Council Plan
2022-23

CYNGOR
Sir y Fflint
Flintshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

contents

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welcome

Welcome to Flintshire County Council's Council Plan for 2022/23

Neal Cockerton
Chief Executive

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Leader of
the Council

This latest version of our Council Plan sets out our priorities for the forthcoming year and the big things we aim to achieve. Flintshire prides itself on being a council which performs highly for its local communities, and one which is guided and motivated by a set of strong social values.

Flintshire is a well-governed and progressive council. We continue to perform well as a direct provider and commissioner of public services, and as a partner to others.

The past year has been a year like no other. Despite all the disruption caused by the pandemic we have not faltered in maintaining our high performance and in planning ahead for the betterment of the communities of Flintshire.

Within this year's Plan there is a big emphasis on continuing to recover from the pandemic and supporting the most vulnerable. We also make some big commitments to being a Green Council. Life during the pandemic has taught us that we should value the natural environment and that adjustments to our lifestyles can reduce our own personal carbon footprint.

The Plan sets out the Council's priorities under six themes: -

- Poverty
- Affordable and Accessible Housing
- Green Society and Environment
- Economy
- Personal and Community Well-being
- Education and Skills

Each theme has specific objectives and action where we aim to make impact this year and in the longer term.

Setting Our Priorities
and Judging our Performance

The priorities for Flintshire as a County are set by the Council and its local public sector partners. We work together as a Public Services Board (PSB) combining our resources for the benefit of Flintshire.

Working to the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Council works collaboratively with local public sector partners as a Public Services Board. The Flintshire Public Services Board is at the heart of promoting a positive culture of working together, setting shared priorities and combining resources for the benefit of Flintshire, with an overall aim of improving local well-being.

The priorities for the Flintshire Public Services Board in 2022/23 are:
- Community Safety - People are Safe
- Healthy and Independent Living

These priorities have been selected for special attention as part of our **Well-being Plan** and are areas where we believe that by working together as a Public Services Board we can make a big difference in improving services and outcomes for local people / the communities of Flintshire.

The Flintshire Public Services Board published **"An Assessment of Well-being in Flintshire 2022"** in May 2022, fulfilling its duty to prepare and publish an assessment of the local economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. This Assessment will inform the Public Services Boards new well-being priorities for 2023-28, which will be contained in a new local Well-being Plan. Preparation and publication of the new Well-being Plan will be a key priority for Flintshire's Public Service Board during 2022/23. As will the production of an Annual Report, detailing the progress made in achieving the current well-being priorities.

Whilst retaining their separate Public Services Boards, in June 2020 the Flintshire Public Services Board and Wrexham Public Services Board formed a Joint Public Services Board, realising the value in sharing knowledge and resources to tackle common challenges around the COVID-19 pandemic. This arrangement, with focus on community resilience, continues in 2022-23.

The Council has also set a number of priorities for itself as an individual partner organisation. Setting priorities helps us focus our attention and resources on the things that matter most - these priorities are echoed in the Council's Business Plans.

In setting our Council Priorities we must take a number of factors into account from Welsh Government policy to the expectations of our key partners, to our legal responsibilities, to the views of local people.

We then set our targets and judge our performance against them by using a wide range of information both quantitative (performance judged by numbers) and qualitative (performance judged by feedback, the results of consultation etc). Some of our objectives are about creating plans to achieve longer term goals. These will be developed within the year and considered as part of our Overview and Scrutiny Committees' forward work programmes, and themselves lead to longer-term commitments and actions.

To help us know how well we are doing in meeting the expectations for our priorities, we have a series of 'measures' which we keep under regular review. These performance measures are set out for each of our in-year priorities page by page. They are detailed more fully in the supporting document 'Council Plan Part 2: How we Measure Achievement'. Each of our in-year priorities is described individually on the following pages.

We provide information about:
- Our Wellbeing Objectives - The impact/long term outcome - what difference will be made
- Why the priority is important in 2022/23
- The national policy issues which impact on delivery
- What we will do
- What some of our language means

We will let you know how well we have performed against our outcomes in two ways: regular reports to the Council's Cabinet and Scrutiny committees; and the published Annual Performance Report which is due in the Autumn.

In-year priorities 2022/23

In-year priorities 2022/23

Theme/Well-being Objective	In-year Priority	Page number
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Following the Plan - An Easy Guide

The previous page sets out the Council's six themes and the in-year priorities for 2022/23.

Each standing theme is illustrated with a different colour. For example, **Education and Skills is blue** and **Economy is purple.** This colour coding should make the priorities easier to follow as the reader works through the document and also cross-reference to the Council Plan Part 2: How we Measure Achievement.

The Council has selected a number of the in-year priorities for special attention in 2022/23. Each of these selected in-year priorities then has a dedicated section later in the document.

For example, on page 15 you will see the theme for Poverty. The Well-being objective for Poverty is defined as 'Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs'. The areas contributing to achieving this is contained within the following five priorities: -

- Income Poverty
- Child Poverty
- Food Poverty
- Fuel Poverty
- Digital Poverty

The reasons for its selection are then explained following each of the priorities along with any national policy issues and an explanation of 'what we mean by'.

What's changed for 2022/23?

The Council Plan is based on six themes which are further detailed with in-year priorities. Four new additional in-year priorities have been identified for 2022-23.

These being:

- Climate Change and Adaptation
- Green Access
- Digital Infrastructure
- Well-being

The long-term outcomes and impacts tie to our Well-being Objectives set to meet the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. We will be reporting on our progress to achieving our Well-being objectives in our Self-assessment.

In addition, the five-ways of working, known as the sustainable development principles, will be taken into account and reported on.

The contents of the Plan are reviewed and changed annually.

Regulation, Audit and Inspection

As a public organisation the Council is regularly inspected to examine and challenge its performance and effectiveness. This work is mainly undertaken by Audit Wales (AW), Estyn and the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

The Council received a favorable Annual Audit Summary from the **Audit Wales** in January 2021. The overall commentary was "*The Auditor General certified that the Council had met its remaining Local Government (Wales). Measure 2009 duties for the financial year 2020-21, as saved by an order made under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.*"

The most recent inspection by Estyn on the Council's education services was favourable and is available on the Estyn website. Overall, pupils in Flintshire make sound progress during their time in statutory education.

The **Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)** have an ongoing programme of engagement and inspection activity across Wales. In Flintshire they conducted a whole-service Assurance Check in April 2021, looking at:

- How well we ensure people, carers and practitioners are having their voices heard, making informed choices, and maintaining control over their lives

- How successful the Council is in promoting prevention and reducing the need for increased or formal support from statutory agencies

- How opportunities for partnership working are positively exploited to maximise person centred planning and ensure integrated service delivery and service sustainability

- To what extent the Council is promoting well-being, ensuring people maintain their safety and achieve positive outcomes that matter to them

The Council received a positive Assurance Check letter, noting many areas of strong practice, no recommendations for Adult Services, and 3 recommendations for Children's Services, which are all on track for implementation.

