

Bank Balances and Accounts for Payment -**March 2024**

Bank Balances	Current	£8,514.70
	Deposit	£185,293.99
	Play Area	£8,514.70

Payments Received

04/03/2024 HSBC	Interest	£892.83
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Bank Transfers**Unpresented Cheques/Payments**

Payment Method	Payee	Details	Amount
Bacs	Planning Aid Wales	Training - P Ransome	£50.00
Bacs	Mr G Davies	Expenses	£49.99
Bacs	Mr C Jones	Mileage and Expenses	£9.00
Bacs	Mrs S Hughes	Mileage and Expenses	£49.47
Bacs	Staffing Cost	Feb-24	£3,771.36
Bacs	Alasdair Ibbotson	Members Allowance	£208.00
Bacs	WoodsWork CIC	Nature Area Management	£340.00
Bacs	One Voice Wales	Training - G Nethercott	£38.00
	HSBC	Monthly Charge	£5.00
			£4,520.82
PLAY AREA ACCOUNT			
Payment Method	Payee	Details	Amount
Bacs	Jones Brothers Leeswood Ltd	Rubber matting on skate ramps - Millstone	£1,044.00
	HSBC	Monthly Charge	£5.00
			£1,049.00

Note:

Chairman of Council:

Vice Chairman of Council:

Clerk & RFO:

Date:

Payments Authorised by two Bank Signatories

Bank Signatory:

Bank Signatory:



Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

Annual Report

February 2024

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Foreword

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, setting the decisions and determinations on pay, expenses, and benefits for elected members of Principal Councils, Community and Town Councils, National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities for implementation from April 2024.

This has been a year of change for the Panel, with one longstanding member leaving us and the appointment of two new members. I would like to thank Helen Wilkinson for her contribution over the years to the Panel and wish her well for the future.

Earlier last year we were able to appoint two new members to bring our current complement up to five. I welcome Dianne Bevan and Kate Watkins to the Panel and thank Saz Willey, Vice Chair, and Bev Smith for their continued contribution throughout the year. You can find out more about our Panel members on our [website](#).

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, Part 8 (The Measure), which gives the statutory authority for the Panel's work, allows the appointment of a minimum of 3 and up to 7 members.



Frances Duffy
Chair

Detailed information about the members, our Strategic Plan, our deliberations and supporting research and evidence can be found on the [Panel's website](#).

Executive Summary

Last year we published our first Strategic Plan. This covers the period from 2023 until 2025 and sets the framework for our deliberations and wider context for our decisions. The key elements are set out below under Roles and Responsibilities of the Panel.

With a strengthened Panel, we were able to focus on building our research and evidence plan to support our discussions on our remuneration framework. Our evidence plan is available on our [website](#) in line with our aim to be open and transparent in all our decision making.

Our goal continues to be to ensure that levels of remuneration are fair and reasonable. We agreed to continue to align levels of remuneration for elected members of Principal Councils, National Park and Fire and Rescue Authorities within the context of average Welsh earnings. This has meant using the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings within Wales (ASHE) published by Office for National Statistics (ONS) as the main benchmark for setting remuneration.

The Measure states that “the Panel must take into account what it considers will be the likely financial impact on relevant authorities” of its decisions. The Panel considered evidence on public sector finances and the impact on Principal Authorities’ budgets. Whilst the total cost of remuneration for elected members is relatively low in terms of overall budgets, the Panel were mindful of the heightened economic and fiscal strain on Principal Councils.

In reaching our decision to continue the link between the remuneration of elected members of Principal Councils, National Parks Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities and the average earnings of their constituents (ASHE), the Panel remain of the view that a fair and reasonable remuneration package will continue to support elected members and not act as a barrier to participation. This is an important principle, underpinning our considerations on appropriate remuneration. This was widely supported in both our engagement meetings and the consultation feedback.

In line with our commitment to simplifying reporting and compliance, the Panel this year looked at the reporting requirements for Community and Town Councils. Currently each Community and Town Council must report annually to the Panel, and publish on its website, the details, and names of each councillor in receipt of any expenses. In previous years we agreed that in respect of costs of care and personal assistance allowances, it would be inappropriate to name individual councillors, and that it would be sufficient to simply list the total amounts paid and the total number of recipients.

The Panel feels that it would be appropriate to extend this to the mandatory payment for working from home, the flat rate consumables allowance and travel and subsistence claims. This will give the right balance between public accountability and individual privacy, and we hope will encourage all to accept the payments they are entitled to. This was positively received during our consultation and engagement.

We will provide a new template report for use from September 2024 and will continue to monitor the level of payments made.

We continue to receive queries regarding the PAYE treatment of the mandatory allowance for working from home (£156 per annum) and the option of a flat rate of £52 a year for consumables. We are updating our guidance on this issue which should help give clarity to local clerks.

We are also mindful of a continuing, albeit reducing, number of Community and Town councillors who decide to forego all or part of their entitlement. We strongly believe that councillors should be reimbursed for expenses they necessarily incur whilst carrying out their duties or receive a contribution to help defray these costs. We reiterate that the basic payments are mandatory and should be made available to all councillors who are entitled to receive them. Any decision to forego these payments must be a personal and individual choice.

The final area that the Panel considered, was the method of calculating payments made to co opted members of Principal Councils, National Park and Fire and Rescue Authorities.

Following feedback on last year's Annual Report and queries raised through the year by some co opted members and by several Heads of Democratic Services, the Panel took evidence from the correspondents on the impact of both the increase in numbers of co opted members and the changing nature of working patterns. This showed that the current arrangement of either a half day rate for anything up to 4 hours and a full day rate for anything over, was insufficiently flexible to reflect the patterns of working now more normally in place, mainly due to more online or hybrid working.

In our draft Report, the Panel proposed that the relevant local officer should have the flexibility to decide when it will be appropriate to apply a day or a half day rate and when to use an hourly rate where it is sensible to aggregate a number of short meetings. There was quite a wide range of views on this during our engagement meetings, but the overall feedback is that this change would be supported. **Therefore, the Panel agreed that this flexibility should be given and that decisions on whether an hourly or daily rate might be appropriate are to be made locally.**

Finally, the Panel is aware of feedback that our website can be difficult to navigate and that finding the right Determination to deal with a specific issue is not always straightforward, especially for newly elected members or officials. We have therefore updated the links on our website and created a new link to a page setting out all the current Determinations that should be applied. It will be updated every year when the Final Annual Report is issued, and we hope this will be easier to navigate than having to refer to every year's Report.

This is supported in our newly updated [Guidance](#) (previously called the Regulations).

Role and responsibilities of the Panel

Our Role:

The Panel is responsible for setting the levels and arrangements for the remuneration of elected and coopted members of the following organisations:

- Principal Councils – County and County Borough Councils
- Community and Town Councils
- National Park Authorities
- Fire and Rescue Authorities
- Joint Overview Scrutiny Committees
- Corporate Joint Committees.

The Panel is an independent organisation and the organisations listed above are required, by law, to implement the decisions it makes.

We make determinations on:

- The salary structure within which members are remunerated
- The type and nature of allowances to be paid to members
- Whether payments are mandatory or allow a level of local flexibility
- Arrangements in respect of family absence
- Arrangements for monitoring compliance with the Panel's decisions

Our Aim:

- Supporting local democracy and giving communities their voice, through setting up an appropriate and fair remuneration framework, which encourages inclusion and participation.

Our Goals:

- Our Determinations should ensure that levels of remuneration are fair, reasonable, represent value for money for the taxpayer, and are set within the context of Welsh earnings and the wider financial circumstances of Wales.
- Our Determinations should support elected members from a diverse range of backgrounds, and levels of remuneration should not act as a barrier to participation.

Our Strategic Objectives:

- To make evidence based Determinations
- To use clear and accessible communications
- To proactively engage and consult
- To simplify compliance and reporting
- To work collaboratively

The Panel:

Frances Duffy (Chair)
Saz Willey (Vice Chair)
Dianne Bevan (Member)
Bev Smith (Member)
Kate Watkins (Member)

Further information on Panel members can be found on the [Panel's website](#).

Methodology

Deliberations and Determinations for 2024 to 2025

As set out in our strategic objectives the Panel has committed to making evidence based decisions.

This year we prepared an evidence and research paper to pull together the various sources of information that the Panel considered in making its Determinations. This provided a wide range of data, evidence, and contextual factors to inform the Panel's decision-making process in relation to its Determinations for the 2024 to 2025 financial year. This included:

- Data on average UK and Wales weekly earnings, including ASHE (Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings)
- Annual Consumer Price Index Housing (CPIH) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rates Benchmarks, including councillor remuneration in Scotland
- Research on councillor workload, views and attitudes to remuneration and diversity (Welsh Government)
- Findings of Senedd Cymru Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee (2019)
- Data collected on the take up of remuneration and benefits packages by councillors
- Data on local authority finances

The full set of evidence and research considered, is available on our [website](#).

In line with our updated Communications and Engagement Strategy, the Panel held a number of discussions with key stakeholders which provided an opportunity for the Panel to explore views about existing arrangements, the impact decisions are having on individuals, how the arrangements are operating in practice and any issues or concerns individuals wish to raise. It also provides an opportunity for discussion about emerging situations which the Panel may need to consider in respect of its decision making.

The Panel engaged directly with key stakeholder representative groups including the Welsh Local Government Association, Principal Council Leaders Group, Heads of Democratic Services committee, One Voice Wales, Society for Local Council Clerks and North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils. The Panel also held an online seminar in November for Community and Town councillors and local Clerks. This was well attended, and we received good feedback on our work. In particular, the Panel noted the question of remuneration for Youth Representatives and agreed to review this in the future.

This year the Panel focused on three main issues – affordability, payments made to co opted members and reporting requirements for Community and Town Councils. The Panel would like to thank all those that contributed to our deliberations either directly or through feedback and Responses to the consultation on our Draft Report.

Consultation: Summary of responses

The Panel produced and issued a draft report on Friday 13 October 2023 for an eight week consultation, which closed on Friday 8th December 2023. The consultation period was extended to Wednesday 20 December 2023, to allow more time for all respondents to submit feedback.

