

To: Members of the Communities
Scrutiny Committee

Date: 17 October 2024

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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, 24 OCTOBER 2024** 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 - 14)

To receive the minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 5 September 2024 (copy enclosed).

5 ADDITIONAL RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR THE NEW WEEKLY TROLLIBOCS RECYCLING SERVICE AND ASSOCIATED WASTE COLLECTION FUNCTIONS (Pages 15 - 48)

To consider a joint report by the Corporate Director: Environment and Economy & Head of Highways & Environmental Services (copy enclosed) to enable the Committee to scrutinise the proposal that was presented to Cabinet on 1st October 2024.

6 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 49 - 72)

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.

7 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

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

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Councillor Huw Williams (Chair)

Michelle Blakeley-Walker

James Elson

Martyn Hogg

Carol Holliday

Brian Jones

Councillor Karen Anne Edwards (Vice-Chair)

Delyth Jones

James May

Merfyn Parry

Cheryl Williams

COPIES TO:

All Councillors for information

Press and Libraries

Town and Community Councils

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 a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held in Council Chamber, County Hall, Ruthin and by video conference on Thursday, 5 September 2024 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Karen Edwards, Jon Harland, Carol Holliday, Brian Jones, Delyth Jones, Cheryl Williams and Huw Williams (Chair)

ALSO PRESENT

Corporate Director: Governance and Business/Monitoring Officer (GW); Head of Housing and Communities Service (LG); Head of Adult Social Care and Homelessness (AL); Service Manager – Community Support Service (NJ); Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services (EJ); Lead Officer – Trees and Woodlands (TH); Countryside and Heritage Services Manager (HR); Works Unit and Streetscene Manager (AC); Head of Corporate Support Service: Performance, Digital and Assets (HV-E); Climate Change Manager (JH); Insight, Strategy and Delivery Manager (RL); Head of Highways and Environment (PJ); Scrutiny Co-ordinator (KE); Committee Administrator/Host (ED); and Committee Administrator/Minutes (SLW).

Observers – Councillors Joan Butterfield, Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones. Pauline Edwards, Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Gareth Sandilands, Andrea Tomlin and Eryl Williams.

Lead Member for Housing and Communities, Councillor Rhys Thomas was in attendance for Agenda Item 8

Lead Member for Environment and Transport, Councillor Barry Mellor was in attendance for Agenda Items 6, 7 and 9

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michelle Blakeley-Walker, James Elson and Merfyn Parry.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cheryl Williams declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 – SARTH Inhouse Provision Update – as she is on the SARTH list.

3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

The Chair, Councillor Huw Williams, requested nominations for the appointment of a new Vice-Chair of Communities Scrutiny Committee for the 2024-2025 municipal year.

Councillor Huw Williams proposed Councillor Karen Edwards, Seconded by Councillor Cheryl Williams.

No further nominations were proposed.

All members present affirmed their assent to the appointment of Councillor Karen Edwards

Councillor Edwards thanked everyone for voting her to be Vice-Chair.

RESOLVED that Councillor Karen Edwards be appointed as Vice-Chair of Communities Scrutiny Committee for the 2024-2025 municipal year.

4 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No urgent matters.

5 MINUTES

The minutes of the Communities Scrutiny meeting held on Thursday 9 May 2024 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9 May 2024 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

At this juncture there was a change in the order of Agenda items.

6 SARTH INHOUSE PROVISION UPDATE

The Lead Member for Housing and Communities, along with the Head of Adult Social Care and Homelessness, Service Manager for Community Support Services, and the Head of Housing and Communities were in attendance to present the report on SARTH Inhouse Provision update.

Lead Member, Councillor Rhys Thomas, introduced the report to update Communities Scrutiny Committee and provide members the opportunity to examine the effectiveness of the SARTH register, following service provision redesign in 2023.

The Service Manager for Community Support Services, Nigel Jones, explained to Committee that the service had been brought back inhouse in April 2023. Denbighshire SARTH partnered with Conwy Borough County Council, Flintshire County Council, social housing and community housing but Denbighshire had the responsibility for holding the register.

ICT system changes had delayed the access to data for a substantial period of time initially. This was out of the control of DCC as software consultants worked on the issue and eventually full working order had been restored.

The service was now running extremely well and were now reaching the target of 28 days from application to assessment. Previously this had taken 3-4 months.

The main advantage of working inhouse was the ability to carry out reviews on time and maintaining the register and keep it up to date. Every case was to be reviewed on a six-monthly basis and the resident would be contacted to ascertain if there had been a change in their circumstances.

There were further developments, and one was the specialist housing register. This year 9 specialist properties had been found which was a marked improvement on previous years.

Now SARTH sat within the homeless service, there was a lot of cohesion in the service.

It was confirmed that the partnership with Social Landlords and Community Landlords had been held up as best practice.

The new process provided an enhanced customer journey and was able to identify homelessness quicker. From a customer perspective, it was a more seamless process.

The Head of Housing and Communities stated that prior to the setting up of SARTH, every council had a housing list and now with SARTH the key driver for DCC was to take a more homeless prevention approach.

If the funding streams continued at current levels future pressures would be met.

Members thanked all the officers for their work on SARTH.

RESOLVED that Communities Scrutiny Committee were assured that the service provision redesign of SARTH was performing and meeting expectations set out at the time of the decision to bring the service back in house from the former commissioned provider, Flintshire County Council.

7 TREE MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Lead Member for Environment and Transport along with the Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside, the Lead Officer – Trees and Woodlands, the Countryside and Heritage Services Manager, and the Works Unit and Streetscene Manager were in attendance to present the report on Tree Maintenance and Management.

Lead Member, Councillor Barry Mellor, introduced the report to provide Members with an understanding of how DCC's trees were managed across the authority, within the context of each service area.

As a landowner, the Council had a duty of care to ensure, as far as was reasonably practicable, all the trees on its land were kept in an acceptable condition and did not put persons or property at unreasonable risk.

The work to respond to Ash Dieback had been a priority during the past few years.

A team of tree officers had been created to deal with ash dieback in 2020. Work took place with all the departments who had trees in their portfolio eg: planning, streetscene and work involving protected trees whilst working towards the policy attached to the report.

Three surveys had been carried out and a significant amount of work had been undertaken in the hope of saving as many trees as possible.

Trees were a key to delivering a Greener Denbighshire, and a Net Carbon Zero and Ecologically positive Council by 2030. The existing tree asset would be managed and developed appropriately to help to achieve those goals.

Managing resources had always been challenging but savings had been made in the service over the years and were kept under review. It was confirmed there were sufficient resources especially to deal with the ash die back problem.

The question of ownership of trees was raised and whether it had caused problems. Officers responded that Highways also dealt with trees in urban areas outside the 30mph. Streetscene officers carried out highway safety inspections. Under the Highways Act DCC had a duty of care to carry out inspections. The partnership between the two services works exceptionally well.

As part of the Ash die back project progress had been made in contacting landowners in terms of informing them of their duty of care to respond to issues. If there were issues due to storm damage or trees on a highway then residents would be contacted to deal with the hazard. Unfortunately, there was a slight backlog of work as the primary focus had been on Ash die back. Therefore, the Strategy was welcomed as there needed to be a targeted way forward.

If there were issues with trees which were on school grounds, support was in place for schools as they did not have the expertise to deal with such issues. The service was in contact with Education and Health and Safety.

In the past, budget had been the primary issue which only allowed officers to focus on health and safety grounds. The Strategy would set out the way forward in terms of how the services work and to use resources in a better and more targeted way.

Officers confirmed they would notify local members when tree maintenance was to be carried out within their Wards.

RESOLVED that, subject to the above, the Communities Scrutiny Committee notes the contents of the report.

8 HIGHWAYS GRIDS AND GULLIES MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

The Lead Member for Environment and Transport, along with Head of Highways and Environment were in attendance to present the report on Highways Grids and Gullies maintenance programme.

Lead Member, Barry Mellor, introduced the report to provide Members with an understanding of how DCC's statutory duties under the Highways Act and Flood and Water Management Act were met in terms of managing surface water through maintenance of the highway drainage network and critical flood risk culverts to ensure that the highways were well drained and, therefore, safe and properties were protected during times of storms.

Members stated that the main cause of blockages to gullies were leaves. The Lead Officer explained that often gullies were reported as blocked but it was only the temporary coverage of the leaves that was causing an issue – the resources needed to clear those were not the same as actual blockages. Correct reporting of the issue would prevent delay in responding. It was queried how to make sure the correct information was gathered to ensure the correct resources were sent out to the area concerned. Also how to raise awareness at City, Town and Community Councils.

The Head of Highways and Environment, Paul Jackson, responded that occasionally it was the capacity of the drain, if there was a sudden heavy downpour and sometimes the gully would clear by itself. The education of the public, Councillors and City, Town and Community Councils would be the way forward as this would assist in managing resources and this would be picked up in the future.

During discussions the following points were raised –

- (i) How significant was run off from properties who had paved over their gardens and permeable driveways? Also, to a certain extent, the farming community where compacted land existed so it contributed to flooding issues.

The Head of Service responded there was no hard evidence regarding this but it was a trend for some homeowners. Discussions were taking place with Welsh Water and the Welsh Government as it was recognised that waterfall was on the increase. Also liaising with the Planning team and other departments needed to take place regarding permits for new developments around that particular issue. Unfortunately, it was likely to be a continuing problem if the current trend continued.