Other Audit / Regulatory Activity

The Council prepares an annual summary of all external audit and regulatory activity. The last one was produced in March 2022 and was considered by the Council's Audit Committee. This report provided an overview of all local and national studies along with the Council's response.

How Consultation Informs our Plan

There has been no single intensive consultation exercise on the Plan itself, by local choice, given this background. Elected members, on behalf of the communities they represent, have contributed to setting the priorities of the Council and draw on their representative role to test the relevance of the Plan against local public opinion. This has been facilitated through the sharing of the draft Plan with all elected members and through its presentation at Overview and Scrutiny Committees. In addition, elected members have been consulted on the targets and milestones to be used to measure achievement of the Plan, ensuring that there is sufficient pace and ambition.

Consultation on all parts of the Plan is continuous with stakeholders. The Council remains open to feedback on the plan, and to amending it at any time.

Council Plan Part 1 and 'Part 2: How we measure achievement'

These two documents are linked with the 'measuring achievement' supporting document providing greater detail about the target performance and milestones we have set ourselves.

our priorities
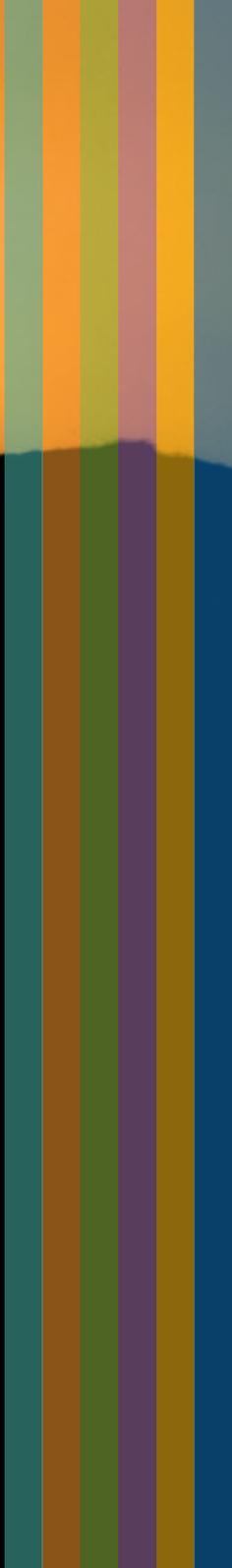
Theme: Poverty

Wellbeing Objective: Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs

Priority
Income Poverty

Definition
People on low income who are unable to meet day to day living costs

Achievement will be measured through:

- Families are supported to be financially resilient by:
  a) Maximising the number of people signposted for support to facilitate longer term change - by March 2023
  b) Ensuring that take-up to benefit entitlement is maximised in a timely way by processing claims efficiently - by March 2023
  c) Maximising take up of the Discretionary Housing Payments scheme and other financial support - by March 2023
  d) Continuing to offer our community hub (Contact Centres) approach giving access to a range of programmes, services and agencies together in one place - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Reduce the risk and impacts of poverty amongst Flintshire households
- Support residents access to support services

National Policy Issues:

- Welfare Reform 2016
- Socio-economic duty 2021
- Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) Act 2015

What we mean by:

- **Financially Resilient** - Adequate resources to meet family requirements
- **Income Poverty** - When resources are below your minimum needs

Theme: Poverty

Priority
Child Poverty

Definition
Children who do not have access to adequate food, clothing, shelter and education to lead a healthy and active life

Achievement will be measured through:

- The cost of sending children to school is reduced by:
  a) Making the processes for claiming free school meals as simple and straightforward as possible to increase the percentage of take-up against entitlement - by March 2023
  b) Encouraging take-up of the free school breakfast for year seven pupils eligible for free school meals - by March 2023
  c) Maximising the take-up of the school uniform grant - by March 2023
  d) Developing a network of school uniform exchanges across the county supported by enhanced web and social media promotion - by March 2023

- Free access to books, ICT networks, devices and library services are maintained by:
  a) Maintaining the network of seven libraries in partnership with Aura - by March 2023
  b) Increasing usage of online resources for children and young people - by March 2023

- Children have access to play opportunities by:
  a) Ensuring children have access to staffed open-access playwork projects in local communities - by March 2023
  b) Ensuring children have access to well-maintained outdoor play areas which offer a varied and rich play environment - by March 2023

- Working with partners to ensure children in areas of social deprivation have access to food, exercise and enrichment schemes during school holidays - by March 2023

- Ensuring children have the opportunity to access meaningful community sports programmes (which impact on a range of issues including anti-social behaviour, child sexual exploitation, drug and alcohol prevention and County Lines) - by March 2023

- Providing children with access to well-maintained outdoor play areas which offer a varied and rich play environment - by March 2023

- Maintaining access to Free Swimming to help tackle health inequalities - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Ensure those who are eligible access support schemes
- Increase access to and skills around digital services
- Ensure continued access to varied and rich play environments

National Policy Issues:

- Welsh Government Child Poverty Strategy
- Welsh Government Childcare Offer
- Welsh Government Income Maximization Action Plan

What we mean by:

- **Child Poverty** - Long term state of not having sufficient resources to afford food, reasonable living conditions or amenities to participate in activities which are taken for granted by others in their society

Theme: Poverty

Priority
Food Poverty

Definition
People who are not able to access food that meets their daily nutritional needs and requirements

Achievement will be measured through:

- Everyone in Flintshire has access to affordable, good fresh food by:

  a) Developing a "Well Fed at Home service" - by December 2022

  b) Continuing to develop delivery of a "Hospital to Home" meals service - by March 2023

  c) Introducing a transported and delivered food service "Mobile Meals" to those who are vulnerable - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Address the underlying reasons for food poverty and food insecurity
- Ensure we reach both rural and urban communities

National Policy Issues:

- Socio-economic Duty 2021
- Wellbeing and Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015

What we mean by:

- **Food Poverty** - People who are not able to access food that meets their daily nutritional needs and requirements

Theme: Poverty

Priority
Fuel Poverty

Definition
Households that have higher than average fuel costs and meeting those costs will cause them to experience poverty

Achievement will be measured through:

- Reducing the risk of fuel poverty for residents by increasing the energy efficiency of homes - by March 2023
  Linked to Affordable and Accessible Housing
- Engaging, supporting and referring vulnerable households to reduce fuel poverty and improve health and wellbeing - by March 2023
  Linked to Personal and Community Well-being

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Reduce the impact of rising fuel costs
- Support the national programme for extension of the mains gas network
- Reduce the impact of fuel poverty on the most vulnerable households

National Policy Issues:

- Welsh Government Fuel Poverty Plan
- Welsh Government Decarbonisation Plan

What we mean by:

- **Fuel Poverty** - Households needing to pay more than 10% of their full household income to maintain a satisfactory heating regime

- **Vulnerable Households** - Households where the occupants include one or more of the following:
  - a person aged 60 and over,
  - a dependent child or children under the age of 16,
  - a single person aged under 25,
  - a person living with a long term illness or who is disabled.