In addition, as part of the consultation process, stakeholders were invited to answer six questions using an online survey or by return email. A total of 44 responses were received online, whilst 12 were submitted by email to the IRP Mailbox. The Panel engaged in a number of stakeholder meetings during the consultation period to gather important feedback. The Panel would like to thank everyone who contributed to the consultation. A summary of responses is included in the report below.

The website link and Pdf version of the draft report was sent to:

- One Voice Wales
- Welsh Local Government Association
- Society for Local Council Clerks
- Principal Councils
- Fire and Rescue Authorities
- National Parks Authorities and
- Community and Town Councils

Determination 1: Basic salary for elected members of principal councils

Determination 2: Salaries paid to Senior, Civic and Presiding members of principal councils

Determination 3: Salaries for Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Determination 4: Payments to national parks authorities and fire and rescue authorities

Determination 7: Compensation for financial loss

No comments/responses were received directly, in respect of the above Determinations. However, during our engagement sessions, the Panel heard concerns about lack of payments to Youth Representatives on Community and Town Councils and disappointment that the Panel had not raised the remuneration levels for co opted members on National Parks Authorities. These are issues that the Panel may consider in future Reports.

Determination 5: Payments made to co opted members of Principal Councils, National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities

There were only a small number of responses regarding this proposal; One response agreed with the proposal in respect of changing working practices and supporting the introduction of an hourly rate and another recommended that guidance issued in respect of the hourly payment is clear as to when it should be applied.

Another strongly supported the principle of authorities being able to be flexible to suit their own requirements.

Determination 6: Community and Town Councils Mandatory payments

Payment for extra costs of working from home and Set payment for consumables

Two Community Councils requested that the proposal to make the £156 payment to Councillors mandatory be changed to allow Councillors to opt out of the payment as in previous years.

Two Community councils fully supports inclusivity and appreciates that the payment may assist elected members but feels very strongly that it should not be mandatory.

The Panel reaffirms individuals are able to opt out of receiving mandatory payments. Any opt outs should be declared in writing.

Determination 8: Reporting requirements

It was agreed that the reporting of the mandatory payment for working from home, the flat rate consumables allowance and travel and subsistence claims as global sums, rather than individual listings, gives the right balance between public accountability and individual privacy.

In addition, as part of the consultation process, stakeholders were invited to answer six questions via an online survey or by return email. A total of 44 responses were received online, whilst 12 were submitted by email to the IRP Mailbox. The Panel attended stakeholder engagement meetings during the consultation process to gather and receive feedback.

Summary of responses to online questionnaire

Question 1

Uplift of remuneration using the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

The Panel is fully aware of the current constraints on public funding and the impact its decisions will have on the budgets of Principal Authorities. The Panel is also mindful of our Aims and Objectives to provide a fair and reasonable remuneration package to support elected members and to encourage diversity of representation. We therefore propose to uplift their remuneration based on the average earnings of their constituents.

Do you think that the Panel has struck the right balance between affordability and adequate remuneration for representatives? If not, do you have other suggestions?

Responses

55% of those who answered this question agreed that the Panel have struck the right balance between affordability and adequate remuneration for representatives. 21% did not agree whilst 19% had no opinion on this question.

Some respondents highlighted that it was important to attract a diverse range of candidates to stand for election and that more needed to be done to increase diversity.

Another proposed that the report showed the recommended increase as a percentage uplift, similar to pay awards, so that the public understood in terms of transparency.

Question 2

Local flexibility for payments to co opted individuals

The Panel has received evidence that it would be more cost effective and fairer to provide for flexibility in paying those who are co opted to serve on committees of principle councils, National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities.

The Panel has therefore proposed there should be flexibility for the relevant local officer to decide when it will be appropriate to apply a day or half day rate or to use an hourly rate where it is sensible to aggregate a few short meetings.

Do you agree with this proposal? If not, do you have any suggested alternatives?

Responses

64% of those who answered this question agreed. 11% did not agree whilst 19% had no opinion. An hourly rate was thought to be more cost effective and would provide flexibility to attend shorter meetings with officers when needed. The principle of authorities being able to be flexible to suit their own requirements was strongly supported by one individual.

Question 3

Encouraging sustainable travel

The Panel would like to ensure that we support environmental sustainability in our decisions about remuneration. We are aware that there are schemes in many bodies in Wales which encourage sustainable travel and we have advised that, if possible, elected members should be encouraged to participate in these schemes.

Do you have any examples of good practice or other ideas of ways in which we might use our powers to encourage more sustainable travel among members?

Responses

Of those who responded to this question, 34% provided examples of good practice to encourage more sustainable travel. Holding online meetings would be useful in achieving environmental sustainability, however it was also proposed to hold meetings in person as well as online.

Other suggestions included the provision of public service timetables in council buildings can help in terms of encouraging alternatives to private car use and encouraging vehicle sharing between members who are attending the same meeting. An example provided was an authority having an area map that showed where each NPA member was located, to encourage car sharing.

Question 4

Awareness of the entitlements of representatives

The Panel has seen evidence of a lack of awareness amongst local elected members of the payments to which they are entitled. We would like to find out if this is a significant issue, and if so, we will aim to raise awareness further, targeted at areas where this may be a problem.

What steps does your council or authority take to make its members and co optees aware of their entitlements?

Responses

The comments stated that members are informed of their entitlements by email from the Clerk on appointment, included in a briefing pack that newly elected members receive and discussed at the time of budget preparation and at the annual general meeting.

However, we also received examples of there being a culture of members not claiming entitlements and some members being pressured into completing an opt out form. An individual may decline to receive part, or all, of the payments if they so wish. This must be done in writing and is an individual matter. A community or town council member wishing to decline payments must themselves write to their proper officer to do so. Each community and town council principal authority must ensure that it does not create a climate which prevents persons accessing any monies to which they are entitled that may support them to participate in local democracy.

Question 5

Publication of consolidated sums

Community and Town Councils are required to submit an annual statement of payments to the Panel by 30 September each year, and also publish this on their website. The Panel have provided a template return for clerks to use. The Panel have discussed and considered changing the requirements for Community and Town Councils when submitting their statement of payment returns. The Panel's aim is to simplify administration and encourage Councils to ensure all mandatory payments are made to individual members.

The Panel proposes that from September 2024, the returns need only show the total amounts paid in respect of the mandatory payments mentioned above. That is the £156 contribution to the costs of working from home, the £52 set rate consumables allowance and the travel and subsistence expenses paid.

This brings these in line with the reporting of the costs of care and personal assistance allowances.

*Do you agree that these figures may be published as a global total rather than individually?
What are the reasons for your view?*

Responses

There was overwhelming agreement to the proposal of the statement of payments being published as a global sum. 11% did not agree and 2% had no opinion on the question. Respondents agreed that publishing a global sum would be administratively easier and provides confidentiality of members. It also reducing any embarrassment should a member wish to claim. However, it was highlighted that Councillors should be seen to have received the payments, so that residents can see where the money has been spent.

Question 6

In future reports, we are thinking of allowing consolidation of the travel and subsistence expenses of members of principal councils, National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities and would be interested in your views.

*Do you agree that these figures may be published as a global total rather than individually?
What are the reasons for your view?*

Responses

Just under half of the respondents agreed that the payments for travel and subsistence should be published as a global sum. 13% did not agree and 28% had no opinion on the question. This proposal would help to avoid individual identification and or potential prejudice for those who need to claim. However, those who disagreed stated that a breakdown of all expenses allows transparency into councillor activity and allows resident scrutiny and transparency that all activities are justified.

Panel's determinations for 2024 to 2025

Following consideration of the views received in response to its consultation the Panel now makes its final determinations.

Basic salary for elected members of principal councils: Determination 1

The basic salary, paid to all elected members, is remuneration for the responsibility of community representation and participation in the scrutiny, regulatory and related functions of local governance. It is based on a full time equivalent of three days a week. The Panel regularly reviews this time commitment, and no changes are proposed for 2024 to 2025.

The Panel is fully aware of the current constraints on public funding and the impact its decisions will have on the budgets of Principal Authorities. The Panel is also mindful of our Aims and Objectives to provide a fair and reasonable remuneration package to support elected members and to encourage diversity of representation.

The Panel also noted that in previous electoral cycles, the remuneration of councillors fell far behind the key benchmark of Average Hourly Earnings in Wales (ASHE) and a significant uplift was therefore required in 2022.

The Panel has therefore determined that for the financial year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 it is right to retain the link between the basic salary of councillors and the average salaries of their constituents. **The basic salary will be aligned with three fifths of all Wales 2022 ASHE. This will be £18,666 as set out on Table 1.**

Salaries paid to Senior, Civic and Presiding members of principal councils: Determination 2

The limit on the number of senior salaries payable ("the cap") will remain in place.

All senior salaries include the basic salary payment. The different levels of additional responsibility of and between each role is recognised in a banded framework. No changes to banding are proposed this year.

The basic pay element will be uplifted in line with ASHE and this uplift will also apply to the role element of Bands 1, 2, 3 and 4. Where a Band 5 is paid, there is no increase to the role element as this remains temporarily frozen. The increase in the basic salary will apply.

The salary of a leader of the largest (Group A) council will therefore be £69,998. All other payments have been decided in reference to this and are set out on Table 1.