- (ii) The Lead Member for Environment and Transport informed the Committee that meetings had taken place with Welsh Water regarding the old Victorian drains in Rhyl as they could only take so much water where it goes into Marine Lake and pumped into the storage system there. Unfortunately, the tank was not big enough to take all the water if there was a substantial downpour. When the tank was full, it was let out into the sea but it was not only water but sewerage also. It was stated that both Welsh Water and NRW needed to come together to work on a solution for this issue.

- (iii) The Head of Service clarified that work was done on a risk based approach and it would be dependent on the level of traffic on a particular road, on the speed limit on the road and the level of risk associated with the risk assessment as to how quickly the team could get to the location and deal with the issue. If a report was received of an issue in a known flood area, where there was a heavy amount of traffic and properties were at risk of flooding that would be a major priority. If a report was received of an issue on a more rural road where there was little traffic and not a known flooding area, it would be lower on the risk assessment.
- The Authority had two tankers one which covered the north of the county and one which covered the south of the county. There was a demand on those two tankers to cover the whole of the county and, therefore, the risk based approach had to be taken and every issue assessed on its own merits at the time it was reported.
- (iv) Councillor Sandilands raised issues regarding the Rhyl – Prestatyn gutter but this was recommended to be discussed further outside the meeting as this was not the responsibility of the council. Councillor Sandilands then asked how often do the grids and gullies get inspected in the year, especially the subsidiaries which led in to the Rhyl and Prestatyn gutter. The Head of Service responded that the gullies were assessed on a risk based approach so, if it was a known flood area they would be inspected more frequently during the year than areas where there were no historic reports of flooding. The gullies referred to were inspected twice a year but if an amber or yellow alert for flooding was received then they would be checked again. Potentially inspected three times per year.
- It was confirmed that the relationship between DCC, NRW and Welsh Water was good but, unfortunately, NRW and Welsh Water also had financial issues and were dealing with those accordingly.
- (v) Issues were raised regarding grids in certain areas of Denbigh and it was confirmed that the Head of Service would look into those issues outside the meeting.
- (vi) It was confirmed that there was an issue recruiting winter maintenance drivers, but this was a national issue not just local. Therefore, if needed to carry out winter maintenance and short of drivers then the driver from the tanker would be utilised. That had to be managed as a service and it had been an issue for a number of years.
- (vii) Officers and staff who traverse the county on a regular basis, could, if they had an understanding of what issues may look like, report them, that would be extremely helpful. It would all rely on education, not only of staff but members of the public, and councillors. There was a lot of work to be carried out to make the general public aware of what the capability capacity was of the drainage network in the county.
- (viii) Information on Gullysmart. It was confirmed that Gullysmart was now in operation but it would take some time to collate all the data. Unfortunately, they were unable to give a timescale on completion but the work had begun.
- (ix) Issue regarding sand causing problems after particularly strong winds on the coast.

It was confirmed that highways and streetscene had a co-ordinated approach to clear sand from the highways. If the sand was on privately owned land then it was the responsibility of the owner to manage the risk.

The Chair summarised the discussion, as working with the Communication Team to educate the general public, councillors and staff. Concerns were raised regarding planning aspects, especially new developments. There had been some items which were to be dealt with outside the meeting in their relevant forums.

RESOLVED that, subject to the above,

- (i) the Communities Scrutiny Committee has considered the report and confirmed it was happy that the correct approach to highway drainage maintenance was being applied so that the best alignment between the risk to users and the available funding was being achieved, and*
- (ii) it was recommended that communication with City, Town and Community Councils would take place to assist in managing resources.*

At this juncture (11.30 a.m.) there was a 5 minute break.
The meeting resumed at 11.35 a.m.

9 DENBIGHSHIRE'S LOCAL AREA ENERGY PLAN

The Lead Member for Environment and Transport, along with Head of Corporate Support Service: Performance, Digital and Assets, the Climate Change Manager and the Insight, Strategy and Delivery Manager were in attendance to present the report on Denbighshire's Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP).

Lead Member Councillor Barry Mellor introduced the report as an effective route for the local area to contribute towards meeting the national net zero target, as well as meeting its local net zero target.

The Denbighshire LAEP would contribute towards the Corporate Plan 2022-2027 theme of "A Greener Denbighshire", specifically providing a positive contribution to the Climate and Nature Strategy (2021/22 – 2029/30) by reducing emissions across Denbighshire County Council. It also supported "A prosperous Denbighshire" theme, with the opportunity to stimulate economic growth and grow Denbighshire's green economy.

Jane Hodgson, Climate Change Manager presented a Powerpoint presentation which outlined the LAEP.

During discussion it was noted that the key part was education and the sharing of information. Officers were asked what DCC could do to promote that kind of information and avenues where people could find them as well as understanding the cost of them, as there was a perception that it would be expensive.

The Head of Service responded that there was an action within the LAEP report where schemes were mentioned and support was available for businesses, and residents. The scheme was run by Flintshire County Council on behalf of DCC. Unfortunately, it was limited due to resources but information, education and

support was available for businesses and certain residents of DCC. The Action within the LAEP report and all LAEP reports of the 22 Local Authorities in Wales, was for Welsh Government and it informs that the Climate Champion and Communication workplan that the climate change division in Welsh Government deliver.

DCC, and other Local Authorities struggled to engage with some private businesses eg: major haulage companies, and private house developers. They could be working towards carbon net zero but there was a need to all liaise to meet the pace of change within the LAEP.

The Chair then stated that as a small business owner himself it was difficult as tax incentives had been removed, energy prices were rising and the retail cost of electric vehicles was very high. He suggested passing that information on to the Welsh Government.

The Head of Service confirmed she would pass that on to the Welsh Government.

The Chief Executive, Graham Boase sat on the PAN Wales Climate Strategy Panel and there was a forum at which the point raised by the Chair could be submitted.

At this point, the Insight, Strategy and Delivery Manager informed Committee that there were opportunities coming up for businesses and communities to work with one of the growth deal projects called Smart Local Energy. There would be funded packages that businesses and communities could obtain over 18 months to do some of the feasibility studies to look at how to roll out some of the projects that were outlined in the report. She confirmed she would work with the team to look at how best to capitalise on that for Denbighshire within the Ambition North Wales broader programme of work.

Officers were asked if they had considered the use of green hydrogen within the scope of the report rather than blue or grey hydrogen. Blue and grey hydrogen would not contribute to the target for net zero. The statement within the report referred to hydrogen and not which specific hydrogen.

It was confirmed that the Plan did not decipher which hydrogen.

The LAEP was to be presented to Cabinet on 24 September 2024 for endorsement and a Members' Briefing session in autumn 2024.

The LAEP was provisionally due to be reviewed in five years' time, as we approach 2030 and the public sector net carbon zero target deadline.

RESOLVED that –

- (i) *Communities Scrutiny Committee considered the LAEP Main Report and Technical Report and provided feedback on aspects contained therein.*
- (ii) *Communities Scrutiny Committee had read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment as part of its consideration.*

10 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator guided members through the Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.

The next meeting of Communities Scrutiny Committee was to be held on 24 October 2024.

The next Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group meetings were to take place on 16 September 2024 and 25 November 2024.

RESOLVED that the Communities Scrutiny Committee forward work programme be agreed.

11 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

There was no feedback due to recess.

The meeting concluded at 12.07 p.m.

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Report to	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	24 th October 2024
Lead Member	Cllr Barry Mellor, Lead Member for Environment and Transport
Head of Service	Head of Highways & Environmental Services
Report author	Corporate Director: Environment and Economy
Title	Additional resources required for the new weekly trollibocs recycling service and associated waste collection functions

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. This report is about the implementation of the new weekly trollibocs recycling service and associated waste collection functions and what adjustments are required to ensure sufficient resources are allocated so that the new system can operate on a sustainable footing

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. To enable the Committee to scrutinise the proposal (appended to this report) that was presented to Cabinet on 1st October 2024.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That the Committee consider the report and associated appendices and what, if any, recommendations that it would like to make to Cabinet.
- 3.2. That the Committee confirms that it has taken account of the Wellbeing Impact Assessment (appended to this report) as part of its consideration.

4. Report details

- 4.1. The attached report and appendices were presented to Cabinet on 1st October 2024. At that meeting, it was resolved that Cabinet:
- a) approve an additional £1.299m in capital expenditure for the purpose of procuring additional recycling vehicles funded by prudential borrowing;
 - b) approve an additional £1.067m of revenue costs in order to ensure the service change can deliver as planned on a sustainable footing. This includes the revenue costs for the prudential borrowing for the vehicles referred to in paragraph 3.1 of the report;
 - c) agrees that the decision be implemented immediately without call-in, in accordance with section 7.25 of the Council's Constitution, and
 - d) confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Wellbeing Impact Assessment (Appendix A to the report) as part of its consideration.
- 4.2. Scrutiny Chairs & Vice-Chairs agreed for the item to be placed on the agenda for Communities Scrutiny Committee on 24th October 2024 to enable the Committee to scrutinise the proposal.