Theme: Poverty

Priority
Digital Poverty

Definition
Inability to interact fully in a digital world when, where and how an individual needs to

Achievement will be measured through:

- Supporting people to use digital technology through promotion of suitable training to develop digital skills and confidence in the communities we serve - by March 2023
- Providing free of charge public access to the internet and devices where necessary at Flintshire Connects Centres, Aura library services and the four Leisure Centres - by March 2023
- Increasing loans of devices through the Aura Digital Access Scheme - by March 2023
- Increasing take-up of digital learning opportunities supported by Aura - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Meet growing customer expectations to be able to access services online
- Practically modernise by changing the way we design and deliver services
- Ensure vulnerable people in our communities can access services in person or by telephone
- Support people who lack the skills and confidence in a modern society

National Policy Issues:

- Welsh Government are supporting investment in digital services to support modernisation in the delivery of public services

What we mean by:

- **Digital Access** - The ability for customers to use tools and technologies such as the internet and computers when contacting the Council
- **Digital Champions** - Trained employees and third sector partners who assist customers to use tools and technologies to use digital services

Theme: Affordable and Accessible Housing

Wellbeing Objective: Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities

Priority
Housing support and homeless prevention

Definition
Offering support to people to retain their housing and live well and avoiding homelessness

Achievement will be measured through:

- Commissioning a wide range of housing related support that meets the needs of the people of Flintshire - by March 2023
- Promoting housing support and homeless prevention services with our residents and partners - by March 2023
- Ensuring a multi-agency partnership approach to homeless prevention and develop a culture where homelessness is "everyone's business" - by March 2023
- Ensuring when homelessness does occur it is rare, brief and non-recurring - by March 2023

- Developing and extending our Housing First and Rapid Rehousing approaches for those who do experience homelessness - by March 2023
- Remodelling the "emergency beds" Homeless Hub accommodation offer and service delivery - by March 2023
- Exploring opportunities to develop a young person's homeless hub offering accommodation and support services - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Prevent homelessness in all its forms through early intervention and housing support
- Responding to the changing housing needs of the people of Flintshire on the back of the Covid health pandemic

National Policy Issues:

- Transformation of homelessness services
- Delivery of Welsh Government's Housing First Policy
- Responding to Homelessness Action Group (HAG) recommendations

What we mean by:

- **Early Intervention** - Early Intervention prevention is intended to identify and address a problem or condition at an early stage. When thinking about homelessness, this typically means strategies that target people who are clearly at risk of, or who have recently become homeless
- **Housing First** - Housing First' is a recovery-oriented approach to ending homelessness that centres on quickly moving people experiencing homelessness into independent and permanent housing and then providing additional support and services as needed
- **Rapid Rehousing** - Rapid rehousing is an approach for people whose first and most important need is to access housing; with a lack of it often the main reason why they are homeless

Theme: Affordable and Accessible Housing

Priority
Housing Needs and Housing Options

Definition
Helping people to explore their housing options so they can access the right homes to meet their needs

Achievement will be measured through:

- Promoting the Single Access Route to Housing (SARTH), Common Housing Register, Affordable Housing Register and Housing Support Gateway within the community and with professionals - by March 2023

- Developing self-service approaches that enable people to identify their own housing options through online support - by March 2023

- Piloting a risk assessment process to identify pre tenancy support needs to reduce risk of tenancy failure - by March 2023 Linked to Poverty

- Reviewing our sheltered housing stock to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of current and prospective tenants - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Meet the diverse housing and accommodation needs of the local population
- Identify peoples support needs and help them to sustain accommodation and reduce risks of homelessness through a range of support services

National Policy Issues:

- Ending evictions into homelessness
- Older Persons' Strategies

What we mean by:

- **Affordable Housing Register** - Captures housing needs and allocates affordable housing other than social housing e.g. homes at less than market value either for rent or purchase

- **Common Housing Register** - The mechanism by which Flintshire captures housing needs and allocate social housing across all housing partners

- **Housing Support Gateway** - A single point of access for housing related support needs and gateway to support services

- **Sheltered Housing** – Sheltered Housing is housing for older people that enables them to live independently in an easy to manage home, leaving them free to enjoy their life with the peace of mind that support is on hand when they need it

Theme: Affordable and Accessible Housing

Priority
Social Housing

Definition
Working with housing partners to develop and invest in affordable housing   with modern methods of construction and a commitment towards carbon neutral

Achievement will be measured through:

- Working with housing association partners to build new social housing properties and additional affordable properties - by March 2023

- Increasing the Council's housing portfolio by building social housing properties and affordable properties for North East Wales (NEW) Homes - by March 2023

- Ensuring that the Council's housing stock meets the Welsh Housing Quality Standard and achieves a minimum SAP energy efficiency rating of 65 - by December 2022 Linked to Green and Environment

- Developing plans for the de-carbonisation of Council homes in line with Welsh Government guidance to ensure their thermal efficiency is optimised and the cost of heating homes are minimised - by March 2023 Linked to Green and Environment, Linked to Poverty

- Working with residents to ensure our communities are well managed, safe, and sustainable places to live - by March 2023 Linked to Green and Environment

- Supporting our tenants to access technology and create sustainable digital communities - by March 2023 Linked to Poverty

- Listening to our tenants and working with them to improve our services, homes and communities - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Build the maximum number of Council houses possible as part of the housing supply solution

- Build the maximum number of Council houses possible to support and contribute to Flintshire's overall housing supply

- Meet the Welsh Government target for all social housing to be brought up to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard

National Policy Issues:

- Improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales (Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

- To build better social homes in Wales, more of them, and more quickly (Re-imagining social house building in Wales, A Modern Methods of Construction Strategy for Social Housing Feb 2020

- For Wales to become a low carbon nation by having a Welsh Government target to reduce carbon emissions in Wales by 80% by 2050 (The Environment (Wales) Act 2016

What we mean by:

- **Affordable Housing** - Housing for rent, purchase or shared equity schemes, which remains available below market prices in perpetuity for those sectors of the community which are unable to afford housing on the open market

- **Net Zero Carbon** - The Council's greenhouse gas emissions are equal to the amount absorbed and sequestered in its land

- **Welsh Housing Quality Standard** - The Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) is the Welsh Government standard of housing quality. The WHQS was first introduced in 2002 and aims to ensure that all dwellings are of good quality and suitable for the needs of existing and future residents

Theme: Affordable and Accessible Housing

Priority
Private Rented Sector

Definition
Supporting the private sector to raise standards in the management and condition of housing and promote tenancy sustainment in our communities

Achievement will be measured through:

- Engaging with private sector tenants, giving them a voice and responding to their needs - by March 2023

- Working in partnership with landlords and private sector agents to better understand their needs - by March 2023

- Developing a "landlord offer" that encourages landlords to work with the Council to raise standards of property management and condition of homes where needed - by March 2023

- Improving access to private sector properties for those who are homeless, at risk of homeless and in housing need - by March 2023

- Mapping Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO's) across Flintshire to ensure legal minimum housing standards are met and to improve residents' quality of life - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Ensure Landlords and tenants are supported to sustain quality homes and well managed tenancies within the local private sector

- Maximising opportunities within the private rented sector for low-income households to live successfully