Group A

- Cardiff
- Rhondda Cynon Taf
- Swansea

Table 1 – Salaries payable to Basic, Senior, Civic and Presiding members of principal councils (Group A)

Description	Amount
Basic salary	£18,666
Band 1 leader	£69,998
Band 1 deputy leader	£48,999
Band 2 executive members	£41,999
Band 3 committee chairs (if paid)	£27,999
Band 4 Leader of the largest opposition group	£27,999
Band 5 Leader of other political groups (if paid) and deputy civic head	£22,406
Civic Head (if paid)	£27,999
Deputy Civic Head (if paid)	£22,406
Presiding member (if paid)	£27,999
Deputy Presiding Member (basic only)	£18,666

Group B

- Bridgend
- Caerphilly
- Carmarthenshire
- Conwy
- Flintshire
- Gwynedd
- Newport
- Neath Port Talbot
- Pembrokeshire
- Powys
- Vale of Glamorgan
- Wrexham

Table 1 – Salaries payable to Basic, Senior, Civic and Presiding members of principal councils (Group B)

Description	Remuneration
Basic salary	£18,666
Band 1 leader	£62,998
Band 1 deputy leader	£44,099
Band 2 executive members	£37,799
Band 3 committee chairs (if paid)	£27,999
Band 4 Leader of the largest opposition group	£27,999

Band 5 Leader of other political groups (if paid) and deputy civic head	£22,406
Civic Head (if paid)	£27,999
Deputy Civic Head (if paid)	£22,406
Presiding member (if paid)	£27,999
Deputy Presiding Member (basic only)	£18,666

Group C

- Blaenau Gwent
- Ceredigion
- Denbighshire
- Merthyr Tydfil
- Monmouthshire
- Torfaen
- Isle of Anglesey

Table 1 – Salaries payable to Basic, Senior, Civic and Presiding members of principal councils (Group C)

Description	Remuneration
Basic salary	£18,666
Band 1 leader	£59,498
Band 1 deputy leader	£41,649
Band 2 executive members	£35,699
Band 3 committee chairs (if paid)	£27,999
Band 4 Leader of the largest opposition group	£27,999
Band 5 Leader of other political groups (if paid) and deputy civic head	£22,406
Civic Head (if paid)	£27,999
Deputy Civic Head (if paid)	£22,406
Presiding member (if paid)	£27,999
Deputy Presiding Member (basic only)	£18,666

There are no further changes to the payments and benefits paid to elected members. All current Determinations are published on our [website](#).

Salaries for Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Determination 3

The salary of a chair of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue to be aligned to Band 3 and will be set at £9,333.

The salary of a vice chair is set at 50% of the Chair and will be £4,667.

There are no other changes.

Payments to National Parks Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities: Determination 4

The three national parks in Wales: Eryri (Snowdonia), Pembrokeshire Coast and Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons), were formed to protect spectacular landscapes and provide recreation opportunities for the public. National Park authorities comprise members who are either elected members nominated by the principal councils within the national park area or are members appointed by the Welsh Government through the Public Appointments process. Welsh Government appointed and council nominated members are treated equally in relation to remuneration.

The three fire and rescue services (FRAs) in Wales: Mid and West Wales, North Wales and South Wales were formed as part of Local Government reorganisation in 1996. FRAs comprise elected members who are nominated by the Principal Councils within each fire and rescue service area.

In line with the Panel's decision to increase the basic salary of elected members of principal councils, the remuneration level for ordinary members of both NPAs and FRAs is also increased in line with ASHE. The remuneration for Chairs will remain linked to a principal council Band 3 senior salary. Their role element will therefore increase accordingly. Deputy chairs, Committee chairs and other paid senior posts will remain linked to a Band 5. This means the role element of their pay will continue to be temporarily frozen. Full details of the levels of remuneration for members of NPAs and FRAs is set out on Table 2.

Table 2 – Payments to National Parks Authorities

National Parks Authorities	Amount
Basic salary for ordinary member	£5,265
Chair	£14,598
Deputy Chair (where appointed)	£9,005
Committee Chair or other senior post	£9,005

Table 2 – Payments to Fire and Rescue Authorities

Fire and rescue authorities	Amount
Basic salary for ordinary member	£2,632
Chair	£11,965
Deputy Chair (where appointed)	£6,372
Committee Chair or other senior post	£6,372

All current Determinations, including restrictions on receiving double allowances, are available on our [website](#). Other than the above increases, there are no changes proposed this year.

Payments made to co opted members of Principal Councils, National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities: Determination 5

The current Determination (made in the 2022 to 2023 Annual Report) states that co opted members of the relevant bodies should be remunerated on a day or half day basis. In addition, the relevant officer may decide on the total number of days remunerated in a year and set a reasonable time for meeting preparation.

The Panel has noted the changes to working practices, put in place during Covid and now becoming more routine, that has meant a move towards more frequent use of online meetings and or training courses, often short, as well as more regular committee meetings. The panel also received feedback from Heads of Democratic Services raising this issue.

The Panel considered moving to an hourly rate instead. This would better reflect new ways of working and hours actually worked. However, the Panel recognised that this may not always be appropriate, especially to cover in person meetings scheduled to last several hours.

The Panel therefore determines there should be local flexibility for the relevant officer to decide when it will be appropriate to apply a day or a half day rate or to use an hourly rate where it is sensible to aggregate a number of short meetings. The Panel will also provide guidance of good practice examples. The amounts are set out in Table 3.

Table 3: Payments made to co-opted members of Principal Councils, National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities

	Hourly rate payment	Up to 4 hours payment rate	4 hours and over payment rate
Chairs of standards, and audit committees	£33.50	£134	£268
Ordinary Members of Standards Committees who also chair Standards Committees for Community and Town Councils	£29.75	£119	£238
Ordinary Members of Standards Committees; Education Scrutiny Committee; Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee and Audit Committee	£26.25	£105	£210

Community and Town Councils

The Panel continues to mandate payments for the extra costs of working from home and payments for office consumables. There is no change to the Determination made last year.

Mandatory Payments: Determination 6

Payment for extra costs of working from home

All councils must pay their members £156 a year (equivalent to £3 a week) towards the extra household expenses (including heating, lighting, power, and broadband) of working from home.

Set payment for consumables

Councils must either pay their members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role, or alternatively councils must enable members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables.

It is a matter for each council to make and record a policy decision in respect of when and how the payments are made and whether they are paid monthly, yearly, or otherwise. The policy should also state whether and how to recover any payments made to a member who leaves or changes their role during the financial year.

Compensation for Financial Loss; Determination 7

Compensation for financial loss is an optional payment. The amount for financial loss was not increased last year. Previously, the Panel determined that an appropriate level of payment should be set at the daily rate of ASHE. To maintain this link, the figures for 2024 are now set at £119.62 for a full day and £59.81 for a half day.

Reporting Requirements; Determination 8

Community and Town Councils are required to submit an annual statement of payments to the Panel by the 30 September each year, and also publish this on their website. The Panel have provided a template return for clerks to use.

The Panel have discussed and considered changing the requirements for Community and Town Councils when submitting their statement of payment returns. The Panel's aim is to simplify administration and encourage Councils to ensure all mandatory payments are made to individual members.

The Panel proposes that from September 2024, the returns need only show the total amounts paid in respect of the mandatory payments mentioned above. That is the £156 contribution to the costs of working from home and the £52 set rate consumables allowance and the travel and subsistence expenses paid.

This brings these in line with the reporting of the costs of care and personal assistance allowances.

Payments to Community and Town Councils

Type of Payment	Group	Requirement
Extra costs payment	1 (Electorate over 14,000)	Mandatory for all members
Senior role	1 (Electorate over 14,000)	Mandatory £500 for 1 member; optional for up to 7
Mayor or chair	1 (Electorate over 14,000)	Optional: up to a maximum of £1,500
Deputy mayor or deputy chair	1 (Electorate over 14,000)	Optional: up to a maximum of £500
Attendance allowance	1 (Electorate over 14,000)	Optional
Financial loss	1 (Electorate over 14,000)	Optional
Travel and subsistence	1 (Electorate over 14,000)	Optional
Costs of care or personal assistance	1 (Electorate over 14,000)	Mandatory
Extra costs payment	2 (Electorate over 10,000 to 13,999)	Mandatory for all members
Senior role	2 (Electorate over 10,000 to 13,999)	Mandatory for 1 member; optional up to 5
Mayor or chair	2 (Electorate over 10,000 to 13,999)	Optional: up to a maximum of £1,500
Deputy mayor or deputy chair	2 (Electorate over 10,000 to 13,999)	Optional: up to a maximum of £500
Attendance allowance	2 (Electorate over 10,000 to 13,999)	Optional
Financial loss	2 (Electorate over 10,000 to 13,999)	Optional
Travel and subsistence	2 (Electorate over 10,000 to 13,999)	Optional
Costs of care or personal assistance	2 (Electorate over 10,000 to 13,999)	Mandatory
Extra costs payment	3 (Electorate over 5,000 to 9,999)	Mandatory for all members
Senior role	3 (Electorate over 5,000 to 9,999)	Optional up to 3 members
Mayor or chair	3 (Electorate over 5,000 to 9,999)	Optional - Up to a maximum of £1,500
Deputy mayor or deputy chair	3 (Electorate over 5,000 to 9,999)	Optional - Up to a maximum of £500
Attendance allowance	3 (Electorate over 5,000 to 9,999)	Optional
Financial loss	3 (Electorate over 5,000 to 9,999)	Optional
Travel and subsistence	3 (Electorate over 5,000 to 9,999)	Optional
Costs of care or personal assistance	3 (Electorate over 5,000 to 9,999)	Mandatory
Extra Costs Payment	4 (Electorate over 1,000 to 4,999)	Mandatory for all members

Senior Role	4 (Electorate over 1,000 to 4,999)	Optional up to 3 members
Mayor or Chair	4 (Electorate over 1,000 to 4,999)	Optional - Up to a maximum of £1,500
Deputy Mayor or Deputy Chair	4 (Electorate over 1,000 to 4,999)	Optional - Up to a maximum of £500
Attendance Allowance	4 (Electorate over 1,000 to 4,999)	Optional
Financial Loss	4 (Electorate over 1,000 to 4,999)	Optional
Travel and Subsistence	4 (Electorate over 1,000 to 4,999)	Optional
Costs of Care or Personal Assistance	4 (Electorate over 1,000 to 4,999)	Mandatory
Extra Costs Payment	5 (Electorate less than 1,000)	Mandatory for all members
Senior Role	5 (Electorate less than 1,000)	Optional up to 3 members
Mayor or Chair	5 (Electorate less than 1,000)	Optional - Up to a maximum of £1,500
Deputy Mayor or Deputy Chair	5 (Electorate less than 1,000)	Optional - Up to a maximum of £500
Attendance Allowance	5 (Electorate less than 1,000)	Optional
Financial Loss	5 (Electorate less than 1,000)	Optional
Travel and Subsistence	5 (Electorate less than 1,000)	Optional
Cost of Care or Personal Assistance	5 (Electorate less than 1,000)	Mandatory

There have been no changes made to payments for undertaking senior roles; allowances for Travel and subsistence; Care and Personal Assistance or Attendance allowance. All current Determinations are published on our website.

