Rhiain Morrle / David Soley / Ann Lloyd Report Author –Liana Duffy
	3	Queen’s Market: operator contract award	Following the culmination of the procurement process to appoint an operator for the Queen’s Market in Rhyl,	Yes	Cllr Jason McLellan Lead Officer – Emlyn Jones Report Author – Russell Vaughan

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
			approval is sought from Cabinet to award a contract to the preferred tenderer		
	4	Welsh Language Strategy	To seek Cabinet's approval of a new Welsh Language Strategy 2023-2028	Yes	Cllr Emrys Wynne Lead Officer – Gary Williams Report Author – Manon Celyn
	5	Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn – New Build Project	To seek Cabinet endorsement of the preferred site for the progression of the new build project for Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn	Yes	Cllr Gill German Lead Officer – Geraint Davies Report Author – James Curran / Lisa Walchester
	6	Commissioned Services for Homelessness	To seek Cabinet's authorisation to extend the current contract to allow more time to scope supported housing need in line with the new Rapid Rehousing model	Yes	Cllr Rhys Thomas Lead Officer – Ann Lloyd Report Author – Sharon Whalley / Hayley S Jones / Nigel Jones
	7	North Wales Velodrome Business Case	To consider the business case for the North Wales Velodrome Project	Tbc	Tbc Gary Williams / Jamie Groves
	8	Council Performance Self-Assessment	To present an update on the council's performance against its functions, including Corporate Plan and	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer – Nicola Kneale Report Author – Emma Horan

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
			Strategic Equality objectives		
	9	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Steve Gadd
	10	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator
18 July	1	Long Term Empty and Second Homes Premium	To provide members with information for their consideration, to review the recommendations and agree a way forward	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Steve Gadd / Paul Barnes / Leah Gray
	2	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Steve Gadd
	3	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator
19 September	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Steve Gadd

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator
24 October	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Steve Gadd
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator
21 November	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Steve Gadd
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator
	3	Council Performance Self-Assessment Update – July to September	To present an update on the council's performance against its functions, including Corporate Plan and Strategic Equality objectives	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer – Nicola Kneale Report Author – Emma Horan

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>25 April</i>	<i>11 April</i>	<i>23 May</i>	<i>9 May</i>	<i>27 June</i>	<i>13 June</i>

Updated 25/04/2023 – KEJ

Cabinet Forward Work Programme.doc

Progress with Committee Resolutions

Date of Meeting	Item number and Title	Resolution	Progress
9 March 2023	5. Mistreatment of Dogs	To support the work undertaken by the Council itself, and that delivered in partnership with other organisations and agencies, the aim of which was to secure the viability of properly licensed traders to operate in Denbighshire, thus reducing the suffering of animals	Lead Member and Officers informed of the Committee's recommendations.
9 March 2023	6. Progress Report on the Denbighshire Moorlands Project	(i) endorse the progress made to date in delivering the Denbighshire Moorlands Project and support the efforts underway to extend the existing partnership with Natural Resources Wales; (ii) request that officers of the Moorland Partnership Board regularly update local councillors on any Board decisions or operational work that affects their electoral ward.	Lead Member, officers and NRW representatives: (i) advised of the Committee's recommendations and its support for extending the partnership with Natural Resources Wales; and (ii) requested to regularly liaise with local members on Board decisions or operational work that impact their wards.
9 March 2023	7. Update for the Waste Services Remodelling Project	(ii) endorse the future activities identified to be undertaken as part of the preparation for the roll-out of the new service; and (iii) having as part of its consideration read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix 2)	Lead Member and officers advised of the Committee's recommendations. Further reports relating to the project have since been

		request that the Impact Assessment be regularly reviewed and updated as the project progressed.	scheduled into the Committee's forward work programme at the request of the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (see covering report and Appendix 1)
9 March 2023	8. Scrutiny Forward Work Programme	(ii) appoint Councillor James Elson to serve as the Committee's representative on the Capital Scrutiny Group, with Councillor Huw Williams appointed as the Committee's substitute representative on the Group; and (iii) appoint the members named below to serve as the Committee's representatives on the following Service Challenge Groups:- Highways and Environmental Services – Councillor Jon Harland; Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Service -Councillor Pauline Edwards; Finance and Audit – Councillor James Elson; Community Support Services – Councillor Alan James; and Education and Children's Services – Councillor Delyth A Jones.	Officers informed of the Committee's recommendations. Officers charged with the coordination of the Capital Scrutiny Group's work and the Service Challenge process notified of the Committee's appointed representatives.

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE SERVICE CHALLENGE – REPERESENTATIVES

Service	Councillor
Highways & Environmental Services	Councillor Jon Harland
Planning, Public Protection & Countryside Services	Councillor Pauline Edwards
Finance & Audit	Councillor James Elson
Adult Social Care & Homelessness	Councillor Alan James
Education & Children’s Services	Councillor Delyth Jones
Housing & Communities	to be appointed
Corporate Support Service: Performance, Digital & Assets (see below)	to be appointed
Corporate Support Service: People (see below)	to be appointed

Corporate Support: People

- Legal
- Procurement
- Democratic
- Human Resources
- Business Support (Registrars, Coroner, Civics, Cabinet Support)
- FOI & Dats Protection
- Communications, Marketing & Engagement (inc. Tourism)
- Service Improvement (Corporate Customer Services Team, Ruthin 1 Stop Shop, County Hall Reception, Corporate Contact Centre)
- Corporate Health & Safety

Corporate Support: Performance, Digital & Assets

- Digital / ICT
- Digital Records Bureau
- Strategic Planning
- Project Programme Management (including Climate Change, SPF, LuF etc.)
- Business Information
- Partnerships (including Community Safety Partnership, Contest/Prevent, PSB etc.)
- Property (inc Corporate Landlord, Strategic Assets, Facilities Management; Corporate Maintenance (non housing), Valuation & Estates, Property H&S, Design & Construction.

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