- Relieve pressures on homelessness services through better access to privately rented homes

- Raise living standards for tenants living in houses of multi-occupation

National Policy Issues:

- Rent Smart Wales
- Housing (Wales) Act 2014
- Wales Housing Standards

What we mean by:

- **Houses of Multiple Occupation** - A property rented out by at least 3 people who are not from 1 'household' (for example a family) but share kitchen, bathroom or toilet facilities

- **Rent Smart Wales** - Rent Smart Wales assists those who let or manage rental properties in Wales to comply with their Housing (Wales) Act 2014 obligations and provides advice on renting out safe and healthy homes, processes landlord registrations and grants licenses to landlords and agents managing the private sector properties in Wales

Theme: Affordable and Accessible Housing

Priority
Empty Properties

Definition
Bringing empty homes back into use to enhance the local housing market and improve our local communities

Achievement will be measured through:

- Bringing empty homes back into use thorough the Empty Homes Loan - by March 2023
- Exploring opportunities to develop a project management service for non-commercial landlords to encourage take up of the Empty Home Loan Scheme - by March 2023

- Targeting 'problem' empty homes in our communities and use enforcement powers where appropriate to improve our communities and increase housing supply - by March 2023
- Exploring opportunities to maximise housing and revitalise our towns through the redevelopment of the High Street - by March 2023 Linked to Economy

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Bring empty properties back into use as there are over 400 in Flintshire currently standing empty
- Reduce the impact of empty properties in a neighbourhood
- The redeveloping of town centres high streets will consider the creation of homes from empty properties
- Support property owners by offering a project management service to encourage refurbishment of empty properties

National Policy Issues:

- Welsh Government has prioritised the refurbishment of Empty Properties into homes

What we mean by:

- **Empty Homes Loans Scheme** - Scheme that offers interest free loans to renovate empty properties and make them safe to live in

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Theme: Green Society and Environment

Well-being Objective: Limiting the impact of the Council's services on the natural environment and supporting the wider communities of Flintshire to reduce their own carbon footprint.

Priority
Carbon Neutrality

Definition
A net carbon zero Council by 2030 and supporting wider decarbonisation actions across the County, making this central to Covid-19 recovery

Achievement will be measured through:

- Gathering information on annual Council greenhouse gas emissions to submit to Welsh Government and the Carbon Programme Board - by September 2022
- Reviewing the procurement policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from suppliers - by March 2023

- Developing plans towards net zero carbon for our assets in line with Welsh Government guidance' – by March 2023
- Working with Flintshire's leisure and culture trust partners to reduce carbon emissions – by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Support Welsh Government's ambition for the Public Sector in Wales to be net zero carbon by 2030 as well as national and international climate change mitigation
- Ensure that the opportunities to use decarbonisation actions to facilitate Covid 19 economic recovery are maximised
- Support the public, businesses, industry, communities etc. in taking individual action and responsibility for climate change and its mitigation

National Policy Issues:

- Delivery of Welsh Government's Low Carbon Delivery Plan 2 and Public Sector Decarbonisation Route Map

What we mean by:

- **Decarbonisation** - The process of reducing carbon intensity and greenhouse gas emissions
- **Net Zero Carbon** - The Council's greenhouse gas emissions are equal to the amount absorbed and sequestered in its land

Theme: Green Society and Environment

Priority
Climate Change and Adaptation

Definition
Be more resilient to the changes that have happened due to climate change and prepare for predicted future change

Achievement will be measured through:

- Reviewing the Council's Flood Risk Management Strategy - March 2023
- Reviewing the Council's Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment - November 2022
- Carrying out flood investigations and alleviation works where appropriate - March 2023
- Assessing the feasibility of schemes within land assets for resisting flood and drought while enhancing biodiversity and increasing carbon storage - March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Support Welsh Government's climate change adaptation plan, to respond to the impacts from climate change we already see and those we expect to see in the future
- Ensure that the opportunities to use climate adaptation actions to facilitate Covid 19 economic recovery are maximised
- Support Welsh Government's requirement for Local Authorities to align their Flood Risk Management Strategies with the National Strategy
- Meet Welsh Government's requirement to review the Council's Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment in advance of the publication of the Stalled new TAN15

What we mean by:

- **Decarbonisation** - The process of reducing carbon intensity and greenhouse gas emissions

National Policy Issues:

- Delivery of Welsh Government's Low Carbon Delivery Plan 2 and its climate change adaptation plan 'Prosperity for All: a Climate Conscious Wales'

Theme: Green Society and Environment

Priority
Fleet Strategy

Definition
Reducing the environmental impact of our fleet

Achievement will be measured through:

- Converting the authority's fleet to electric and alternative fuels (hydrogen etc.) - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Continue to reduce our carbon emissions to meet Welsh Government targets and play our part in helping to address the consequences of climate change

National Policy Issues:

- Welsh Government climate emergency declaration in April 2019 with aspirations of achieving a carbon neutral public sector by 2030
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016 stipulates an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050

What we mean by:

- **EV - Electric Vehicle** - A vehicle that uses battery storage or fuel cell generation to propel a vehicle through use of an electric motor

- **Hybrid Vehicle** - A vehicle which utilising both electricity and conventional energy sources e.g. petrol or diesel

- **Net Zero Carbon** - The Council's greenhouse gas emissions are equal to the amount absorbed and sequestered in its land

Theme: Green Society and Environment

Priority
Green Environment

Definition
Enhance and increase biodiversity and trees to deliver multiple benefits for people, wildlife and the environment

Achievement will be measured through:

- Delivering an increase in canopy cover as part of the Urban Tree and Woodland Plan - by March 2023
- Enhancing the natural environment through the delivery of the Section 6 Environment Act Wales biodiversity duty - by March 2023
- Delivery of green infrastructure projects under the Local Places for Nature grant funding stream - March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Balance the need for sustainable development with the protection of the natural environment

National Policy Issues:

- Environment Act Wales 2016
- Welsh Government Decarbonisation Plan

What we mean by:

- **Biodiversity** - The variety of life found in a place
- **Ecosystem** - A community or group of living organisms that live in and interact with each other in a specific environment
- **Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016** - Places a duty on public authorities that exercise their functions in relation to Wales have to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems
- **Local Places for Nature:** Is a Welsh Government funding stream with the aim to restore and enhance nature assets across Wales, where people live, work and access public services

Theme: Green Society and Environment

Priority
Green Access

Definition
The promotion, good management and protection of our green spaces to deliver multiple benefits to the environment and our residents and visitors

Achievement will be measured through:

- Exploring opportunities to develop the Flintshire Coast Park through the production of a scoping study - by March 2023

- Delivering the Rights of Way Improvement Plan with a focus to ensure improved access for all and the promotions of Walking for Health - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Understand where additional access is required and to provide opportunities where feasible
- Continue with our policy of increasing opportunities where access can be improved across the network
- Highlight and promote accessing the green environment for the benefit of improving mental and physical health

National Policy Issues:

- Environment Act Wales 2016
- The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015
- The Planning (Wales) Act 2015

What we mean by:

- **Rights of Way Improvement Plan** - a 10 year statutory plan to deliver improvements to the rights of way network

- **Access for All** - Making paths, where practicable, accessible to all people regardless of their ability

- **Walking for Health** - Encouraging people to walk more to improve their health and wellbeing

Theme: Green Society and Environment

Priority
Renewable Energy

Definition
The promotion and support of renewable energy opportunities across the Council Estate and wider communities

Achievement will be measured through:

- Assessing the feasibility of renewable energy and land assets and link to wider carbon ambitions - by September 2022

- Agreeing appropriate investment strategy for future renewable energy developments - by September 2022 Linked to Economy

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Facilitate new sources of income to support the delivery of Council services
- Make best and most economic use of Council land assets
- Support communities to own and operate renewable energy systems where applicable
- Support Welsh Government's ambition for the Public Sector in Wales to be net carbon zero by 2030 as well as national and international climate change mitigation
- Ensure that the opportunities to use decarbonisation actions to facilitate Covid 19 economic recovery are maximised

National Policy Issues:

- Proposed changes by Ofgem to UK electricity network charges and impact on grid connection costs and ongoing use of system charges
- Delivery of Welsh Government's Low Carbon Delivery Plan 2 and Public Sector Decarbonisation Route Map

What we mean by:

- **Decarbonisation** - The process of reducing carbon intensity and greenhouse gas emissions
- **Net Zero Carbon** - The Council's greenhouse gas emissions are equal to the amount absorbed and sequestered in its land
- **Renewable Energy** - Energy which is generated from a source that does not run out e.g., the sun, wind, water etc.

Theme: Green Society and Environment

Priority
Active and Sustainable Travel Options

Definition
Provide opportunities for increasing levels of walking and cycling (active travel) and enable access to other alternative and sustainable methods of travel

Achievement will be measured through:

- Promoting the use of public transport through the further development of the Council's core bus network - by March 2023 Linked to Economy

- Promoting multi modal transport journeys and the development of strategic transport hubs - by March 2023 Linked to Economy

- Developing the County's electric car charging network - by March 2023

- Promoting active travel and further developing the County's walking and cycling network - by March 2023 Linked to Personal and Community Well-being

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Enable people to access key services and link communities across Flintshire
- Minimise congestion and delays on our highway network
- Maximise the benefits of available funding through initiative projects
- Maximise the opportunity for the use of electric vehicles

National Policy Issues:

- Highway condition deteriorating with limited Welsh Government support available
- Borderlands Rail Franchise
- Delivery of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013, promoting alternative modes of travel
- Electric Vehicle (EV) charging strategy for Wales
- Welsh Government's Low Carbon Delivery Plan 2 and Public Sector Decarbonisation Route Map

What we mean by:

- **Active Travel** - Non-motorised and sustainable transport options

- **Decarbonisation** - The process of reducing carbon intensity and greenhouse gas emissions

- **Multi Modal Transport** - The combination of different means of transport (bus; train; car; cycling; walking)

- **Rail Franchise** - Process to award the operating arrangement on individual lines

Theme: Green Society and Environment

Priority
Circular Economy

Definition
Support and promote the Welsh Government's strategy to create a sustainable, circular economy in Flintshire

Achievement will be measured through:

- Achieving Welsh Government recycling targets - by March 2023

- Developing and extending the Standard Yard Waste and Recycling Transfer Station - by March 2023

- Supporting and promoting the Re-Use and Repair initiatives in partnership with Refurbs Flintshire - by March 2023 Linked to Poverty, Linked to Personal and Community Well-being, Linked to Education and Skills

- Promoting the option to reuse and repair unwanted items at Household Recycling Centres by partnering with local Charities or social enterprises - by March 2023 Linked to Poverty, Linked to Personal and Community Well-being, Linked to Education and Skills

- Working in partnership, actively support and engage with community led groups by developing recycling initiatives - by March 2023 Linked to Poverty, Linked to Personal and Community Well-being, Linked to Education and Skills

- Support local businesses in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient - by March 2023 Linked to Economy

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Implement a Circular Economy
- Meet Welsh Government recycling targets
- Promote repair and reuse wherever possible
- Introduce sustainable waste management solutions
- Promote regional ways of working
- Minimise the use of single use packaging

National Policy Issues:

- Review of Statutory recycling targets
- Reclassification of waste types e.g., wood removed from recycling calculation
- Environmental pressures and legislation
- Financial pressures on Welsh Government grant support
- Beyond Recycling Strategy

What we mean by:

- **Circular Economy** - A circular is an economic system aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources

- **Recycling Targets** - Set by Welsh Government with the possibility of infraction fines for Councils not achieving the targets

- **Repair and Reuse** - Keeping items in use for as long as possible reducing the dependency on disposal

- **Waste Blueprint** - Dictates the collection arrangement for each Council in Wales

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Theme: Economy

Wellbeing Objective: Enabling a sustainable economic recovery and growth

Priority
Town Centre Regeneration

Definition
Regenerate and re-invent our town centres

Achievement will be measured through:

- Monitoring the health and vitality of town centres to support effective management and business investment decisions - by March 2023
- Encouraging and support investment in town centre properties especially to facilitate more sustainable uses - by March 2023
  Linked to Affordable and Accessible Housing
- Improving the environment in town centres - by March 2023
- Supporting the growth of community enterprises in town centre locations - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Protect the economic viability of our Town Centres

National Policy Issues:

- Welsh Government approach to Regeneration

What we mean by:

- **Community Enterprises** - are businesses that put social objectives at the centre of their operation

Theme: Economy

Priority
Business

Definition
Enable business continuity and encourage appropriate investment

Achievement will be measured through:

- Engaging town centre small businesses and improve support packages available to them - by March 2023
- Supporting small and/or local businesses to engage with public sector procurement opportunities - by March 2023
- Supporting recovery of the County's Street and indoor markets - by March 2023
- Supporting growth of the local and regional food and drink business sector through marketing and collaborative projects - by March 2023
- Supporting recovery of the tourism and hospitality sectors and rebuild confidence in the industry - by March 2023
- Increasing the scale and impact of the social business sector - by March 2023
- Supporting local businesses in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient - by March 2023 Linked to Green Society and Environment

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Continue to grow the local and regional economy
- Work collaboratively to achieve key priorities for major infrastructure projects which will support economic growth projects
- Support for businesses in Flintshire does not match need and fails to encourage investment

National Policy Issues:

- Welsh Government Economic Action Plan
- Welsh Government Recovery Plan

What we mean by:

- **Welsh Government Economic Action Plan** - Regional approach to economic development across Wales

- **Welsh Government Recovery Plan** - Plan to recover from the economic damages of the coronavirus pandemic and provide economic resilience

Theme: Economy

Priority
Transport Connectivity

Definition
Develop and promote effective transport connectivity while supporting recovery and economic growth

Achievement will be measured through:

- Developing and delivering transport infrastructure improvements as part of North Wales Metro programme and the Council's Integrated Transport Strategy - by March 2023
  Linked to Green Society and Environment