Summary of Determinations for 2024 to 2025

Determination 1:

The basic level of salary for elected members of principal councils will be set at £18,666.

Determination 2:

The salary of a leader of the largest (Group A) council will be £69,998. All other payments have been decided in reference to this.

Determination 3:

The salary of a chair of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be £9,333.

The salary of vice chair will be £4,667.

Determination 4:

The basic pay of members of National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities has been increased.

All current Determinations, including restrictions on receiving double allowances, will be published on our website. Other than the above increases, there are no changes proposed this year.

Determination 5:

For co opted members of Principal Councils, National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities, payments, the Panel proposes there should be local flexibility for the relevant officer to decide when it will be appropriate to apply a day or a half day rate or to use an hourly rate where it is sensible to aggregate a number of short meetings.

The full and half day rates remain unchanged from 2023 to 2024. The only change is the stipulation of hourly rates.

Determination 6:

Members of Community and Town Councils will be paid £156 a year (equivalent to £3 a week) towards the extra household expenses (including heating, lighting, power, and broadband) of working from home. And Councils must either pay their members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role, or alternatively councils must enable members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables. Therefore, there is no change from last year.

Determination 7

Compensation for financial loss is an optional payment. The amount for financial loss was not increased last year. The Panel determined that this payment should continue to be linked to the daily rate of ASHE. To maintain this link, the figures for 2024 are now set at £119.62 for a full day and £59.81 for a half day.

Determination 8:

The Panel has determined that from September 2024, the returns due from all Community and Town Council need only show the total amounts paid in respect of the mandatory payments mentioned above. That is the £156 contribution to the costs of working from home and the £52 set rate consumables allowance and the travel and subsistence expenses paid.

This brings these in line with the reporting of the costs of care and personal assistance allowances.

All other Determinations set out on our [website](#) remain valid and should be applied.

Contact details

To request a printed version of the Annual Report please [email us](#) or write to:

Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales
Third Floor East
Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Telephone: 03000 616095
Email: irpmailbox@gov.wales

This Annual Report and other information about the Panel and its work are available on our [website](#).

Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Annual Report

There has been a change on how the IRPW produces their report this year and the report now only shows any changes to payment. The Council is therefore required to work from the [Annual Report \(2022/23\)](#) and [Annual Report \(2023/24\)](#).

You have been provided with the links to the reports above, should you require paper copies please let me know.

For ease, I have extracted the Determinations applicable to T&CC. Determinations 43 – 53 are from the 2022/23 Report and Determination 4 is from the 2023/24 Report

Determinations taken from the 2022/23 IRPW Annual Report.

Contribution towards costs of Care and Personal Assistance

43. All relevant authorities must provide a payment towards necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs as follows:
- Formal (registered with Care Inspectorate Wales) care costs to be paid as evidenced.
 - Informal (unregistered) care costs to be paid up to a maximum rate equivalent to the Real Living Wage hourly rates as defined by the Living Wage Foundation at the time the costs are incurred.

This must be for the additional costs incurred by members to enable them to carry out official business or approved duties. Each authority must ensure that any payments made are appropriately linked to official business or approved duty. Payment shall only be made on production of receipts from the care provider.

Community and Town Councils

45. The payment for members undertaking a senior role is an annual amount of £500 as set out in Table 11.
46. Community and town councils can make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties. 9 Such payments must be the actual costs of travel by public transport or the HMRC mileage allowances as below:
- 45p per mile up to 10,000 miles in the year.
 - 25p per mile over 10,000 miles.
 - 5p per mile per passenger carried on authority business.
 - 24p per mile for private motor cycles.
 - 20p per mile for bicycles.
47. If a community or town council resolves that a particular duty requires an overnight stay, it can authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its members at the maximum rates set out below on the basis of receipted claims:
- £28 per 24-hour period allowance for meals, including breakfast where not provided.
 - £200 – London overnight.
 - £95 – elsewhere overnight.
 - £30 – staying with friends and or family overnight.
48. Community and town councils can pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has occurred, for attending approved duties as follows:
- Up to £59.81 for each period not exceeding 4 hours.
 - Up to £119.62 for each period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours.

49. Each council can decide to introduce an attendance allowance for members. The amount of each payment must not exceed £30.
A member in receipt of financial loss will not be entitled to claim attendance allowance for the same event.
50. Community and town councils can provide a payment to the mayor or chair of the council up to a maximum of £1,500. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed.
51. Community and town councils can provide a payment to the deputy mayor or deputy chair of the council up to a maximum of £500. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed.
52. The application of the Remuneration Framework by relevant Group is contained in Table 11.
53. Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council (that is leader, deputy leader or executive member) cannot receive any payment from any community or town council, other than travel and subsistence expenses and contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance.

Determinations taken from the 2023/24 IRPW Annual Report.

- 4 Members of Community and Town Councils will be paid £156 a year (equivalent to £3 a week) towards the extra household expenses (including heating, lighting, power and broadband) of working from home. And councils must either pay their members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role, or alternatively councils must enable members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables.

Payments to Town & Community Councils.

Group 4

Extra Costs Payment
Senior Role
Mayor or Chair
Deputy Mayor or Deputy Chair
Attendance Allowance
Financial Loss
Travel and Subsistence
Cost of Care or Personal Assistance

Electorate 1,000 to 4,999

Mandatory for all members
Optional up to 3 members
Optional - Up to a maximum of £1,500
Optional - Up to a maximum of £500
Optional
Optional
Optional
Mandatory

Millstone Skate Ramps – Issue to be addressed following annual inspection

Following a Zurich Insurance inspection of the skate ramps (annual inspection of all play areas via FCC) there was an issue reported (category b) which requires attention relating to the rubber matting we have had installed on one of the two ramps to reduce noise.

The report stated:

The deck has been fitted with a rubber type mat that protrudes higher than the edge coping and this should be confirmed with the manufacturers recommendations and remedied as required.

Cat b = Defects requiring corrective action as soon as reasonably practicable.

Cllrs Ransome, D Williams and the Clerk met with Richard Roberts 20th February 2024 to review the ramps and to fully understand the issue. Basically, as there has been a modification the ramps e.g rubber matting to reduce noise, this has created a small lip which does not comply with regulations.

This is obviously very disappointing as we have invested in this to reduce noise levels which does seem to have alleviated the problem, however, we cant do nothing as this will have consequences should any insurance claims be made against the council.

On talking through the options, we agreed for Cllr Williams to speak with the contractor to obtain two quotes:

- 1 - to have the rubber matting totally removed
- 2 – to have the rubber matting replaced with a thinner matting, therefore reducing the lip but still offering some protection for noise, and have the existing rubber matting relocated to the opposite ramp and chamfered off (which will be the same as ramp 2 which we have had done and no issues raised by the inspector)

There is no definitive time to get this resolved as the report states '*as soon as reasonably practicable*', but guidance from Richard, we are looking at around 3 mths to get this done.

Os cewch eich gollwng neu'ch codi o'r ysgol
mewn car, cofiwch ofyn i'r gyrrwr wneud hyn:
cadw'r llinellau Igam-Ogam yn glir

Efallai na welwch
chi, ac na chewch
chi'ch gweld, heibio i
geir sydd wedi'u
parcio

“Hyd yn
oed os yw hi'n
bwrw glaw”

Mae lle clir
yn lle mwy
diogel i chi
groesi

Croeswch
gyda'r
hebryngwr
croesfan
ysgol

“Dim ond
am funud hyd
yn oed”

Rhowch gynnig ar
gerdded, hyd yn oed
y darn olaf yn unig...
...a helpwch i wneud giatiau'r
ysgol yn lle mwy diogel



YSGOL - CADWCH - YN GLIR

If you're dropped off or collected from school by car, remember to ask the driver to **keep the Zig Zags clear**

79075

**You might not see
or be seen past
parked cars**

**"Even if
it's raining"**

**A clear area
is a safer area
for you to cross**

**Cross with
the school
crossing
patrol**

**"Even if
it's just for
one minute"**



**Try walking even
just the last part ...
... and help to make your
school gates a safer area**

SCHOOL - KEEP - CLEAR

HYSBYSIAD CYNGHORI

PROBLEMAU PARCIO

Mae palmentydd i'w defnyddio gan gerddwyr - plis parciwch yn ystyriol.

MAE'CH CERBYD WEDI'I WELD YN PERI RHWYSTR AR Y PALMANT. PLÍS DARLLENWCH YR HYSBYSIAD HWN. NI FYDDWN YN EUOGFARNU UNIGOLION AR YR ACHLYSUR HWN.

Tîm Plismona'r Gymdogaeth (TPG)



**HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE**

ADVISORY NOTICE

PROBLEMATIC PARKING

Pavements are for pedestrians - please park with consideration.

YOUR VEHICLE HAS BEEN LOCATED PARKED OBSTRUCTING THE PAVEMENT. PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ THIS NOTICE. WE WILL NOT BE PROSECUTING ON THIS OCCASION.

Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)

WE LISTENED

Through community engagement, North Wales Police have received reports of inconsiderate Parking of vehicles.

Pavement parked vehicles are a potentially dangerous street obstruction which can force pedestrians to walk along the road to bypass those vehicles. This is especially problematic for pedestrians who are blind or visually impaired and may not see oncoming traffic; as well as wheelchair users, people with pushchairs and older people.

Reports include vehicles parked across drop kerbs, too close to other street furniture, parked half on pavement and roads and in some cases vehicles parked fully on pavements.

The vast majority of motorists park in a considerate manner and only park on pavements when there may be a valid reason, for example emergencies or loading; however, there is a minority of motorists who appear to abandon their vehicles without any consideration for pedestrians.

In some cases these instances have led to hate crimes being committed. If you are being targeted or know of someone who is a victim of hate crime contact us on 101 or in an emergency call 999.



HATE CRIME CANNOT, SHOULD NOT AND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN NORTH WALES



A YouGov survey for Guide Dogs found 54% of drivers admit to parking on the pavement. It is also expensive - local authorities paid over £1bn on repairing kerbs, pavements and walkways between 2006 and 2010. £106 million was paid in compensation claims to people tripping and falling on broken pavements during the same five year period.