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

- 5.1. The new household waste collection model has a positive impact on two of our Corporate Plan themes. It is a specific project within the "Greener Denbighshire" theme because it will help us to increase the quantity and quality of recycling collected from households and increase opportunities for closed loop recycling. Through adoption of low carbon technologies at the new Waste Transfer Station and inclusion of infrastructure for ULEV fleet, the aim is to minimise the impact of the service in support of the wider corporate goals on net zero by 2030.
- 5.2. The project also supports the "Prosperous Denbighshire" theme in the Corporate Plan, which aims to support economic recovery, capitalising on opportunities to enable residents to access decent employment and income. The project has led to the creation of additional jobs within the waste service. In addition, the building of the new depot enabled the creation and protection of many local private sector jobs. We

worked with 4 important local businesses at Colomendy Business Park, Denbigh as part of the development of the new Depot. This allowed them to unlock and develop new employment land to enable those 4 businesses to remain in Denbigh and expand their operations.

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

6.1. The cost of the additional rounds is detailed throughout the Cabinet report.

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

7.1. The WBIA has been reviewed and updated, and is attached at **Appendix A to the Cabinet report**. This hasn't fundamentally changed because we're not changing the principles of the proposed model, we're just making changes to ensure that the model works. The overall outcome of the Well-being Impact Assessment is positive.

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

8.1. There have been numerous Member Briefings via Teams since the roll out.

8.2. Council Workshop held on Thursday 26 September

8.3. A report will be presented to Communities Scrutiny on 24 October

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. In undertaking strategic change projects such as this we are forecasting future associated costs based on assumptions and the best information available at that time. The assumptions and information are only confirmed once the project moves into implementation and delivery phase and will impact on those estimated costs. Clearly the rollout of the new model has not been implemented in the way anyone would have wanted. Given the number of residents that have been affected the council has had to act in deploying additional resources from June to September. It is important that we learn from this experience.

- 9.2. The report sets out the additional resources necessary to revise the recycling routes and ensure the service can operate in a more sustainable way.
- 9.3. The in-year costs associated with the report (2024/25) can be funded from the one-off receipt from the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Partnership. The additional resources required from 2025/26 onwards will now need to be built into the Medium-Term Financial Plan which will be updated and reported to Cabinet at its October monthly meeting.

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

- 10.1. There are risks around any service change of this scale, as we have seen since 3rd June, 2024. The main risk is that introducing a set of re-balanced and re-designed collection routes initially results in missed collections as the service get used to the changes. However, this is being mitigated by the amount of work that has taken place to ensure that the new routes are based on more realistic assumptions than the previous service design, learning from the experience of the new system being operational since 3rd June.

11. Power to make the decision

- 11.1. Part II Environmental Protection Act 1990
- 11.2. s111 Local Government Act 1972
- 11.3. s120 Local Government Act 1972
- 11.4. Section 7.25 of the Council Constitution.

Report to	Cabinet
Date of meeting	1 st October 2024
Lead Member	Cllr Barry Mellor, Lead Member for Environment and Transport
Report author	Corporate Director: Environment and Economy & Head of Highways & Environmental Services
Title	Additional resources required for the new weekly trollibocs recycling service and associated waste collection functions.

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. This report is about the implementation of the new weekly trollibocs recycling service and associated waste collection functions and what adjustments are required to ensure sufficient resources are allocated so that the new system can operate on a sustainable footing.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. A decision is required to approve additional resources to ensure the new weekly trollibocs recycling service and associated waste collection functions can operate as envisaged.

3. What are the recommendations?

- 3.1. That Cabinet approve an additional £1.299m in capital expenditure for the purpose of procuring additional recycling vehicles funded by prudential borrowing.

- 3.2. That Cabinet approves an additional £1.067m of revenue costs in order to ensure the service change can deliver as planned on a sustainable footing. This includes the revenue costs for the prudential borrowing for the vehicles referred to in 3.1.
- 3.3. That Cabinet agrees that the decision be implemented immediately without call-in, in accordance with section 7.25 of the Council Constitution.
- 3.4. That Cabinet confirms they have read, understood and taken account of the Wellbeing Impact Assessment (**Appendix A**) as part of its consideration.

4. Report details

- 4.1. On 3rd June 2024 the Council implemented a new waste/recycling service. The costs for the service change was originally approved by Cabinet on 19th December 2018 and was subsequently reviewed by Cabinet on 12th April 2022.
- 4.2. Forecasting for complex service changes such as this can only ever be a best estimate due to the number of variables. Those estimates can only ever be fully tested following implementation of the changes. This service change has been in the planning stage in excess of 6 years e.g. pre the original Cabinet decision in 2018 through to implementation in 2024. Much has changed during this time, including key variables associated with this service change (e.g. increases in construction costs, costs of vehicles, development of more housing in the County requiring a waste service etc).
- 4.3. It soon became apparent after the roll out of the new service that some of the assumptions were flawed. The main issue being some of the daily recycling rounds had been designed with too many properties requiring collection. This meant we were seeing several rounds per day not completing, resulting in large and unacceptable numbers of missed collections.
- 4.4. There will be full review of how the roll out was planned and implemented which will include an examination of the assumptions underpinning the design of the new service. Elected Members and residents will be involved in the review.
- 4.5. The assumption regarding the number of properties per round can only be amended by reducing the number of dwellings in those affected rounds. This

will necessitate the introduction of additional daily rounds and associated resources.

- 4.6. Without committing additional resources the new service cannot be delivered successfully and sustainably and we will continue to spend significantly more on inefficient short term day to day decisions to ensure missed collections are minimised/corrected.
- 4.7. The day-to-day management decisions since the roll out have focused on the hire of additional vehicles, increase in the use of agency staff, and the use of overtime for existing staff. Whilst this has been at a cost, it would have been unacceptable not to respond to the issues faced by our residents as a result of the number of missed collections.
- 4.8. In order to put the new waste/recycling rounds on a sustainable footing additional recycling rounds are required. The original model as rolled out was based on 20 rounds per day. The number of additional rounds required ranges from 6 to 8 rounds depending on the day of the week.
- 4.9. This requires the purchase of an additional 8 vehicles at a capital cost of £1.299m and additional drivers and loaders to operate the vehicles. The capital costs will be funded by prudential borrowing (see table below), but a formal request will be made to Welsh Government for additional capital funding to assist with the cost of purchasing these vehicles, which would reduce the revenue impact for the council. The revenue costs associated with the additional rounds are set out in the table below:

Costs	£m
Employees	0.697
Vehicle Costs (including prudential borrowing)	0.370
Total	1.067

- 4.10. If this additional budget is approved, then we can immediately plan to implement the necessary changes, and the introduction of the additional rounds can commence within weeks of today's Cabinet meeting i.e. there is a lead in time between the additional resources being authorised and the changes being made on the ground. This should ensure under normal circumstances that all rounds can be completed as planned.
- 4.11. The decision sought by this report will enable the waste service to implement the amended waste collection routes placing the service on a more sustainable basis and reducing the current levels of expenditure. It is important that this work commences without delay. It is for this reason that Cabinet is being asked to confirm that the decision be implemented immediately.
- 4.12. In turn this will allow management resources to focus on ensuring our other associated collections such as AHP, green waste and commercial waste can be implemented as planned and we can review our assisted collection and end of lane collection services. See **Appendix B** for commentary on changes to these other elements of the waste service.
- 4.13. Between the start of the roll out in June and the end of September the additional costs being incurred is forecast to be £640k (i.e. overtime, agency staff & hire of vehicles).
- 4.14. The Council is part of the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Partnership and last month has received its share of a long running refinancing arrangement. This has result in a one-off receipt of £1.2m. This is another complex waste related project for which various assumptions over time have been made which changed resulting in this one-off receipt. This funding will be used to offset the costs that have been deployed on a day-to-day basis in reaction to the issues with the roll out and the additional resources requested in this report for 2024/25
- 4.15. The additional budget required i.e. the £1.067m from April 2025 will need to form part of the budget setting process for 2025/26.
- 4.16. Supporting the service change in this way will protect the council from future budget pressures e.g. minimise the need for agency staff, reduce the need for overtime etc. In addition, the cost of disposing of the co-mingled recycling will

only continue to increase, so these costs will be avoided i.e. the cost of disposing of our co-mingled waste in 2023/24 was £1.1m compared to £315k in 2018/19.

- 4.17. The kerb side separation process will also allow us to sell the collected recyclable material thereby increasing income. This is a volatile market, is therefore difficult to predict and is a potential financial risk or benefit to the service outside of our control.
- 4.18. The service change should increase our recycling rates and thereby reduce the risk of potential fines from Welsh Government for failing to reach the 70% statutory recycling rate e.g. unless we improve our recycling rates the WG fine could potentially be approx. £250k per year.
- 4.19. This is a complex service area with a number of financial risks. Costs and income will vary from year-to-year dependent on market forces and other variables. We therefore need to continue to monitor the budget and ensure the service is running efficiently. This can be picked up in the regular monthly finance reports to Cabinet and may necessitate a separate Cabinet report in the future.

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

- 5.1. The new household waste collection model has a positive impact on two of our Corporate Plan themes. It is a specific project within the “Greener Denbighshire” theme because it will help us to increase the quantity and quality of recycling collected from households and increase opportunities for closed loop recycling. Through adoption of low carbon technologies at the new Waste Transfer Station and inclusion of infrastructure for ULEV fleet, the aim is to minimise the impact of the service in support of the wider corporate goals on net zero by 2030.
- 5.2. The project also supports the “Prosperous Denbighshire” theme in the Corporate Plan, which aims to support economic recovery, capitalising on opportunities to enable residents to access decent employment and income. The project has led to the creation of additional jobs within the waste service. In

addition, the building of the new depot enabled the creation and protection of many local private sector jobs. We worked with 4 important local businesses at Colomendy Business Park, Denbigh as part of the development of the new Depot. This allowed them to unlock and develop new employment land to enable those 4 businesses to remain in Denbigh and expand their operations.