- Ensuring Flintshire strategic transport priorities are well-represented in the Regional Transport Plan from the forthcoming Corporate Joint Committee development - by March 2023
  Linked to Green Society and Environment

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Successfully integrate all modes of transport, whilst developing the individual demands of each whilst maintaining and promoting at its heart, a sustainable, affordable and environmentally friendly public transport service, with links to all of Flintshire and the wider region

- Provide residents in rural areas of the County with valuable links to transport services along Flintshire's Core Network where commercial services are not currently available, thus facilitating access to health facilities, education and employment

- Promote multi modal transport reducing the reliance on motor vehicles

- Include local transport solutions in the regional Economic Growth Deal bid

What we mean by:

- **Flintshire Integrated Transport Strategy** - Aims to provide long term sustainable transport solutions through the successful integration of all modes of transport, which links to all of Flintshire and the wider region

- **Joint Transport Authorities (JTA)** - Regional organisation that would arrange and manage local public transport services

National Policy Issues:

- Formation of Nation Joint Transport Authorities (JTA)

- Welsh Government's National Bus Service Review

- Introducing integrated and sustainable travel options

Theme: Economy

Priority
Digital Infrastructure

Definition
Ensure the digital networks facilitate and support recovery and growth

Achievement will be measured through:

- Starting delivery of the local plans within North Wales Growth Deal for digital infrastructure - by March 2023

- Connecting further rural communities to improved digital infrastructure - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Ensure that the needs of Flintshire's residents and businesses are fully integrated into future packages of investment
- Work with regional partners and telecommunications providers to ensure that the needs of rural communities are considered

What we mean by:

- **Digital connectivity** - The mobile and fixed line telecommunications infrastructure

National Policy Issues:

- Digital connectivity is a non-devolved issue and remains the responsibility of UK Government although Welsh Government has made additional investment. North Wales has lagged well behind the rest of the UK in terms of connectivity. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of good connectivity infrastructure and North Wales aspires to reach and exceed the national benchmark and to ensure that strategic business sites enjoy access to cutting edge technology

Theme: Economy

Priority
Local Development Plan (LDP) Targets

Definition
Achieve LDP policy objectives for growth, protection and enhancement

Achievement will be measured through:

- Ensuring timely adoption of the LDP once Inspector's Report received - by December 2022
- Monitoring overall Plan performance via the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and submit to Welsh Government - by March 2023
- Maintaining and updating the LDP Housing Trajectory in line with planning decisions made - by March 2023

- Making decisions at Planning Committee in line with the adopted LDP - by March 2023
- Referencing the LDP growth strategy in early work on a North Wales Strategic Development Plan (SDP) - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Adopt a robust development plan that contains a framework of policies and proposals which seek to regulate and control the development and use of land, and to provide the basis for consistent and transparent decision making on individual planning applications

National Policy Issues:

- **Local Development Plan** - Examinations and test of soundness

What we mean by:

- **Local Development Plan** - A plan that will focus on delivering sustainable development in the County for a 15 year period 2015 to 2030 and will include:
  - policies which will guide decisions on planning applications
  - proposals for the development of housing, retail, employment and other land uses
  - policies which seek the protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment

Theme: Economy

Priority
Spending money for the benefit of Flintshire

Definition
Grow our local economic vitality through social value commitments and procurement strategy

Achievement will be measured through:

- Continuing to generate social value outcomes through the Council's procurement activities - by March 2023
- Supporting supply chain partners to measure and convert their social value offerings through procurement commitments, into real and tangible benefits for local residents and communities - by March 2023

- Reviewing the Social Value Strategy to identify further opportunities to maximise social value across the Council, its services and expenditure - by March 2023
- Generating local spend to support economic growth through the inclusion of social value measures in procurement activity - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Ensure that we maximise the benefits to Flintshire residents through the contractual process with those that supply goods, works and services to the Council
- Support and advise local businesses to increase their understanding of the procurement process with regards to the requirement for social value, and increase their ability to enter into the tender process

What we mean by:

- **Social Value** - Social value is a board term used to describe the social, economic, environmental and cultural impact of our collective decision making and business operations

National Policy Issues:

- The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015
- Welsh Language Act
- Equality Act
- Social Partnerships Bill

Theme: Economy

Priority
Reducing worklessness

Definition
Work with our partners to support individuals to gain employment

Achievement will be measured through:

- Co-ordinating a multi-agency approach to support businesses to recruit people from disadvantaged groups - by March 2023 Linked to Poverty

- Delivering mentoring and wider support programmes to assist disadvantaged people to re-engage with the labour market - by March 2023 Linked to Poverty

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Provide support to access employment and training

National Policy Issues:

- Working Wales

What we mean by:

- **Disadvantaged Groups** - Those that for various reasons face challenges to entering the workforce or accessing training opportunities

Theme: Personal and Community Well-being

Wellbeing Objective: Supporting people in need to live as well as they can

Priority
Independent Living

Definition
People will be supported to live as independently as possible through the right type of support, when they need it

Achievement will be measured through:

- Developing a plan to provide additional placements for step down care within our in-house provision - by March 2023
- Continuing to grow the Microcare market, utilising one Development Officer post - by March 2023
- Developing an Early Years Strategy to ensure that all our children ages 0-7 have the best possible start in life and are able to reach their full potential - by March 2023
- Plan for the relocation of Tri Ffordd supported employment project to a central site in Mold by March 2023

- Supporting people to achieve their mental well-being outcomes by promoting personal and community well-being through open access courses delivered by the Learning Partnership - by March 2023
- Working in partnership with the Community Mental Health Team and Social Services Mental Health Support Service to develop clear pathways for individuals needing access to Mental Health services:
  - Clear pathways established - by 31 March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Ensure that people have choice and control over how they receive their support

National Policy Issues:

- Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 places a duty on the local authority to promote well-being and empower people to direct their own solutions
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies to think about the long-term impact of their decision to prevent persistent problems such as health inequality, poverty and climate change

What we mean by:

- **Early Years Pathfinder** - Joined up and responsive Early Years' services to ensure every child has the best start in life. Children should be at the centre of excellent, integrated services that put their needs first, regardless of traditional organisational and professional structures
- **Micro Care** - Care providers with a small number of staff offering a local, personal service

Theme: Personal and Community Well-being

Priority
Safeguarding

Definition
Implement and promote the new safeguarding procedures so our employees understand how they can help safeguard people in the community

Achievement will be measured through:

- Continuing to promote the corporate e-learning package - by March 2023
- Preparing for the implantation of the new Liberty Protect Safeguard procedures - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Promote an understanding throughout the Council that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

National Policy Issues:

- Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 places a duty on all local authority employees, elected members and relevant partners to report any actual or suspected incidents of abuse or harm

What we mean by:

- **Active offer** - The requirement to provide information on independent advocacy services
- **Duty to report** - If a partner has reasonable cause to suspect that a person is at risk it must inform the local authority of that fact. The decision to act does not require actual abuse or neglect to have taken place. The aim is to protect people who need it and to help them to prevent abuse or neglect

Theme: Personal and Community Well-being

Priority
Direct Provision to support people closer to home

Definition
The services we provide so people can access the support they need in their local community