A YouGov survey from January 2013, showed over half of motorists had considered the problems pavement parking would cause to pedestrians, but had chosen to do so regardless. It is clear change needs to happen.

OUR ACTION

TODAY YOUR VEHICLE HAS BEEN PARKED IN A WAY THAT IS OBSTRUCTING THE PAVEMENT. AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO ENFORCEMENT WE WILL NOT BE PROSECUTING ON THIS OCCASION.

The location will be monitored for further instances of inconsiderate parking and we may assist local authorities with enforcement in the future.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information and we trust you will take notice of this advice and avoid any inconsiderate parking in the future.

If you have any queries please contact your local NPT on telephone number 101.

HYSBYSIAD CYNGHORI

PROBLEMAU PARCIO

Mae palmentydd i'w defnyddio gan gerddwyr - plŷs parciwch yn ystyriol.

MAE'CH CERBYD WEDI'I WELD YN PERI RHWYSTR AR Y PALMANT. PLŷS DARLLENWCH YR HYSBYSIAD HWN. NI FYDDWN YN EUOGFARNU UNIGOLION AR YR ACHLYSUR HWN.

Tîm Plismona'r Gymdogaeth (TPG)



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GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE**

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YOUR VEHICLE HAS BEEN LOCATED PARKED OBSTRUCTING THE PAVEMENT. PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ THIS NOTICE. WE WILL NOT BE PROSECUTING ON THIS OCCASION.

Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)

MI WNAETHOM WRANDO

Drwy ymgysylltiad cymunedol, mae Heddlu Gogledd Cymru wedi cael adroddiadau i ddweud bod cerbydau yn cael eu parcio'n anystyriol.

Gall cerbydau sydd wedi cael eu parcio ar y palmant fod yn rhwystr peryglus a all orfodi cerddwyr i gerdded ar y ffordd er mwyn mynd heibio'r cerbydau hynny. Gall hyn fod yn hynod o beryglus i gerddwyr sy'n ddall neu sydd â nam ar eu golwg ac efallai na fyddant yn gweld traffig sy'n dod i'w cwrdd; yn ogystal â defnyddwyr cadeiriau olwyn, unigolion gyda choetshis a phobl hy n.

Mae'r adroddiadau yn cynnwys cerbydau sydd wedi cael eu parcio ar draws palmentydd sydd wedi cael eu gostwng, cerbydau sydd wedi cael eu parcio'n rhy agos at bethau eraill ar y stryd, cerbydau sydd hanner ar y palmant a hanner ar y ffordd ac mewn rhai achosion mae cerbydau wedi'u parcio yn gyfan gwbl ar y palmant.

Mae'r mwyafrif o fodurwyr yn parcio'n ystyriol a dim ond pan fydd ganddynt reswm dilys y byddant yn parcio ar balmentydd, er enghraifft mewn argyfwng neu er mwyn llwytho; fodd bynnag, mae yna nifer fechan o fodurwyr sy'n ymddangos fel petaent yn parcio eu cerbydau heb ystyried anghenion cerddwyr.

Mewn rhai achosion mae'r digwyddiadau hyn wedi arwain at droseddau casineb. Os 'da chi'n cael eich targedu neu'n adnabod rhywun sydd wedi dioddef trosedd casineb, ffoniwch ni ar 101, neu mewn argyfwng ffoniwch 999.



NI ELLIR AC NI DDYLID GODDEF TROSEDDAU CASINEB YNG NGOGLEDD CYMRU



Mi wnaeth arolwg gan YouGov ar gyfer C n Tywys ddarganfod bod 54% o yrwyr yn cyfaddef parcio ar y palmant. Mae hyn hefyd yn ddrud - mi wnaeth awdurdodau lleol wario dros £1biliwn yn adnewyddu ymylon palmentydd, palmentydd a llwybrau rhwng 2006 a 2010. Cafodd £106 miliwn o iawndal ei dalu i bobl a oedd wedi baglu neu ddisgyn ar balmentydd a oedd wedi'u difrodi yn ystod yr un cyfnod o bum mlynedd.

Mi wnaeth arolwg YouGov o Ionawr 2013 ddangos bod dros hanner y modurwyr wedi ystyried y problemau y byddai parcio ar y palmant yn ei achosi i gerddwyr, ond eu bod fodd bynnag wedi dewis gwneud hynny. Mae'n amlwg bod hyn awgurdod.

CAMAU GWEITHREDU

HEDDIW MAE'CH CERBYD WEDI'I BARCIO MEWN FFORDD SY'N PERI RHWYSTR AR Y PALMANT. NI FYDDWN YN EUOGFARNU UNIGOLION AR YR ACHLYSUR HWN.

Bydd y lleoliad yn cael ei fonitro am achosion pellach o barcio anystyriol ac efallai y byddwn yn cynorthwyo awdurdodau lleol i orfodi'r gyfraith yn y dyfodol.

Diolch yn fawr i chi am dreulio amser yn darllen y wybodaeth hon ac rydym yn gobeithio y byddwch yn cymryd sylw o'r cyngor hwn ac yn osgoi parcio'n anystyriol yn y dyfodol.

Os oes gennych chi unrhyw ymholiadau yna ffoniwch eich TPG ar 101.



Proforma for Councillors to add items to the Agenda.

Name of Councillors	Cllr Pat Ransome
Title of Proposal	The Penyffordd Place Plan
Purpose of Proposal	<p>To determine following the deferral of initial proposal – February 2024 – whether an update of the Place Plan be shared with the community.</p> <p>Last month the Place Plan options were shared and members requested to look through these and determine any amendments to table at the council meeting in March.</p> <p>To agree to formatting of final copy by focus group</p> <p>To agree to print and digital copies of same</p>
Background to this request	<p>As previously shared the Environment group, Focus group together with input from a community resident have worked towards this. Mindful of the changes in the area since The Penyffordd Place Plan was written in 2017, it was agreed an update highlighting these be shared with the community, whilst looking to a future full review of The Plan in 2030.</p> <p>The update need not be a full drawn version rather a summary of change.</p> <p>The detail comes after as we look towards a full review.</p>
Financial Implications	<p>Layout costs – with photographs</p> <p>Print costs – for distribution in local businesses and pensioners.</p> <p>Need to source new printer as North Wales Print Centre has closed. Sola Print suggestion</p>
Environmental Implications	<p>These are integral to the Place Plan as we look to making Penyffordd, Penymynydd and Dobshill a pleasant environment and a place we can all be proud of.</p>
Equality Implications	<p>The Place Plan as it moves forwards is inclusive of all within the community and important that those voices are heard.</p>
Advantages of this proposal	<p>We highlight and re focus our Place Plan with the community providing a basic update.</p> <p>We show our will to FCC and Welsh Government to be involved and pro active as a community in sharing our hopes and wishes for the future of the area.</p> <p>Moving forward and working together <i>with</i> FCC and their adopted LDP is an important aspect of the Place Plan.</p> <p>It gives us the opportunity to engage with the community in and give a voice to their wishes for the future</p> <p>We utilise the training still available to us from Planning Aid Wales</p>
Disadvantages of this proposal	<p>Currently The Place Plan remains unadopted and not therefore a material consideration as Supplementary Planning Guidance. For this to happen our current Plan would need to conform with the LDP.</p>
Date submitted	1 st March 2024

**Place Plan Review
Abridged Version
February 2024**

This version is proposed for publication online, with a small print run allowing availability in local businesses, as well as promotion through council social media channels, in publications such as the council newsletter and annual review, and, as appropriate through press releases.

This is the text-only version; subject to approval by full council, graphic design consistent with the original place plan will be produced.

Contents:

- 1. Foreword**
- 2. Our Progress**
- 3. Our Next Steps**

Foreword

Cllr Pat Ransome, Chair, Penyffordd Community Council

Our Penyffordd Place Plan was compiled in May 2017 for the period until 2030. Since then there have been many changes to our area and this update is to highlight these with the community.

It is not a full review of the Place Plan which will be undertaken at a later stage but nevertheless an important outline of the significant changes seen in the area. As set out in the 2017 foreword, the writing of the Penyffordd Place Plan was not an end process but an ongoing one highlighting a long term commitment to ensure that the community play a central role in securing a shared vision for the village and area.

A Place Plan is about delivering local outcomes and is prepared by the community for use by the community, developers and the authority. In line with Welsh Government strategy as set out in Planning Policy Wales, community led planning lies at the heart of the planning process but must comply with key documents such as the Local Development Plan.

As we move forwards, to deliver on the existing place plan and to develop the next we must further develop input from our planning authority and Flintshire County Councillors, robust community engagement, and a strong evidence base.

In 2017, when the Penyffordd Place Plan was written, the Flintshire Local Development Plan had not been adopted so whilst our Plan was commended across many sectors and noted as “impressive”, it was not and could not be formally adopted by Flintshire County Council. The Planning Policy Framework at the time only allowed for Place Plans to be considered within the context of an adopted local authority Local Development Plan.

The Flintshire Local Development Plan was adopted on 24th January 2023. It sets out planning strategy, policies and proposals for Flintshire for the period up to 2030 and is the basis on which all planning decisions within Flintshire are made.

“This is an important plan for a number of reasons. Whilst clearly fulfilling a statutory duty to meet the requirement for a plan led system in Wales, it is also a response to the vulnerable position Flintshire’s communities were placed in by the lack of an adopted development plan, and the pressure for speculative development. The adopted Plan provides certainty both to the residents of Flintshire and to developers, as it provides the basis for investment decisions in infrastructure, housing and employment and the protection of the environment.”

Cllr Chris Bithell, Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection, Flintshire Local Development Plan foreword

It is important for us in that it enables further discussion to give weight to our views. Between now and 2030 we will undertake a full review of our Place Plan by developing all of these and will link closely with all partners to ensure we have a robust revision of our Place Plan compliant with Flintshire’s Local Development Plan and one in which our voice is heard. The update is an important next step as we bring our original Place Plan to the fore and work collaboratively towards our next.

Since 2017 two further questionnaires have been shared with the community and despite the many changes seen, key topics raised remain consistent and form a reliable basis for the Plan’s development. We are pleased to include below the word clouds showing the themes of responses.