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

6.1. The cost of the additional rounds is detailed throughout this report.

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

7.1. The WBIA has been reviewed and updated, and is attached at **Appendix A**. This hasn't fundamentally changed because we're not changing the principles of the proposed model, we're just making changes to ensure that the model works. The overall outcome of the Well-being Impact Assessment is positive.

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

8.1. There have been numerous Member Briefings via Teams since the roll out.

8.2. Council Workshop held on Thursday 26 September

8.3. A report will be presented to Communities Scrutiny on 24 October

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. In undertaking strategic change projects such as this we are forecasting future associated costs based on assumptions and the best information available at that time. The assumptions and information are only confirmed once the project moves into implementation and delivery phase and will impact on those estimated costs. Clearly the rollout of the new model has not been implemented in the way anyone would have wanted. Given the number of residents that have been affected the council has had to act in deploying additional resources from June to September. It is important that we learn from this experience.

- 9.2. The report sets out the additional resources necessary to revise the recycling routes and ensure the service can operate in a more sustainable way.
- 9.3. The in-year costs associated with the report (2024/25) can be funded from the one-off receipt from the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Partnership. The additional resources required from 2025/26 onwards will now need to be built into the Medium-Term Financial Plan which will be updated and reported to Cabinet at its October monthly meeting.

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

- 10.1. There are risks around any service change of this scale, as we have seen since 3rd June, 2024. The main risk is that introducing a set of re-balanced and re-designed collection routes initially results in missed collections as the service get used to the changes. However, this is being mitigated by the amount of work that has taken place to ensure that the new routes are based on more realistic assumptions than the previous service design, learning from the experience of the new system being operational since 3rd June.

11. Power to make the decision

- 11.1. Part II Environmental Protection Act 1990
- 11.2. s111 Local Government Act 1972
- 11.3. s120 Local Government Act 1972
- 11.4. Section 7.25 of the Council Constitution.

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OPTION 5 (Preferred) - Weekly Kerbside Sort (including food waste), 4- weekly residual, AHP service

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:	407
Brief description:	<p>This assessment was originally produced to support the decision to change the way we collect household waste to improve recycling in the County as part of strategy to meet Welsh Government 70% recycling target by 2024/25. The new service has replaced the blue 240l wheelie bin for comingled recycling with a TrolliBocs System, where residents present sorted waste into separate stackable containers. The Trollibocs and the food waste caddy are collected weekly on the same vehicle. Residual waste is collected every 4 weeks in a 240l black bin (as opposed to fortnightly in a 140/180l bin previously). This is projected to reduce the amount of waste going in the residual waste bin that could have been recycled (currently calculated that 51% of waste in the black bin could have been recycled on our other kerbside services). An optional weekly Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) service is now offered to remove this waste stream from the residual bin, and the aspiration in the long term would be to recycle this waste stream. New recycling waste streams have been targeted, including batteries, small electrical, electronic equipment (WEEE) and textiles and collected on the same day as the recycling, but every fortnight.</p>
Date Updated:	19/09/2024

APPENDIX A: WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Completed by:	Tony Ward / Paul Jackson
Responsible Service:	Highways & Environmental Services
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	All Residents / Households in Denbighshire; Operational Waste Team
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	Yes

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

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

Score for the sustainability of the approach

★ ★ ★ ☆ (3 out of 4 stars) Actual score : 27 / 30.

Implications of the score

Implementing the new waste & recycling collection model has enabled DCC to become compliant with the Welsh Government blueprint for waste collection services, meaning that we are operating in a manner consistent approach to other Welsh LA's in order to maximise the quantity and quality of recyclable household waste we collect. The new model also restricts residual capacity in order encourage recycling. The Welsh Government have carried out relevant sustainability and economic appraisals on their blue print (Independently reviewed in March 2016 by Eunomia) to determine it to be the most economically and environmentally practical approach to managing household waste.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

- A prosperous Denbighshire
- A resilient Denbighshire
- A healthier Denbighshire
- A more equal Denbighshire
- A Denbighshire of cohesive communities
- A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

- Positive
- Positive
- Neutral
- Neutral
- Neutral
- Neutral



Main conclusions

Overall, the new waste collection model should have positive impacts in terms of a prosperous and resilient and a globally responsible Denbighshire as the new service is projected to enable the council to increase recycling performance by at least 3%. The higher quality recyclable stream will support the adoption of EU Circular Economy measures and the Welsh Economic Action Plan. The model is also the most financially sustainable option for the future because it removes a significant risk around the cost of processing co-mingled recycling, and it also brings in a new income stream.

There is a neutral impact on equality, although it does introduce a new service to deal with hygiene waste sometimes produced by young families and the elderly. We have reviewed our waste policies to ensure exemptions can be awarded to households that struggle to participate fully in the recycling service for genuine physical or mental health reasons. There are no health implications for the new service. Residual waste is collected less frequently but waste that can produce an unpleasant smell if left for 4-weeks (i.e. AHP and food) is collected weekly.

There is a neutral impact on vibrant culture and Welsh language, and all communications have been (and will be) available in Welsh and English. There was a significant focus on community engagement prior to implementation. There is a neutral impact on cohesive communities as the new waste model supports and strengthens a social enterprise operating model for the collection and re-use of textiles, and the service changes are supported through a new household waste collection policy, to support the regulation of the new operating model.

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

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

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	<p>The new waste service will secure the long-term future of the service and associated jobs and importantly contribute to increasing recycling rates in the County which will minimise residual waste generated by the County's residents. It will also help us to improve the quality of recyclable material, and higher quality recycling which will help stimulate growth in the manufacturing industry within the UK.</p> <p>Not only has the service change created additional jobs within the waste service, but it has also enabled the creation and protection of many local private sector jobs. We worked with 4 important local businesses in Denbigh to unlock and develop employment land to enable those 4 businesses to remain in Denbigh and expand their operations, leading to employment opportunities and economic growth.</p>
Further actions required	<p>Maximising the positive impacts from higher recycling rates will be dependant on undertaking a comprehensive and ongoing communication campaign that provides both instructional and motivational information to encourage people to take the extra effort to recycle more and separate their household waste items into various containers. A YouGov Survey stated that 70% of people want to know what happens to their rubbish and 32% would be more likely to separate their materials if they knew what happened to them. the Viridor Recycling Index 2017 (consumer survey) showed that only a quarter of people believed their waste was properly recycled and showed a clear need for better education, with seven in ten (69%) people feeling frustrated about not having enough education materials on recycling. There is an opportunity to re-engage with Denbighshire citizens to provide the information that will inform and influence pro-environmental behaviours.</p>

Positive impacts identified:

APPENDIX A: WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<p>A low carbon society</p>	<p>Application of the waste hierarchy, enhanced opportunity for closed loop recycling, greater quantities of waste recycled, less vehicle passes to each households over a 4 week period, vehicle haulage movements as recycling is bailed locally - so overall greater environmental benefits. Increased in recycling performance of at least 3% projected. There is a wide evidence base to show that Kerbside Sort yields a lower carbon footprint than co-mingled collections. The carbon impacts of different methods of collection and post collection sorting were shown by the ADAS report for London Borough of Camden which stated that: "The carbon footprint of the whole process for the co-mingled collection, transfer and MRF is 77% greater than for the kerbside sorted recycle collection system."</p> <p>High quality materials are more likely to be used in closed loop recycling where glass bottles and jars are recycled into similar products, paper into paper and so on. The carbon benefits of the closed loop recycling of glass were demonstrated in a 2006 paper "The impact of the carbon agenda on the waste management business", Grant Thornton, Oakdene Hollins. The reduced carbon impact of kerbside sort vehicles compared to large Refuse Collection Vehicles currently used to collect recycling in DCC are considerably lower, as supported by the following paper "Kerbside Recycling in Wales: Environmental Costs, Waste and Resources action Programme (WRAP).</p>
<p>Quality communications, infrastructure and transport</p>	<p>All new waste collection rounds were subject to route optimisation analysis to reduce unnecessary mileage and optimise efficiency, as well as round risk assessments to avoid traffic congestion where practical. The changes were supported by a communications plan, to include face to face public engagement, and revised instructional material. The project resulted in significant capital investment in our council-owned depot infrastructure, and new waste containers.</p>