Achievement will be measured through:

- Setting up a registered Children's Home to help avoid the need for residential placements outside Flintshire - by March 2023

- Continuing to grow our in-house homecare service to support more people to live at home - by March 2023

- Continuing to grow our in-house fostering service to support more looked after children - by March 2023

- Developing an action plan for the progression of the advocacy priority - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Increase our local provision to ensure that individuals can access services close to home

National Policy Issues:

- Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 places a duty on the local authority to put the individual and their needs, at the centre of their care, and giving them a voice in, and control overreaching the outcomes that help them achieve well-being

What we mean by:

- **Home care** - Care services delivered to an individual at home

- **Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014** - Recognises that individual's outcomes should be at the centre of the care they need and that services are developed to support those outcomes

Theme: Personal and Community Well-being

Priority
Local Dementia Strategy

Definition
Continuing to improve the lives of people living with dementia in Flintshire

Achievement will be measured through:

- Establishing a Dementia Strategy Implementation Group, to include representation from people with lived experience - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Support people who are living with dementia

National Policy Issues:

- Dementia Action Plan for Wales 2018 to 2022

What we mean by:

- **Flintshire Dementia Strategy** - A plan to deliver national policy locally in support of people living with dementia

Theme: Personal and Community Well-being

Priority
A well-connected, safe and clean local environment

Definition
Resilient communities where people feel connected and safe

Achievement will be measured through:

- Protecting residents and our environment from pollution and other public health and safety hazards by achieving the Streetscene Standard - by March 2023

- Working in partnership, actively support and engage with community led groups by developing Local Environmental Quality initiatives - by March 2023 Linked to Green Society and Environment

- Working with two local communities to inform a long term vision and delivery plan for using the Flexible Funding Grant programme to achieve positive outcomes for people - by March 2023

- Contributing to Public Health Wales' priorities through partnership working with Aura by:
  - Improving mental well-being and resilience - by March 2023
  - Promoting healthy behaviours - by March 2023
  - Securing a healthy future for the next generation- by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Maintain a safe and accessible highway network
- Provide quality parking provision for town centres and ensure availability through appropriate short / long stay provision
- Safeguard the environment from illegal activities of waste deposit

- Maintain a standard of service delivery within the Streetscene and Transportation Portfolio
- Protect Public Health of residents within Flintshire

National Policy Issues:

- Flexible Funding Programme Wales
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies to think about the long-term impact of their decision to prevent persistent problems such as health inequality, poverty and climate change

- Changes in legislation that permits local authorities to undertake more enforcement activities
- Financial pressures and WG grant support
- Delivering national strategy and improvement to Local Environmental Quality (LEQ)

What we mean by:

- **Enforcement Service** - Provision of an integrated enforcement team to address a parking contraventions and environmental crime such as fly tipping, littering and dog fouling

- **Flexible Funding Programme** -The approach developed by WG that enables local authorites to adopt a more strategic way of delivering early intervention, prevention and support services

- **Local Environmental Qualit**y - Covers aspects such as litter, graffiti, abandoned vehicles and fly-posting. These have an effect on quality of life and, if left controlled, can lead to more serious crime

- **Parking Provision** - Accessible and available car parking spaces

- **Streetscene Standards** - A set of Standards detailing minimum performance standards

- **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** - The legislation allows local authorities to develop strategies that support the future generations of Wales, in particular addressing issues around poverty, health inequalities and initiative to prevent climate change

Theme: Education and Skills

Wellbeing Objective: Enabling and Supporting Learning Communities

Priority
Educational Engagement and Achievement

Definition
Providing diverse learning opportunities to support educational achievement in schools and communities

Achievement will be measured through:

- Maintaining support for the rollout of the revised curriculum for pupils from 3-16 which better prepares them for their future lives and employment - by March 2023
- School employees continuing to access the GwE professional learning offer and engage in cluster working - by March 20023

- Embedding the revised processes and procedures in relation to attendance and exclusion, using data to better inform and target interventions at both a pupil and school level - by March 2023
- Working with schools to support development and implementation of flexible and bespoke educational packages to improve attendance and engagement - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- To ensure young people achieve their potential
- Increase the resilience of children and young people in schools and their communities to stay safe and healthy
- Support learners from 3-18 years of age to aspire to high levels of education attainment and achievement
- Meet statutory duties under national education policy change for a revised national curriculum
- Support learners involved in or at risk of entering the youth justice service to access and increase attendance education in order to reach their potential

National Policy Issues:

- Curriculum Reform

What we mean by:

- **Alternative Education Opportunities** - Education provision delivered by a range of external providers other than the school, e.g., vocational courses delivered via local further education colleges

- **Curriculum Reform** - A new curriculum for schools and funded non-maintained settings (such as sessional day care settings like play groups and cylchoedd meithrin or private day nurseries registered to deliver education) in Wales from September 2022

- **Local Youth Justice Plan** - Required by Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Theme: Education and Skills

Priority
Digital Learning Opportunities

Definition
Supporting education engagement and achievement through proactive use of accessible digital media

Achievement will be measured through:

- Supporting schools and wider education services to increase their digital offer for children and young people - by March 2023

- Upskilling employees within the Education and Youth Portfolio through access to the GwE professional learning offer and other appropriate training opportunities - by March 2023

- Embedding the delivery plan for Integrated Youth Services by maintaining focus on increased digital engagement - by March 2023

- Continuing to increase the range of digital material hosted on the North East Wales Archive website and other digital services to encourage greater participation - by March 2023

- Continuing to monitor schools' provision for learners who are 'digitally disadvantaged' - by March 2023

- Supporting schools to maximise their available hardware via the national Hwb programme and to ensure sustainable funding plans in place - by March 2023

- Increasing take-up of digital learning opportunities supported by Aura - by March 2023 Linked to Poverty

- Providing community training for online learning platforms in a partnership with Aura and Adult Community Learning - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Support schools and learners with embedding the Digital Competence Framework as part of preparation for the implementation of the new curriculum Wales in 2022

- Embed the requirements of the Digital 2030 Framework within adult community learning provision across the county

National Policy Issues:

- Digital Strategy for Wales

- Curriculum Wales 2022

- Digital Competence Framework for schools

- Digital 2030 Framework for post 16 learning

What we mean by:

- **The Digital Competence Framework (DCF)** - This sets out how digital competence is integrated across the curriculum, crucially giving digital the same emphasis as literacy and numeracy

- **The Digital 2030 Framework** - Sets out the digital support required for the whole learner journey, recognising that the combined elements of leadership, business processes, security, and infrastructure need to be in place for effective digital delivery

Theme: Education and Skills

Priority
Learning Environments

Definition
Creating aspirational and flexible learning environments

Achievement will be measured through:

- Starting construction of the proposed 3-16 campus at Mynydd Isa - by March 2023
- Consult on increasing capacity of Drury CP and Penyffordd CP schools through the School Organisation Code - by March 2023
- Commissioning a contractor and start design and development process for Drury CP and Penyffordd CP - by March 2023