[positives word cloud]

[improvements word cloud]

Key to all are that people make communities, communities know their area, its needs and wishes. If our collective voice is to be heard and heeded we can play a part as an individual and valued member of the community. Many aspects of our Place Plan do still remain relevant and are a robust basis from which we can move forward to a full review.

Thank you to all who have been involved in compiling this update – an important further step for all- and one which we urge you to read and join us as we continue our work towards our next Place Plan. Your village, one community.

Cllr Pat Ransome
Chair, Penyffordd Community Council

Our Progress

The Community Council has undertaken a wide ranging review of the 2017-2024 as we have reached the midpoint of that plan. A detailed assessment of progress in each policy area, and future actions, are available on the council’s website at [\[link\]](#), or on request to the clerk of the council if you require a printed copy. This shorter version has been produced to enable us to share the key points with the wider community without getting bogged down in detail.

We have come a long way since 2017. In that time five new housing developments have been occupied (Rhodfa Gladstone, Hawthorn Way, Hornbeam Close, Ffordd y Brwyner and Melwood Close clinic site), a brand new school has been built, the new Co-op has been built

and opened, Dobshill service station has been radically rebuilt, the War Memorial Institute has been extended, three play areas have been transformed at Melwood Close, Millstone Park and West View, the sledging field was protected from development by a community effort and a new active travel route has opened to Hope. In this period the community council has also continued to develop resources promoting the villages of Penyffordd, Penymynydd and Dobshill, their history, and local businesses, including with the circular walks, area information leaflet, annual reports and newsletters and the digital trail.

When the Place Plan was written, our village was in the middle of a mad scramble from developers for every scrap of land, which was perhaps the greatest concern at the time. There are a variety of reasons for why this was the case, but chief amongst them was the lack of a Local Development Plan adopted by Flintshire County Council. In the intervening time, a plan has been adopted and preserves the village without any further expansion until the end of the plan in 2030.

There is still a development which were given permission during the period before the plan was adopted - the Rhos Road South site, opposite Ffordd y Brwyner, where planning permission was rejected by Flintshire County Council but granted on appeal by the planning inspector. This site will likely still face development during the period before 2030, but no new sites will receive permission.

For the most part, the LDP reflects the aims set out in the Place Plan. By ending speculative development over the remainder of the plan period, other policies in the Place Plan are effectively achieved by default. However, it is important to acknowledge that the delay in the plan has caused significant effects on our community more than anywhere else in Flintshire, with pressure on local services from water supply and drainage to school places and GP appointments impacting on new and existing residents alike. New residents have in many cases also been impacted by issues relating to service charges and leaseholds, which further benefit developers at the expense of ordinary people.

Public transport provision has changed considerably since 2017, and not for the better. There has been a significant reduction in the bus services available to residents, in common with service levels across the UK, and while recently services to Chester from the ward have been restored, the first service to most destinations leaves later than previously and the last service back is much earlier in all cases. The railway service has undergone a series of logistical issues, but is now operating a more frequent service than before and is improving reliability and punctuality, which is welcome.

Looking Ahead: The 2030-45 Place Plan Process

The defining factor in considering when to begin the development of a new place plan is the timescale of the replacement LDP for Flintshire. The Community Council feels strongly that work should commence on the replacement LDP immediately, especially given the time taken to develop and adopt the present one, and will lobby Flintshire's planning department on this point. There can be no return, post-2030, to a situation where the county has no adopted plan and speculative development returns.

Until a timescale for the replacement LDP is announced, development of a new place plan would be premature. A place plan should feed into the LDP, and one carried out years before the LDP would potentially be of limited relevance, and at worst, may actively contradict new planning requirements introduced by the Welsh Government in the meantime.

Therefore the Community Council offers no firm date as to when work on the new place plan will commence. However, we expect preparatory work to begin in advance of the 2027 local government elections.

This early work is likely to involve designing a process, including setting target dates for each stage, and determining the number and form of community consultations. We anticipate that the substantive issues within the place plan may well prove to be an election issue in 2027, and we look forward to a vibrant democratic discussion on these issues.

In any event, the place plan will be completed in advance of 2030, or the initial consultation on the replacement LDP, whichever is earlier.

The Community Council is always welcoming of the views of local residents, and if you have ideas for what the future of our village should look like, or on how the next place plan should be designed, then we would love to hear from you.

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1. Foreword

Cllr Pat Ransome, Chair, Penyffordd Community Council

Our Penyffordd Place Plan was compiled in May 2017 for the period until 2030. Since then there have been many changes to our area and this update is to highlight these with the community.

It is not a full review of the Place Plan which will be undertaken at a later stage but nevertheless an important outline of the significant changes seen in the area. As set out in the 2017 foreword, the writing of the Penyffordd Place Plan was not an end process but an ongoing one highlighting a long term commitment to ensure that the community play a central role in securing a shared vision for the village and area.

A Place Plan is about delivering local outcomes and is prepared by the community for use by the community, developers and the authority. In line with Welsh Government strategy as set out in Planning Policy Wales, community led planning lies at the heart of the planning process but must comply with key documents such as the Local Development Plan.

As we move forwards, to deliver on the existing place plan and to develop the next we must further develop input from our planning authority and Flintshire County Councillors, robust community engagement, and a strong evidence base.

In 2017, when the Penyffordd Place Plan was written, the Flintshire Local Development Plan had not been adopted so whilst our Plan was commended across many sectors and noted as "impressive", it was not and could not be formally adopted by Flintshire County Council. The Planning Policy Framework at the time only allowed for Place Plans to be considered within the context of an adopted local authority Local Development Plan.

The Flintshire Local Development Plan was adopted on 24th January 2023. It sets out planning strategy, policies and proposals for Flintshire for the period up to 2030 and is the basis on which all planning decisions within Flintshire are made.

"This is an important plan for a number of reasons. Whilst clearly fulfilling a statutory duty to meet the requirement for a plan led system in Wales, it is also a response to the vulnerable

position Flintshire's communities were placed in by the lack of an adopted development plan, and the pressure for speculative development. The adopted Plan provides certainty both to the residents of Flintshire and to developers, as it provides the basis for investment decisions in infrastructure, housing and employment and the protection of the environment."

Cllr Chris Bithell, Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection, Flintshire Local Development Plan foreword

It is important for us in that it enables further discussion to give weight to our views. Between now and 2030 we will undertake a full review of our Place Plan by developing all of these and will link closely with all partners to ensure we have a robust revision of our Place Plan compliant with Flintshire's Local Development Plan and one in which our voice is heard. The update is an important next step as we bring our original Place Plan to the fore and work collaboratively towards our next.

Since 2017 two further questionnaires have been shared with the community and despite the many changes seen, key topics raised remain consistent and form a reliable basis for the Plan's development. We are pleased to include below the word clouds showing the themes of responses.

[positives word cloud]

[improvements word cloud]

Key to all are that people make communities, communities know their area, its needs and wishes. If our collective voice is to be heard and heeded we can play a part as an individual and valued member of the community. Many aspects of our Place Plan do still remain relevant and are a robust basis from which we can move forward to a full review.

Thank you to all who have been involved in compiling this update – an important further step for all- and one which we urge you to read and join us as we continue our work towards our next Place Plan. Your village, one community.

Cllr Pat Ransome
Chair, Penyffordd Community Council

2. Executive Summary

The Community Council has undertaken a wide ranging review of the 2017-2024 as we have reached the midpoint of that plan. A shorter version is available on the council's website at [\[link\]](#), or on request to the clerk of the council if you require a printed copy. This detailed version has been produced to enable a broader, more in depth assessment of progress and remaining issues as we begin work on a replacement plan.

We have come a long way since 2017. In that time five new housing developments have been occupied (Rhodfa Gladstone, Hawthorn Way, Hornbeam Close, Ffordd y Brwyner and Melwood Close clinic site), a brand new school has been built, the new Co-op has been built and opened, Dobshill service station has been radically rebuilt, the War Memorial Institute has been extended, three play areas have been transformed at Melwood Close, Millstone

Park and West View, the sledging field was protected from development by a community effort and a new active travel route has opened to Hope. In this period the community council has also continued to develop resources promoting the villages of Penyffordd, Penymynydd and Dobshell, their history, and local businesses, including with the circular walks, area information leaflet, annual reports and newsletters and the digital trail.

When the Place Plan was written, our village was in the middle of a mad scramble from developers for every scrap of land, which was perhaps the greatest concern at the time. There are a variety of reasons for why this was the case, but chief amongst them was the lack of a Local Development Plan adopted by Flintshire County Council. In the intervening time, a plan has been adopted and preserves the village without any further expansion until the end of the plan in 2030.

There is still a development which were given permission during the period before the plan was adopted - the Rhos Road South site, opposite Ffordd y Brwyner, where planning permission was rejected by Flintshire County Council but granted on appeal by the planning inspector. This site will likely still face development during the period before 2030, but no new sites will receive permission.

For the most part, the LDP reflects the aims set out in the Place Plan. By ending speculative development over the remainder of the plan period, other policies in the Place Plan are effectively achieved by default. However, it is important to acknowledge that the delay in the plan has caused significant effects on our community more than anywhere else in Flintshire, with pressure on local services from water supply and drainage to school places and GP appointments impacting on new and existing residents alike. New residents have in many cases also been impacted by issues relating to service charges and leaseholds, which further benefit developers at the expense of ordinary people.

Public transport provision has changed considerably since 2017, and not for the better. There has been a significant reduction in the bus services available to residents, in common with service levels across the UK, and while recently services to Chester from the ward have been restored, the first service to most destinations leaves later than previously and the last service back is much earlier in all cases. The railway service has undergone a series of logistical issues, but is now operating a more frequent service than before and is improving reliability and punctuality, which is welcome.

3. The 2017 Place Plan Process

The Penyffordd Place Plan is a document produced by our community in 2017. It was prepared to be **Supplementary Planning Guidance**¹ - that means that anyone wanting to develop in our village would have to take it into account, and so should the people who make

¹ p10, *Planning Policy Wales* (2021). Edition 11. Welsh Government. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/planning-policy-wales>.

decisions on whether planning permission should be granted. As yet, it has not been formally adopted as supplementary planning guidance by the local planning authority².