APPENDIX A: WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<p>Economic development</p>	<p>Collected recycling will be of adequate quality to be reprocessed in the UK (as opposed to being shipped overseas), encouraging home grown manufacturing industries to develop/expand. Collecting high quality recycling through source segregation is a priority for Welsh Government as they recognise the opportunities the EU "Circular Economy" package brings to helping Wales grow its own economy, and in a more sustainable way (www.gov.wales news article "Wales leading the way towards becoming a circular economy" 28th June 2018. Positive impacts of the circular economy on economic growth are also recognised in the Welsh Government's Economic Action Plan.</p> <p>The paper by the Resources Association "Putting quality recycling at the heart of a circular economy" August 2015 concludes that mandatory source separation of recyclables, including biowaste, would reduce recycling contamination and create new economic opportunity. By example, an article by Simon Weston (LetsRecycle.com 17th July 2017) director of raw materials (Confederation of Paper Industries) states "Recent work conducted by the Confederation of Paper Industries (CPI) estimates that an increase of one percentage point in contamination would increase costs by about £8 million per annum across the entire UK mill system. For a large paper reprocessor this could equate to as much as £1.25 million per percentage point increase for each 100,000 tonnes of raw material procured. These sorts of additional costs undermine the viability of domestic re-processors when compared with foreign competitors using other material streams, and could lead to plant closures and job losses."</p> <p>Kerbside Sort systems yield very low contamination rates (1% Friends of the Earth, compared to Commingled recycling schemes that rarely achieve contamination rates below 5% and often in excess of 10%.</p> <p>AHP waste can be collected separately in the new model. It is possible that this waste stream could be recycled in future, and discussions with Welsh Government are anticipated over the possibility of a re-processing plan in North Wales. This would create further jobs through the construction and operation of a new facility.</p>
<p>Quality skills for the long term</p>	<p>Waste operatives have received enhanced manual handling training. In addition, the service is being modernised to closely monitor recycling habits of individuals through enhanced data capture of weight based information. Team members have been trained to use route optimisation software. DCC's waste technical team will be required to deliver behaviour change messages to a wide range of audiences, including to school groups and private/social landlords. Increased procurement skills and experience will also be required. The service change is supported through the adoption of an environmental enforcement policy which the team will be required to adopt. Whilst the existing enforcement team have all existing knowledge and skills, wider adoption by the rest of the team will be required. Opportunities have already been created for existing staff to up-skill and progress into more skilled and better paid roles, e.g. loaders becoming LGV drivers.</p>

APPENDIX A: WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Quality jobs for the long term	All waste operatives are now required to become "recycling ambassadors" as their acceptance/rejection of presented material is fundamental to providing weekly feedback to the residents about what can and cannot be collected on the kerbside sort scheme. The service works with Working Denbighshire to support people who are often the further away from employment to gain the skills and confidence to become "work ready". Full-time employment opportunities are also available for people via this route.
Childcare	There are no known increased benefits arising from changing the model.

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	<p>Approx. 35,000 wheelie bins became redundant as a result of the change, but recovered bins are being collected for recycling. Recovered plastic is often recycled into new waste containers. The procurement of new containers also specified some recycled content (whilst maintaining strength / life expectancy of the container).</p> <p>A study was commissioned to determine the projected carbon footprint of the new model compared to the previous waste collection model. That study showed a positive outcome. However, it would be helpful to re-visit and review that study now that the number of proposed recycling rounds has increased since that study was commissioned.</p>
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	No negative impact identified.
Economic development	No negative impact identified.
Quality skills for the long term	No negative impact identified.
Quality jobs for the long term	The manual handling implications of the kerbside sort system may present as a barrier to older operatives or operatives with pre-existing conditions that limit repetitive lifting operations. The Service has already identified the Council's Career Pathways programme as a strategy to deliver succession planning and develop skills of existing employees. They are also proactively engaged in promoting career opportunities externally, such as attending job fairs.
Childcare	There are no known increased implications arising from changing the model

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Despite the issues we have seen following the rollout, with negative feedback received from disgruntled residents who either didn't support the change or who have had problems with missed collections, overall, it is felt that (long term) the messages about the importance of recycling will succeed and the majority of residents support the campaign to increase recycling rates

APPENDIX A: WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Further actions required	Continued negative behaviour (after the new service has settled down) will be tackled through targeted communications on the benefits of the change to try to get all residents on board. As far as is possible, any new collection vehicles will be the most fuel efficient models affordable to reduce fuel consumption and emissions as far as practical.
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Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	This option enables the reprocessing industry to operate closed loop recycling solutions, saving the need to use virgin materials extracted from the natural environment across the world. More recycling will be recovered than the previous model. Evidence suggests that people adopting pro-recycling behaviours on a kerbside sort system become more supportive of wider environmental issues.
Biodiversity in the built environment	Previously, around 10,000 households were receiving a sack collection for residual/recyclable waste. Sacks were often ripped open by scavenging animals (seagulls, rats and foxes) providing an unnatural source of food, leading to unhealthy increases in populations of some species that may displace other species. The new model has reduced the number of households on a sack collection and provided those remaining on sack collections with sturdier hessian sacks to provide some additional protection for the contents.
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	The new model will help us to improve and increase domestic recycling performance and produce cleaner material more suitable for closed loop recycling.
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Food waste is now co-collected on the same recycling vehicle as dry material (instead of on a separate vehicle), and the number of residual collection passes per month have been reduced. Overall this results in fewer vehicle movements.
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	The new collection model will further raise awareness of issues around recycling. An ongoing communications strategy is required to reinforce the messages about the benefits of recycling.
Flood risk management	No impact identified.

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	As a result of the service change around 35,000 wheeled bins become redundant. These are being collected for recycling into new bins. To partially offset the environmental impact, new containers contain the optimum recycled content whilst maintaining durability. We gave residents the option of retaining their bigger blue wheelie bin for non-recyclable waste to remove the need to issue new wheelie bins to most residents, so as to reduce wastage and cost.
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APPENDIX A: WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Biodiversity in the built environment	Development of a new waste transfer station was carefully managed, with input from the DCC Ecology and Biodiversity Officers and NRW. Our ability to secure a permit from NRW to operate from the site required significant work to be undertaken to deal with any potential ecology and biodiversity impacts and risks.
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	There was always a risk of negative behaviour from disgruntled residents who take against new arrangements and deliberately reduce recycling efforts. However, this doesn't appear to have happened on a large scale. It will be necessary to continue to support this service changes with the fair but firm application of the household waste collection policy, and to resource enforcement activities adequately to ensure that dumping of rubbish and deliberately cross contaminating waste streams is appropriately regulated.
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Initially, households may have made additional journeys to our household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) to dispose of excess waste. However, the new model has provided residents with an increase in their weekly capacity for managing their waste. Therefore, as long as waste is segregated appropriately, there should be no need for residents to make any additional journeys to our HWRCs. The household waste collection policy will specify that households will qualify for additional capacity as long as they can demonstrate they recycle all they can, and capacity is a regular issue. Residents taking "black bag" type waste to the HWRCs are asked to segregate recyclables or the bags will be rejected. This encourages the correct behaviours at home, negating the need for additional journeys.
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	May encourage negative behaviour from disgruntled Residents who take against new arrangements and deliberately reduce recycling.
Flood risk management	No impact identified.

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	Neutral overall as few relevant impacts, where potential impacts do exist they are likely to be minimal
Further actions required	Positives on engaging people in a positive way will be stressed and highlighted as part of communications during/post implementation

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	This new model requires the householder to do more to manage their waste responsibly. More support will be offered to residents to comply and a sustained and focussed environmental campaign will offer opportunities for social norming and intergenerational learning, where schools and their pupils encourage their communities to recycle more.
Access to good quality, healthy food	NONE

People's emotional and mental well-being	Engaging people further in the activity of increasing recycling will engage them in a positive activity that can improve their sense of participation and doing good. There is evidence that people using a kerbside sort system are more "bought into" recycling as they believe more strongly the material is going to be made into new products. There is also evidence to suggest engaged recyclers are more likely to engage or be supportive of environmental initiatives.
Access to healthcare	NONE
Participation in leisure opportunities	NONE

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	There is a risk that a small proportion of residents choose not to engage with DCC's waste collection system, resulting in persistent contamination and/or fly-tipping. The role of the waste enforcement function and communications is therefore critical to mitigate these risks.
Access to good quality, healthy food	NONE
People's emotional and mental well-being	Possible issues with the change upsetting residents and affecting their well being due to change and the need to adapt to new arrangements which they may feel antagonism towards, or be fearful they will not be able to cope with the new system.
Access to healthcare	NONE
Participation in leisure opportunities	NONE

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	Most protected groups should be unaffected by the new waste model as households already presented and segregated their rubbish. There may be a negative impact on residents with disability or who are elderly/infirm but variants to the main system will be put in place to recognise and manage this. Exemptions can be made in exceptional circumstances for genuine cases.
Further actions required	Recycling rates in areas with poor economic circumstances are often lower than in other areas. More targeted communications may be required to ensure residents in these areas fully understand the new system and take care to store their waste and recycling containers on their own properties so they are not abused or stolen.