- Seeking Council approval to progress B and B Wales Government 21st Century Schools Investment Programme - by March 2023
- Progressing the development of a new premises plan for the North East Wales Archive - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Continued delivery of the long-term strategy for capital investment in school buildings and in provision for vulnerable learners to improve the quality of school buildings, whilst promoting sustainability and reducing the identified backlog maintenance
- Deliver a resilient, cost-effective Archive Service

National Policy Issues:

- Wales Government funding for 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme

What we mean by:

- **21st Century Schools** - This is more than a building programme. It is a long-term strategic investment in our educational estate throughout Wales. It is a unique collaboration between Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), local authorities, colleges and dioceses

Theme: Education and Skills

Priority
Learning Community Networks

Definition
Supporting our learning communities to engage and achieve through extensive partnership working unpinned by common safeguarding practices

Achievement will be measured through:

- Continuing to consolidate the joint working between Flintshire County Council and Denbighshire County Council through the Northeast Wales Archive to provide a sustainable and resilient service - by March 2023
- Developing the Delivery Plan for Adult Community Learning to increase engagement and improve skills within local communities - by March 2023
- Developing a Supporting Learners strategy to increase levels of engagement and provide appropriate progression routes to further engagement, study or employment – by March 2023
- Expanding the adult learning offer to reflect national, regional and local priorities in order to provide the skills required through partnership planning - by March 2023

- Working with Adult Community Learning and Flintshire Learning Recovery and Wellbeing Network Partners to share best practice and maximise opportunities for learning within the community with opportunities to be available in all Aura libraries - by March 2023
- Working in partnership with Open University Wales to support and signpost library users to Open Learn courses and subsequent learning pathways with Open Learn Champions in each library - by March 2023
- Working in partnership with Aura to provide Alternative Provision to young people excluded from school to help gain meaningful qualifications - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Ensure the increased funding is used for provision of courses that help adult learners to develop skills and improve their health and wellbeing
- Embed the newly established Adult Learning Partnership between Flintshire and Wrexham

National Policy Issues:

- Adult Learning in Wales Policy
- Welsh Government's agenda for tackling poverty and its wellbeing agenda set out in the Well Being of Future Generations Act (Wales) (2015), particularly in meeting the needs of older learners

What we mean by:

- **Adult Learning** - Provision delivered by local authorities and funded by the Welsh Government for community learning for adults over the age of 19 in Wales

Theme: Education and Skills

Priority
Specialist Educational Provision

Definition
Extending local capacity to support learners with additional learning needs (ALN)

Achievement will be measured through:

- Implementing Year two of the Transformation plan for children and young people with additional learning needs, in line with Welsh Government legislation and associated guidance - by March 2023
- Further defining and embedding the menu of outreach support and training to be offered to schools via Plas Derwen Pupil Referral Unit - by March 2023

- Developing a strategic proposal for the next phase of the Additional Learning Needs provision which increases the level of in-house provision and seeks to reduce the reliance on out of county provision - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:

- Develop our specialist provision to meet learner needs as effectively and efficiently as possible
- Meet statutory duties under national legislative change to support children/ young people with Additional Learning Needs

National Policy Issues:

- Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018

What we mean by:

- **Pupil Referral Unit** - An alternative education provision which is specifically organised to provide education for children who aren't able to attend school and may not otherwise receive suitable education

Theme: Education and Skills

Priority
Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

Definition
Working with schools and partners to support the Welsh Government's strategy to enable one million Welsh speakers by 2050

Achievement will be measured through:

- Continuing to increase the capacity and take up of Welsh medium education to achieve Welsh Government targets - by March 2023
- Continue to improve the Welsh language skills of employees in schools to more effectively support learners and the delivery of the curriculum - by March 2023
- Providing targeted support and intervention to schools to raise standards and promote bilingualism - by March 2023

- Extending the range of youth services delivered bilingually to encourage young people to retain and use their Welsh language skills into early adulthood - by March 2023
- Embedding the role of the Integrated Youth Provision Welsh language coordinator - by March 2023
- Ensuring all digital and face to face youth and play provision has an increasing bilingual offer which supports the expansion of the Council's Welsh Language immersion programme - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because we need to:
- Work with the new WESP regulations (2019)
- Develop and start to implement our next Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESP) which will be delivered over the next 10 years (2022 -2032)

National Policy Issues:
- Cymraeg 2050: our strategy for A million Welsh speakers
- Provisions on the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESP) in the school
- Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 ('the Act') and regulations made under it

What we mean by:

- **Cymraeg 2050** - A million Welsh speakers is focused on increasing the number of Welsh speakers, increasing the use of Welsh and creating favourable conditions -infrastructure and context

- **Welsh in Education Strategic Plan** - How we as a local authority propose to carry out our education functions to:

  - i. Improve the planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh ("Welsh-medium education") in Flintshire
  - ii. Improve the standards of Welsh-medium education and of the teaching of Welsh in Flintshire

Theme: Education and Skills

Priority
Well-Being

Definition
Working with schools and partners to provide opportunities for children, young people and the education workforce to engage in activities which support their emotional health and well-being

Achievement will be measured through:

- Rolling out the National Framework for Embedding a Whole School Approach to Emotional Health and Wellbeing in all Flintshire schools - by March 2023

- Supporting all secondary schools to complete the School Health Research Network survey in 2022
  - Developing action plans based on the findings, particularly in relation to Emotional Health and Wellbeing - by March 2023

- Meeting the requirements under Wellbeing Whole School Approach Development Fund for employee training and pupil engagement - by March 2023

- Consolidating the Inspire Youth Work Hospital Project which provides support to young people at risk of self-harming behaviour - by March 2023

- Improving awareness of trauma informed practice with schools and Education and Youth employees - by March 2023

These are priorities this year because:

- Support for emotional health and wellbeing in schools is a national priority

National Policy Issues:

- National Framework for Embedding a Whole School Approach to Emotional Health and Wellbeing

What we mean by:

- **Inspire Youth Hospital Project** - Offers holistic support for young people aged 11-18 who engage in self-harming behaviour with the aim of reducing readmission rates to hospital for self-harming behaviours

- **School Health Research Network Survey** - A network of secondary schools in Wales who have joined together with researchers, the Welsh Government and other organisations to support young people's health. The aim of the School Health Research Network is to improve health and wellbeing. The network helps schools in Wales work with researchers to generate and use good quality evidence about health improvement

- **Whole School Approach Development Fund** - A national framework and supporting resources for schools to embed their own whole school approaches to wellbeing. The framework will support schools in reviewing their own wellbeing landscape and in developing plans to address their weaknesses and build on their strengths. It sets out the role of Welsh Government, LAs, Consortia, the NHS and others, such as the third sector in supporting schools

Statement of Responsibility

Ongoing review about the Council's priorities and this plan is available through our website where feedback forms are available for the public, our partners, our workforce and businesses. We would like to know what you think about our priorities and those for the future. We would value your feedback and hope that you can spend a few minutes to tell us what you think.

In the meantime, our contact for any initial observations are:

Performance and Risk Management Team:
Email: **PRM@flintshire.gov.uk**