When the plan was first written in 2017, it was designed to last until 2030. This date was chosen because that's when Flintshire County Council's **Local Development Plan (LDP)** lasts until. The LDP sets out what future development across Flintshire should look like, and it is **Policy**, which means it carries more weight than the place plan and sets the rules for developments that must be followed.

Our place plan was written in part to help shape the LDP drafting process, to tell the planners at Flintshire what our community wanted for our village in the LDP. The Place Plan has also been used in objections to **speculative development** in the village, with some successes and some failures.

The Place Plan is best viewed as a **realistic wish list** from residents of Penyffordd, Penymynydd and Dobshill for the thirteen years between 2017 and 2030. As we approach the halfway point, we are reviewing the plan and publishing this update to see how far we've come, and focus on what is still to be achieved. We are also confirming that the Place Plan is a **living document**, and reaffirming that it should continue to carry due weight as a current representative view on our village's present and future.

4. What's Changed: Housing Developments

When the Place Plan was written, our village was in the middle of a mad scramble from developers for every scrap of land. A document called **Technical Advice Note 1 (TAN1)** was the immediate cause of this; TAN1 attached "considerable weight" to the lack of a 5-year housing land supply. In other words, this meant that any area without an up to date LDP was fair game for developers and any applications would be likely to be granted planning permission.

Penyffordd and Penymynydd were affected more than neighbouring communities by this for a number of reasons:

We are in the Cheshire postal county, and Chester addresses add a premium to house prices. Higher Kinnerton and Broughton are also in the Cheshire postal county, but Hope, Buckley and Hawarden are not.

We are close to Castell Alun, which is a very high achieving school in inspections. This again pushes house prices up. This also applies to Hope and Higher Kinnerton, but not to Hawarden, Buckley and Broughton.

We are conveniently located for key transport links, such as the A55 and the borderlands rail link to Liverpool. This again drives house prices. Hawarden has a station and easy access to the A55 and A494, Broughton is conveniently located for the A55 but does not have a station, Buckley has reasonable access to road links for a town of its size but a railway station that is too far away to serve much of the town, Hope has a station but is

² p211, Development Plans Manual (2020). Edition 3. Welsh Government. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/development-plans-manual-edition-3-march-2020>

further away from the strategic road network, and Kinnerton has neither a station nor immediate access to a major road.

We are a wealthier area, together with Higher Kinnerton, we are ranked as the best off area of North Wales and the 12th best off in all of Wales (out of 410). Buckley, Hawarden, Hope and Broughton all feature further down the table. This has been contributed to by the failure to deliver the full amount of affordable and social housing on a number of developments.

We are a village, with homes in villages attracting a premium over those in small towns. While we have this in common with Hope, Hawarden and Kinnerton, this sets us apart from Broughton and Buckley.

All these factors push up the price houses will sell for, and this in turn led to developers singling out our community for development as the easiest place to make the biggest profits. Our community saw faster expansion relative to previous population of any settlement in Flintshire in the period leading up to the 2023 adoption of the LDP. It also saw a particular focus on larger, detached houses in this period, whereas much of the older village was built as council housing or smaller dwellings. This has further driven changes in the social make-up of the village. Of developments in the last 40 years, Well House is the only major one to include a broad social mix of housing types.

New developments built since the Plan was drafted include Hawthorn Way, Rhodfa Gladstone, Hornbeam Close and Ffordd y Brwyner, as well as additional properties on Melwood Close. Applications have also been lodged for other sites within the village, including the land South of Rhos Road, and land East of the Vounog Hill (the sledging field). This last application was defeated at appeal in April 2022.

The developments that have been built since the place plan was produced have generally not complied with the aims of the Place Plan:

Development	In line with maximum size per development	Contains bungalows	Respects settlement boundary	Provides affordable and social housing of at least 30%	Meets density limits
Hawthorn Way (Hawarden Rd)	No	No	No	Information not held by community council	Yes
Rhodfa Gladstone (Chester Rd)	No	No	No	Information not held by community council	Yes
Hornbeam Close (Dobshill Depot)	Yes	Yes	Yes (as brownfield site, no further land developed)	Yes	No

Ffordd y Brwyner (Rhos Rd)	No	No	No	Information not held by community council	No
Melwood Close	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not subject to rule	No

Of particular note is that in 2019, for the first time in over 1,000 years of settlement in Penyffordd, Penymynydd and Dobshell, some parts of the village were more than quarter of a kilometre from fields or open countryside, as the crow flies. This was because of the commencement of the Rhodfa Gladstone development. The place plan attached particular importance to maintaining this limit as a key feature of the village.

Despite the construction of Hornbeam Close and the provision of some social housing as part of other new developments, social housing as a percentage of the total housing stock has dropped dramatically in the village in the last 50 years.

5. What's Changed: The Local Development Plan

The adoption of the LDP by Flintshire County Council in January 2023 was a major turning point in planning policy for the village. The plan was supported by both of the village's representatives on Flintshire Council.

The adoption of the plan means several things:

- It makes speculative development (building on greenfield sites not included in the plan) very difficult until the plan expires in 2030. This gives a high level of protection to sites in and around the village without planning permission;
- It allocates the Rhodfa Gladstone, Hawthorn Way and Ffordd y Brwyner sites as part of Flintshire's housing land supply (although these sites already had permission and were largely constructed by the time of the plan's adoption);
- It makes some changes to the settlement boundary to encompass sites that have already been built on, and
- It means that the county council has until 2030 to prepare the next plan, which will run from 2030-45 and will require more land to be allocated for housing. How much of this land, if any, will be in Penyffordd ward is a discussion that needs to start sooner rather than later.

For the most part, the LDP reflects the aims set out in the Place Plan. By ending speculative development over the remainder of the plan period, other policies in the Place Plan are effectively achieved by default. However, it is important to acknowledge that the delay in the plan has caused significant effects on our community more than anywhere else in Flintshire, with pressure on local services from water supply and drainage to school places and GP appointments impacting on new and existing residents alike. New residents have in many cases also been impacted by issues relating to service charges and leaseholds, which further benefit developers at the expense of ordinary people.

6. What's Changed: Public Transport

At the time the Place Plan was written, the X55 service to Chester had just been withdrawn, leaving the village with one bus an hour to Chester, and no Sunday service. Since then, the availability of bus services has dropped significantly, and became a major political issue in local elections in 2021 and 2022.

The number 3 service (Mold-Chester) was replaced in early 2019 with a 12/13 service. One ran from Chester to Mold via Penyffordd, then from Mold onto Connah's Quay before proceeding back to Broughton and Chester, with the other service running the opposite way around the same loop. This service was cut shortly afterwards, leaving the 13 to operate the route of the old number 3 bus, but on a reduced timetable. In 2020, the 13 was scrapped entirely, leaving the village without a direct public transport connection to Chester for the first time since August 1849 and the opening of the Mold railway.

Since then, community transport options have been expanded such as the local transport buses, now replaced with the Flexi dial-a-bus service. Reviews of this have been mixed, with residents of working age finding it difficult to rely on to get to work, especially where a change is required, and elderly residents have reported difficulties in booking the services, which require either internet access or a telephone call. The development of these services has been impacted by the restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic, with reduced timetables operating at various points.

Recently an hourly Chester service has been reinstated, which leaves from St John's Church. The service originates in Ruthin, giving local residents access to new destinations beyond Mold and into Denbighshire. The village continues to be served by the Wrexham - Mold service.

The Borderlands line continues to serve Penyffordd and Buckley stations, and services are now being restored following significant disruption during the pandemic. Proposals to improve the service through moving to two trains per hour and adding new rolling stock have not been delivered as promised, primarily due to conflict with freight movements at Penyffordd. Levelling up funding to improve the sidings at Penyffordd has now been rejected twice by the UK Government, putting the future improvements of the service, including the proposed Penyffordd station improvements, in jeopardy. The station improvements would also facilitate an improved bus service through the village, with the station becoming a transport interchange and benefiting the community more widely.

Moves are still in the pipeline for the station to be a hub for the area under Flintshire's broader transport policy, and should the village succeed in achieving this hub, it will put the village in a much stronger position to improve our transport services further.

The prospect of reopening the Chester-Mold line continues to resurface every few years. Development on the old trackbed in Penyffordd and Broughton is the largest barrier to this, as well as the construction of a supermarket on the old station site in Mold. However, changes to the alignment to run East of Broughton, before rejoining the old line and running through Kinnerton, then diverging again to run South of Penyffordd, using a short section of the Borderlands line through Penyffordd station before resuming the former alignment at the old Hope Exchange, with a Mold terminus placed near Pen y Bont may be viable. This would

guarantee connectivity with Chester for the village, as well as integrate well with proposals to make Penyffordd station a public transport interchange. The Community Council should consider broader engagement on this issue within the village, to explore public support for including this a key request beyond 2030.

7. What's Changed: The Fabric of the Community

The coronavirus pandemic has had a huge and unforeseeable impact on the fabric of the community since the place plan was drafted. During the long periods of lockdown some community groups ceased functioning and folded, while new links between neighbours were formed. Penyffordd, Penymynydd and Dobshill showed themselves to be supportive, caring communities where people look out for each other, with thousands of small actions of solidarity from collecting groceries for self-isolating neighbours, checking on elderly or vulnerable people, or joining Thursday claps for health and social care staff.

Overall, booking occupancy at the Institute remains very high, with a large variety of social, craft, exercise and children's groups making use of community space, and the project to renovate the Youth Club mentioned in the original place plan continues to gain momentum, with a community asset transfer process underway. A Cadwyn Clwyd grant has recently been received for architects fees, enabling the planning of a new hall and a remodelled interior, improving facilities for groups in the village. While the national picture for pubs remains challenging, the Legion, Millstone and Red Lion remain vibrant and well supported businesses.

One of the biggest changes is in education provision, with the junior and infants schools replaced with a brand new single site school. The building has been well received as a significant improvement on what went before, and will positively impact the education of children from the village moving forwards. The new school has had a recent positive inspection.

St John the Baptist school also continues to serve residents who prefer a faith-based education, and has had no inspections since the last place plan, with the 2016 report praising it throughout as a good school.

The community continues to be served by a number of high schools in neighbouring towns and villages. The Community Council has concerns about the extent to which transport policies are playing in relation to parent choice, and the long term social impact of splitting one community between three different high schools.