Positive impacts identified:

<p>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</p>	<p>The new Service will include a free separate collection of nappy/incontinence waste (AHP) upon request, helping households with young children, or residents with medical needs cope better with the Waste Collection Service. This is an improvement to the previous service. Where possible discreet but accessible collection points from inside the household property boundary may be requested for those requiring the services due to medical conditions.</p>
<p>People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage</p>	<p>NONE</p>
<p>Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes</p>	<p>All trollibocs and new waste containers will be provided free of charge during the service change, even though the Council has a right to charge for them.</p> <p>The new waste model will increase the opportunities for employment and "ready to work" schemes.</p>
<p>People in poverty</p>	<p>People in poverty often produce more waste - especially food waste and packaging waste. The new model provides greater capacity overall, on a 4 weekly basis to manage and contain waste.</p>

Negative impacts identified:

<p>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</p>	<p>People with some disabilities may find the new way of presenting waste more challenging, due to the need to separate waste into more containers, and due to the fact that they may need a larger residual bin, which could be heavier to manoeuvre. Consultation with disability user group representatives has also identified that the new Trollibocs system requires more "bending" that could prevent or put off some infirm residents from using the service. For this reason a range of container options can be offered to infirm or disabled residents and the Trolliboc design took account of feedback received through consultations. DCC operate an assisted collection service so if a household find their residual bin too heavy due to size can either be given a smaller bin (subject to having capacity) two smaller bins, or may apply to be on the assisted collection list where we collect the bin from the curtilage of their property.</p> <p>The new DCC waste enforcement policy will allow for households to be listed as exempt from recycling some or all materials if a disability and/or lack of support genuinely prevents them from doing so (e.g. sheltered accommodation with occupants with dementia).</p> <p>Trollibocs can be provided with braille stickers where needed and all associated instructional material can be provided in appropriate mediums for sight impaired occupants.</p> <p>Opportunities for upskilling and redeployment will be provided to employees who are unable to manage the new manual handling requirements of the collection service</p>
<p>People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage</p>	<p>If a household has suffered discrimination from sections of their community in the past, they are more likely to be reported to us if they struggle to comply with the new system.</p> <p>The DCC enforcement policy will always include an initial educational step before enforcement action is taken to help residents to adjust to the new requirements.</p>
<p>Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes</p>	<p>Recycling rates in areas with poor economic circumstances is often lower than in other areas.</p>
<p>People in poverty</p>	<p>The Council has the right to issue a fixed penalty to residential occupants for failing to recycle, or dumping black bag waste. In order for the new scheme to work longer term, it will be necessary to monitor activities of non-compliant households more rigorously, that could lead to FPN's being issued. However, the revised Council enforcement procedure will ensure that every household will be given the opportunity to correct behaviours first. In addition, an early payment option with a reduced fine level can also be included.</p>

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	<p>Overall positive impact as new collection model offers opportunities to raise awareness of need to increase recycle for residents and benefit this may bring to engagement and reducing littering. However, there is also a risk that it may lead to some people feeling that the change is being done to them and an associated problem of littering and fly tipping may result. The new system will be better regulated to identify non-compliance and target behaviour change processes efficiently. There should be fewer abandoned contaminated bins on the streets with the new model.</p> <p>The Recycle More Waste Less Survey showed that households are currently more likely to have space in their residual black bin on collection day than their recycling bins, evidencing that the new model, to increase recycling capacity by 57litres per week and reducing residual capacity by 10litres per week is manageable. This, combined with the fact that on average 51% of the waste in the black bins could be recycled on our existing services supports a move to shift the focus and resources to collecting more recyclable waste.</p>
Further actions required	<p>There is a perception that a reduced residual collection frequency could attract pests. The new model will offer a weekly opt-in service for AHP waste and the weekly food waste service will continue and be expanded to all houses, meaning waste most likely to attract pests and vermin should not be in the residual bin. Households remaining on a sack collection will be provided with gull-proof sacks to contain their disposal pink sacks. This will keep waste and odours contained and enable the Council to regulate the capacity given to sack customers so that recycling behaviours are still incentivised.</p>

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	All wheeled bins and Trollibocs will be assigned to individual properties, encouraging ownership so they are not left out on the highway where they pose a fire risk.
Community participation and resilience	All residents have had the opportunity (via a survey) to say what worked and didn't work about the previous model. That information was used to help shape the proposal for the new model.
The attractiveness of the area	With improved recycling it may be that this leads to a reduction in litter / waste as more recyclable material is captured via the new collection arrangements. Sack collections and on street solutions will be phased out wherever possible. Enhanced consultation with HMOs and private landlords will seek to ensure adequate and appropriate provision is made for tenanted properties.
Connected communities	Intention to use social networking as a way to promote pro-recycling behaviours and identify recycling champions.

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	Residents who fail to comply with the new system and dump their waste will lower the environmental quality where they live - leading to the broken windows effect. The new waste model, however, will have boosted resources to target those individuals with appropriate education and enforcement action. It is not envisaged, however that these issues will increase in number from the baseline model. Areas causing issues now will be visited to ensure the optimal system is put in place to prevent waste escaping into the environment.
Community participation and resilience	Many residents will not have actively engaged during the proposal phase and provide resistance as the service is rolled out.
The attractiveness of the area	Residents who fail to comply with the new system and dump their waste will lower the environmental quality where they live - leading to the broken windows effect. The new waste model, however, will have boosted resources to target those individuals with appropriate education and enforcement action. It is not envisaged, however that these issues will increase in number from the baseline model. Areas causing issues now will be visited to ensure the optimal system is put in place to prevent waste escaping into the environment. There is a perception that a reduced residual collection frequency could attract pests, but that will not be the case if people manage their waste appropriately.
Connected communities	Initially some recyclers may disengage with the new service if they disagree with the proposals. Mitigate with regular and targeted coms using the Waste Recycling Action Programme's (WRAP's) segmentation research. New scheme must be flexible to address individual needs where appropriate.

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	There will be a lot of communications material produced to provide instructional and motivational information to target audiences and the public in general. Every opportunity to promote the Welsh Language and cultures will be taken during the development of our campaigns.
Further actions required	There are no identified negatives.

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	The proposed waste collection system is more aligned to those in the other Welsh authorities. This consistency will assist in general understanding in any language as families and friends communicate beyond County boundaries. All communications, including the survey, media releases and instructional information will be produced in Welsh as well as English.
Promoting the Welsh language	There is an opportunity to display bi-lingual advertisements with simple messages/ catch phrases

Culture and heritage	In the longer term, once kerbside capture of materials is maximised, there is an opportunity to promote re-use of kerbside materials and carry out campaigns to extend the life of items through repair. This will encourage people to learn traditional skills, such as sewing. There is also an opportunity to appeal to target audiences through tying together traditional activities and recycling/re-use behaviours (e.g. A rugby player recycling his old shirt, a sheep farmer recycling his working dogs' food packaging etc)
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Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	NONE
Promoting the Welsh language	NONE
Culture and heritage	NONE

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Positive overall as aligns with other North Wales LA's - developing common resident experience and producing higher quality resources that can stimulate local and national manufacturing opportunities.
Further actions required	As part of design and communications around collections model change Denbighshire will learn from from all previous service changes in Wales and wider afield, through data held by WRAP (Waste Resources Action Programme)

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	The previous waste model produced low quality recycling which had limited markets/value. The blueprint model produces better quality source segregated material which can be used by local and national manufacturing companies.
Human rights	NONE
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	By making the change to the new waste collection model, Denbighshire is more closely aligned with others across North Wales, including specifically Conwy CBC therefore making any option for Service collaboration in future a simpler task

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	Initially there will be a drop in the volume of some non-target plastic that is currently being marketed but the benefits of producing cleaner material far outweigh this.
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APPENDIX A: WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Human rights	To support the introduction of the new scheme, the Council will be reviewing its waste enforcement policies to ensure the scheme is regulated. The Council will, in all cases act in accordance with the Regulators Code (2014).
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	NONE

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Appendix B: summary of current position with other aspect of the waste service

Changes to residual waste collection rounds

1. Although the main focus of discussion has been on changes needed to the recycling rounds, we have also made changes to other elements of the waste service too. We recently made changes to some of the residual waste collection rounds because those rounds were not working as effectively or efficiently as we hoped since the introduction of the 4-weekly residual collections. Those changes, which were implemented from 16th September, resulted in 613 properties within the county having a change of week for their residual collection. The day of collection remained the same, but they may have moved from week 1 of the 4-week cycle to week 3, for example. We have written to all affected households to explain this change, and we have made sure that nobody has to go more than 4 weeks for residual collection as a result of the change.

Changes to green waste collection rounds

2. We also recently made changes to some of our green waste collection rounds after a review of the service identified some capacity and routing issues. The green waste collection routes were re-designed to maximise the capacity of the vehicles and to address some identified access issues. These changes were introduced from 12th August and resulted in a change the collection day for 817 green waste customers (4.6% of subscribers) and letters were sent to all affected customers.
3. With regard to the issue of “reimbursement” for customers who have received a poor service, the service is looking at a system that will allow us to apply a reduced cost on next year’s subscription for people who have paid for a subscription but have not been receiving a service. This issue is quite complex and will take some time to work through and confirm, but we will communicate separately on this matter once we have agreed a proposal.

APPENDIX B

Assisted collections

4. We experienced a number of issues with assisted collections being missed after the implementation of the new waste & recycling service. Until now we have been compiling lists of assisted collections and continually briefing and debriefing crews as to their locations to ensure they are being picked up. This has been necessary because not all of our fleet vehicles (especially hired vehicles) have the in-cab system which highlights assisted collections to the crew. We have therefore still had some issues with some assisted collections.
5. Moving forward, we are ensuring the ICT requirements associated the rounds are in place so that all crews can utilise the in-cab systems effectively and efficiently. This will remove any manual requirements and give clear indication to crews as to where assisted collections are located. This was the intention prior to the June 3rd implementation but for various reasons this was not possible. One reason being the number of additional hired vehicles we had to deploy to recover the service after the initial roll-out. In the meantime, we are undertaking a review of the assisted collections and ensuring that everyone who needs the service can do so.

AHP collections

6. Following a successful pilot period in the LL16 and LL17 postcode areas in 2023, a new service to collect Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) was rolled out county wide from June 2024, with residents given the opportunity to register between 8 January and 1 March 2024. The initial registration window was short to allow the waste and recycling team to effectively route this new service and a commitment was made at the time to re-open registration after summer 2024.
7. As per this commitment, registration for the AHP service re-opened on 9th September 2024. Once residents have applied for the service, their application will be assessed for eligibility and residents will then be informed whether their application has been successful. In due course, residents will be issued a letter to confirm when the service will begin, when they can expect their new caddy and purple bags to be delivered, and what their collection day will be.

APPENDIX B

8. The service will not start immediately after applying. There will be around a 12-week lead-in time between registration and service commencement, and this is being clearly communicated to residents when they register.

Textiles collections

9. The textiles service was not introduced on 3rd June (as planned) because the bags for the textiles were not available in time for the general roll-out of the new service. However, the bags have now arrived, and we are working with Co-Options (our 3rd sector partner for this collection service) to agree the best method to distribute them to residents and also to confirm the system for collection. This service is unlikely to be used regularly by all residents in the county, and it therefore requires a more agile and flexible approach. These arrangements are being discussed, and communication will go out to Members and residents once this has all been confirmed and agreed.

Bulky collections

10. As an interim measure, we have come to an agreement with an external operator to operate our bulky waste collection service. This service will commence as of September 30th with communications to Councillors going out during the week beginning 23rd September. We already have a standing agreement with that operator for them to manage our bulky waste disposals, so this arrangement is an amendment to the current contract. Under the previous system, the council would contact the resident within 15 days of the booking being made to arrange a collection date or time. Under the new system, residents will be able to pick a date and time based on prearranged slots that DCC determine. This should ensure a more streamlined approach that better suits residents and can be more easily managed in the longer term if/when DCC take the collections back in-house. Demand will be reviewed every two weeks to ensure that the arrangements are working for DCC, residents and the operator.

Trade collections

11. All contracts that DCC currently have are being serviced with collections. These take the form of separate collection routes for the different recycling types. We do

APPENDIX B

have some known issues with holiday-let properties who are on the trolibocs system, but these are being worked through by the team. On the whole, there are no major problems with trade collections with no widespread missed collections. As with any service, we do encounter the odd problem that we quickly work through with the customer to resolve. There are small percentage of customers that are having issues with contamination and for that reason, they may have disruptions with their collections. We are notifying customers of this, and they are given the option of a one-off collection of residual waste at the residual waste price.

Roll-in of excess wheelie bins

12. We are currently using internal resource and capability to address the issue of excess wheelie bins that are still yet to be collected. We have a current database of reported excess bins and we are working through the process of collecting these. We are formulating a plan to communicate with residents so they can inform us of any excess bins that exist, with a collection regime on an area-by-area basis aligned with the residual collection routes. This work is currently ongoing and a separate communication going out with regards to this in the next few weeks.

Report to	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	24 October 2024
Head of Service	Catrin Roberts, Head of Corporate Support Services: People
Report author	Karen Evans, Scrutiny Co-ordinator
Title	Scrutiny Work Programme

1. 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 how Scrutiny can support the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan and its aim of becoming Net Carbon Zero and Ecologically Positive by 2030, 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 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 continued 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 scrutinising 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.

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's next meeting is scheduled for 25 November 2024.

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

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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.

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

- 7.1 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.

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

8.1. 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.

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

9.1. 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.

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

11.1 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.

11. Power to make the decision

12.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

12.2 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/Updated
12 December							
	<i>Cllr. Barry Mellor</i>	1	Public Conveniences Savings Proposal	To consider an updated report on the public conveniences savings proposals.	To provide observations / recommendations prior to the report going to Cabinet for decision.	Paul Jackson/Hayley Jones	Requested by Lead Officer 24/04/24 KE
	Cllr. Alan James	2	Planning Enforcement in Denbighshire	To examine the Council's planning compliance enforcement activities across Denbighshire and their sustainability going forward	Assurances that the Service has sufficient financial and resource capacity to fulfil its current and future obligations in line with the Council's Planning Compliance Charter	Emlyn Jones/Paul Mead/Adam Turner	By SCVCG September 2024
	Cllr. Rhys Thomas	3	Housing Rent Increase & Budgets 2025/26	To examine the process for determining the recommendations on the level of weekly rent increases for community housing tenants	Pre-decision scrutiny of the process followed for determining Council housing rental increases for 2025/26 will ensure that the final decision will be taken having regard to household affordability and the Council's ability to deliver sustainable investment in its housing stock. This will in turn support the delivery of the housing theme within the Corporate Plan	Geoff Davies	By SCVCG September 2024
2025							
6 Feb 2025		1	<i>Car Park Investment Plan 2024 - 2029</i>	<i>To review the last 12 months progress of the Investment Plan</i>		<i>Emlyn Jones / Mike Jones</i>	<i>Communities Scrutiny Committee</i>

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered/Updated
							February 2024 (KE)
	Cllr. Rhys Thomas	2	Ex Council Housing Disposal Process	Examine the process for disposal of ex council homes and scrutinise any obstacles that may cause delays in the disposal process	To understand the various services involved in the disposal of ex council housing stock and the process / barriers that may cause delay in their disposal.	Liz Grieve / Geoff Davies (Property Services / Legal Services)	Communities Scrutiny Committee May 2024 (KE)
	Cllr. Rhys Thomas	3	Denbighshire's Housing and Homelessness Strategy Action Plan	To examine the progress made to date in delivering the revised Strategy and Action Plan approved by County Council in December 2020	The identification of actions that will support and ensure the delivery of the Council's Corporate Theme of quality housing that meets people's needs and ultimately the Corporate Plan.	Emlyn Jones/ Angela Loftus/Jane Abbott	Transferred from PSC July 2024
27 March 2025	Leader	1.	Rhyl Regeneration Programme and Governance	To receive an update report on the delivery of 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	Tony Ward	Communities Scrutiny Committee March 2024 (KE) rescheduled by SCVCG Sept 2024 (RhE)
	Leader/Cllr. Barry Mellor	2.	Rhyl Promenade Masterplan	To examine the proposals contained in the Rhyl Promenade Masterplan to be implemented	Consideration of the draft masterplan and the public's views on its contents will enable the Committee to formulate recommendations with respect of the final masterplan that will support the Council, business	Tony Ward	By SCVCG July 2023 (in response to a Notice of Motion to County

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered/Updated
				following the completion of the coastal flood defence schemes	community and residents' aspirations to realise the sustainable economic regeneration of Rhyl and Denbighshire by linking the beach/promenade to the town. Delivering a prosperous and better connected Denbighshire		Council) rescheduled by SCVCG Sept 2024 (RhE)
		3	Update on the Draft Tourism signage Strategy	To provide an update on progress in regard to brown tourist direction sign projects within Denbighshire		Mike Jones/Peter McDermot	SC&VCG
15 May 2025							
26 June 2025	Cllr. Gwyneth Ellis	1.	Review of the Second Home/Long-term Empty Council Tax Premium	To examine the proposed premium charges for 2026/27 having regard to the data analysis of the impact of the 2024/25 premium increase as well as the outcome of the public consultation on the proposed policy and	Pre-decision scrutiny of the proposals will support effective decision-making ensuring that the Cabinet's decision on the premiums supports the delivery of the Corporate Plan's objectives.	Liz Thomas/Paul Barnes/Elaine Edge/Leah Gray	By SCVCG Sept 2024 (RhE)

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered/Updated
				premiums for 2026/27 onwards			
4 September 2025							
16 October 2025							
11 December 2025							

Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

Future Issues

Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
<p>Second Homes and Short-term Holiday lets and their impact have been fully assessed)</p> <p>(timing tbc – once the full details of the WG proposals are known (incl. Licensing Scheme proposals)</p>	To report the findings and conclusions of the 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>(i) An assessment of the proposals’ anticipated impact on Denbighshire County Council, residents, businesses, and local economy</p> <p>(ii) 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</p>	Emlyn Jones/Angela Loftus/Lara Griffiths/Paul Barnes/Gareth Roberts	June 2022 (rescheduled November 2022/ March 2023/ October 2023/May 2024 (by SCVCG))RhE

Information/Consultation Reports

Information / Consultation	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Author(s)	Date Entered
INFORMATION				

Note for officers – Committee Report Deadlines

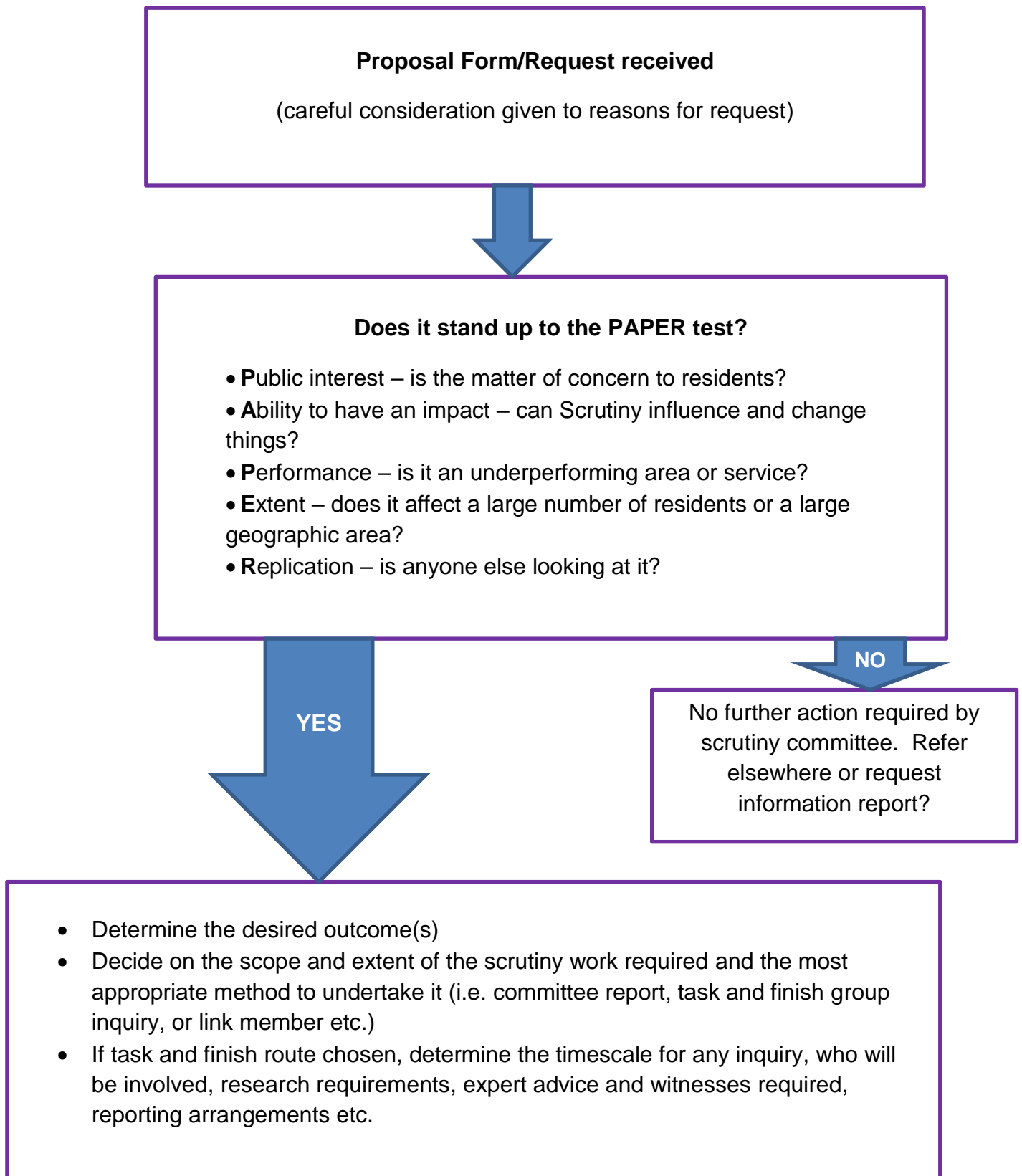
Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline
5 th September	21st August	24 th October	10th October	12 th December	28th November

30/09/24 KE

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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	Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer	Date Entered / Updated By	
22 Oct	1	Asset Management Strategy 2024 - 2029	To seek Cabinet approval of the updated Asset Management Strategy for formal adoption	Yes	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer – Helen Vaughan-Evans / Report Author – Bryn Williams	24.05.24 / 17.06.24 KEJ
	2	Second Home / Long-term Empty Council Tax Premium	To seek Cabinet’s approval to the timescales for delivery of the Second Home / Long-term Empty Council Tax Premium	Yes	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer – Liz Thomas / Report Author – Paul Barnes	08.07.24 KEJ
	3	Fee Charging Provisions - Mandatory Licensing Scheme for Special Procedures	To seek Cabinet approval to adopt the national agreed fees structure and delegate functions under the new scheme	Yes	Cllr Alan James Lead Officer/Report Author Emlyn Jones / Glesni Owen	01.08.24 KEJ
	4	Replacement for PARIS IT System – Tender Award	To seek Cabinet approval to award the contract for the new social care IT system	Yes	Cllrs Elen Heaton and Diane King Lead Officer/Report Author Nicola Stubbins / Dyfan Barr, Michael Jones	02.09.24 KEJ
	5	Update on Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan 2025/26 – 2027/28	To review and approve the latest version of the MTFS / MTFP	Yes	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Liz Thomas	15.05.24 KEJ
	6	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the Council’s current financial position for 2024/25	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Liz Thomas	Standing Item

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of Report	Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer	Date Entered / Updated By
	7	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinators	Standing Item
19 Nov	1	Disposal of Caledfryn	To seek approval for the disposal of Caledfryn as part of the savings proposals	Yes	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Office/Report Author – Helen Vaughan-Evans / Daniel Roebuck	23.05.24 KEJ deferred from Sept to Nov 02.07.24
	2	Council Performance Self-Assessment Update – July to September (QPR2)	To consider a report by the Strategic Planning Team for Council to approve the Performance Self-Assessment July to September	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author – Helen Vaughan-Evans/lolo McGregor, Emma Horan	
	3	Housing Support Grant – Keep My Home Project	To seek Cabinet approval to award the contract for the new service	Yes	Cllr Rhys Thomas Lead Officer/Report Author – Ann Lloyd / Nigel Jones / Sharon Whalley	03.09.24 KEJ
	4	Housing Support Grant – Domestic Abuse Safety Unit	To seek Cabinet approval to award the contract for the new service	Yes	Cllr Rhys Thomas Lead Officer/Report Author – Ann Lloyd / Nigel Jones / Alison Hay	03.09.24 KEJ
	5	Corporate Joint Committee	To approve updated governance	Yes	Cllr Jason McLellan	26.04.24,

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of Report	Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer	Date Entered / Updated By
		Governance Arrangements	arrangements		Lead Officer/Report Author – Gary Williams	rescheduled 11.06.24, 10.09.24, 02.10.24 KEJ
	6	Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter	To provide an overview of Denbighshire’s summary of performance from the PSOW and actions required	Yes	Cllr Julie Matthews Lead Officer/Report Author – Ann Lloyd / Kevin Roberts	10.09.24, rescheduled 02.10.24 KEJ
	7	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the Council’s current financial position for 2024/25	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Liz Thomas	Standing Item
	8	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet’s attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinators	Standing Item
17 Dec	1	Panel Performance Assessment Response	For Cabinet to approve the Council’s management response to the Panel Performance Assessment Report	Yes	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer – Helen Vaughan-Evans / Report Author – Iolo McGregor	12.04.24 KEJ
	2	Housing Rent Setting & Housing Revenue and Capital Budgets 2025/26	To seek approval for the proposed annual rent increase for council housing and to approve the Housing Revenue Account Capital & Revenue Budgets for 2025/26 and Housing Stock Business Plan	Yes	Cllr Rhys Thomas Lead Officer/Report Author – Geoff Davies	28.06.24 KEJ

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of Report	Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer	Date Entered / Updated By
	3	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the Council's current financial position for 2024/25	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Liz Thomas	Standing Item
	4	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinators	Standing Item
21 Jan	1	Public Conveniences Savings Proposal	To consider the Public Conveniences Savings Proposal	Yes	Cllr Barry Mellor Lead Officer/Report Author – Paul Jackson/Joanna Douglass	07.06.24 KEJ
	2	North Wales Domiciliary Care Agreement	Contract Award Agreement of the formal tender	Yes	Cllrs Elen Heaton & Diane King Lead Officer/Report Author – Nicola Stubbins / Ann Lloyd / Llinos Howatson	17.09.24 KEJ
	3	Revenue Budget Setting 2025/26	To review and approve the budget proposals for forthcoming financial year 2025/26	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Liz Thomas	15.05.24 KEJ
	4	Capital Plan 2025/26 – 2027/28	To review and approve proposals for inclusion in the Capital Plan	Yes	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Liz Thomas	15.05.24 KEJ
	5	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the Council's current financial position for	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report	Standing Item

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of Report	Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer	Date Entered / Updated By
			2024/25		Author Liz Thomas	
	6	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinators	Standing Item
18 Feb	1	Economic Strategy	Outline of Denbighshire's new Economic Strategy & Action Plan and request for Cabinet to approve the final documents.	Yes	Cllr Jason McLellan Lead Officer/Report Author – Emlyn Jones / James Evans	27.09.24 KEJ
	2	Revenue Budget and Council Tax Setting 2025/26	To review and approve the budget and Council Tax setting proposals for the forthcoming financial year 2025/26	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Liz Thomas	15.05.24 KEJ
	3	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the Council's current financial position for 2024/25	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Liz Thomas	Standing Item
	4	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinators	Standing Item
25 March	1	Residential Care Fees 2025/2026	To seek Cabinet approval for the setting of care home fees for the financial year 2025/26.	Yes	Cllr Elen Heaton Lead Officer/Report Author – Nicola Stubbins / Ann Lloyd	25.09.24 KEJ
	2	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the Council's current financial position for	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report	Standing Item

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of Report	Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer	Date Entered / Updated By
			2024/25		Author Liz Thomas	
	3	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinators	Standing Item

FUTURE ITEMS 2025

24 June 2025	Council Performance Self-Assessment 2024 to 2025 (year-end)	To consider a report on the Performance Self-Assessment	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author – Helen Vaughan-Evans / Emma Horan	03.10.24 KEJ
18 November 2025	Council Performance Self-Assessment Update - April to September (QPR1&2) 2025	To consider an update report on the Performance Self-Assessment April to September	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author – Helen Vaughan-Evans / Emma Horan	03.10.24 KEJ

Note for officers – Cabinet Report Deadlines

<i>Meeting</i>	Deadline	<i>Meeting</i>	Deadline	<i>Meeting</i>	Deadline
<i>22 October</i>	8 October	<i>19 November</i>	5 November	<i>17 December</i>	3 December

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Updated 07/10/2024 – KEJ

Cabinet Forward Work Programme.doc

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