St John's, Emmanuel Church and the Methodist Trinity Chapel continue to hold services and provide additional help to parishioners.

The Institute extension project has been completed and, as well as extending the life of the existing building, offers a new atrium space with wonderful floor to ceiling windows letting in natural light. Music studios have now been opened for use, providing facilities a community of our size is lucky to have.

New changing facilities have been provided at Abbotts Lane, with hard work from the football club and funding from Flintshire County Council and Penyffordd Community Council. The new Co-op has opened in the centre of the village and has taken an active role in supporting local groups and causes, and the Spar continues to support village activities and groups.

The village also has a new barbers and the hairdressers at the bottom of the Vounog has recently reopened after three years of closure. The Pet shop in Dobshill has closed due to redevelopment of the garage not including suitable premises, and one of the mobile takeaways which has operated recently has also ceased.

The pandemic accelerated an existing shift to residents communicating more using Facebook groups than traditional methods. While the village has a number of vibrant social media pages, there is concern from some residents that this has led to a loss in civility and occasionally more fractious interactions than was the case previously. Ensuring that this does not undermine our sense of community is vital moving forwards.

8. Progress On Objectives: Social, Community & History

Objective	Progress so far	Future Actions
2.01 Funding All S106 funds from new developments to pay for projects in the Community Development Plan actions (rather than being specified within the development application)	The planning environment in Wales broadly favours developers over local authorities, and where a proposed s106 agreement is imprecise, a developer is likely to challenge it and has a likelihood of success. As such, s106 agreements have remained clearly specified.	The community council will lobby the Welsh Government to introduce, through updates to Planning Policy Wales, provision for s106 money to be required for general community funds, perhaps up to a percentage of likely profits.
2.02 The decision of where to prioritise spend, based on the content of this plan, should be ultimately decided by the Community.	The community council administers funding on behalf of the community and is subject to election. Grant applications and proposals are regularly sought from local residents.	The community council will explore participatory budgeting on the Scottish model to broaden community engagement with spending decisions.
2.03 Play Provision Protection and upkeep of existing play spaces	All play spaces have been maintained and none are currently under threat.	The Community Council will continue to maintain play areas.
2.04 Children's play areas on the Millstone field, Dobshill, Melrose Close, Ffordd Derwyn, White Lion, West View and The Groves must be maintained and	The Millstone, West View, Melrose and Dobshill play areas all have seen major investment or are in the process of having major investment delivered. The	The Community Council will continue to review proposals to enhance play areas and maintains a contingency fund for play areas owned and operated by the council.

enhanced where possible	Groves and Melwood have been protected as green space in the LDP.	The Community Council has committed to providing a pump track at the Millstone Play Area.
2.05 Sport Protect existing sports facilities and spaces.	Use of facilities at Abbott's Lane was interrupted during construction of the new school however this has been restored.	The Community Council will continue to work to ensure community access to all sports facilities
2.06 Football pitches on the Groves, Abbotts Lane and at Dobshill, the bowling green and the tennis courts should be protected and enhanced where possible.	Formal protection has been extended to the Groves football pitch. The Community Council, County Council and the Football Club have worked to provide changing facilities at Abbotts Lane	A management committee will be established to ensure the upkeep of changing facilities at Abbotts Lane.
2.07 Community Events Ensure that space is always available for community events, indoor and outdoor.	The WMI extension has facilitated indoor space provision. TROs have been made for a number of outdoor events.	The Youth Club CAT and investment will further expand the space available in the village. A new MUGA on Rhodfa Gladstone will also increase outdoor space.
2.08 Welsh Language The community promotes and protects the Welsh culture, heritage and language.	A limited amount of progress has been made regarding the Welsh Language.	The Community Council will explore providing basic information, including a website, annual report, and walks leaflets, with an active offer in Welsh
2.09 History Walks Defined history walks in the area surround Pen-y-ffordd with supporting literature with historical and nature information	Walks have been produced and uptake has been encouraging. Local walking groups meet regularly.	Subject to demand, further walks will be created.
2.10 Using existing footpaths and historical map references, prepare printed leaflets / downloadable leaflets. Have the local walks included in Flintshire County Council's leaflet: Rural Walks in Flintshire; Connect footpaths with those in Hope / Hawarden / Higher Kinnerton / Buckley /	These have been produced and have been very popular. They have been reprinted a number of times. Downloadable leaflets have been made available via QR codes around the village.	The Community Council will seek to engage with neighbouring communities on expanding this network and improving take-up of walks in the village.

Pontblyddyn.		
2.11 Connecting our History The community seeks to connect with neighbouring communities and their history assets.	Due to the prioritisation of other things during the coronavirus pandemic, this has been delayed.	The Community Council will explore options with neighbouring community councils.
2.12 Links with Hawarden's library, Flintshire Record Office in Hawarden library and Hawarden Castle to maintain the long connection between Dobshell, Penymynydd and Hawarden. Links with Hope, Caegwrle and Plas Teg and their heritage groups to maintain the long connection between Pen-y-ffordd and Hope/Caegwrle. Links with Park in the Past through footpaths, access of Stryt Isa for walkers and links with village schools should be encouraged.	A number of village records have been placed in the safekeeping of the NE Wales Archive Service at Hawarden. Park in the Past continues to develop, and opportunities exist for improving access.	As the archive service moves to Mold, the Community Council will engage with the consultation on the future of the Hawarden building. The Community Council will seek discussions with the archive service around creating a digital archive for Penyffordd.
2.13 Heritage Buildings We would like our remaining heritage buildings to be recorded as such when the Welsh Government Assets of Community Value register becomes active.	The Welsh Government has not brought forward proposals to open a register.	Pending any decision to open a register, the Community Council continues to engage with Flintshire County Council and building owners to ensure suitable preservation where possible.

9. Progress on objectives: Development Plan & Housing

Objective	Progress so far	Future Actions
3.01 Until the LDP is adopted the FUDP boundary remains extant and should be honoured.	FCC has honoured this, rejecting applications outside the boundary, however some permissions have been granted on appeal.	The LDP is now adopted.
3.02 The A550 Pen-y-ffordd [sic] bypass (constructed in 1986) does not represent the settlement boundary.	The LDP acknowledged this and the boundary in the LDP meets this criteria.	The LDP is now adopted.

<p>3.03 Every home in Pen-y-ffordd is within 250m of an open field -that must be maintained.</p>	<p>This is no longer the case following planning permission granted during the place plan period.</p>	<p>An increased focus on providing publicly accessible green space within the built up area should mitigate against loss of proximate agricultural land in respect of recreation.</p>
<p>3.04 House Types All developments should encourage the immigration of residents and therefore contain a reasonable proportion of affordable homes, starter homes or bungalows. Affordable home provision of 30% is essential.</p>	<p>Developments have not universally delivered affordable or social provision due to “viability” considerations. However, some positives include the fully social development at Dobshill.</p>	<p>The community council will push for stricter adherence to the affordable requirements irrespective of viability considerations, which reflect a minimum 17% profit margin unheard of in many industries.</p>
<p>3.05 The population of the village is aging and there is a need to provide housing for the elderly to move to and remain in the village. These could be retirement apartments, a retirement home or bungalows. There is also a need for housing which is affordable for the next generation as starter homes, including affordable homes.</p>	<p>Some bungalows have been added, including at Dobshill, but this is still below what is supported by the community council. The LDP does not include any preference for bungalows within the village boundary.</p>	<p>The Community Council will continue to lobby for a mix of bungalows and general need housing to be built as part of the redevelopment of the old Junior School site.</p>
<p>3.06 Size The will of the village that there is no more growth under the LDP but if developments are permitted, the maximum acceptable size of an individual site must not exceed 25 homes.</p>	<p>A larger site was included in the LDP (Chester Road) however this site had already been given planning permission by this time.</p>	<p>The Community Council will oppose further developments outside the LDP prior to 2030.</p>
<p>3.07 Candidate sites above 1.6 hectares should be discounted as too large for the settlement. The Plan for 2030 section highlights the candidate sites the community believe should be assessed under the LDP - this does not represent part of this Plan, merely advisory and based on local</p>	<p>As above, a larger site was included in the LDP after previously having been granted permission prior to the plan’s adoption.</p>	<p>The plan has now been adopted with no further large sites provided for.</p>

knowledge. Nor does it represent an endorsement of any of the remaining sites.		
3.08 Growth in Dobshill is limited to development of the brownfield former council depot only.	This development has been completed. No further development has been undertaken.	No further development is planned or expected.
3.09 Growth - Advisory Growth in the villages of Pen-y-ffordd/Penymynydd is limited to 10% over the lifetime of the plan, phased so that not more than 50% of that growth granted permission in the first 5 years of the plan.	Due to the number of developments approved on appeal before the adoption of the LDP, this target has already been exceeded.	The LDP has now been adopted and no further growth is planned.
3.10 Condition of Permission All developments should be started within 2 years of permission being granted in order to minimise land-banking.	There have been significant issues with arguments about what constitutes a “meaningful start” especially on the Rhos Road site.	The Community Council is lobbying for a less timid approach to planning enforcement from FCC. Enforcement of conditions is vital if they are to mean anything.
3.11 Coalescence Clear separation must be maintained between all neighbouring communities.	This has been included in the LDP.	No coalescence is expected nor considered a risk in the remainder of the place plan period.
3.12 No encroachment on the green separation of Penymynydd and Dobshill.	This has been included in the LDP.	No coalescence is expected nor considered a risk in the remainder of the place plan period.
3.13 Ensure that the settlement boundary does not extend towards Broughton from Penymynydd particularly in light of the plans for the strategic development of Warren Hall.	The LDP settlement boundary maintains clear separation between the two settlements. Warren Hall’s housing element has been removed which should assist with avoiding future coalescence.	The LDP has now been adopted without infringement of separation in this area, and no further threats are anticipated during the place plan period.
3.14 Monitor planning applications in Buckley that could bring coalescence of Buckley, Drury and Dobshill.	No applications have been made that could give concerns.	The LDP adoption has reduced the risk of this, especially regarding the Bannel Lane reserve site. The Community Council will continue to monitor

		applications.
3.15 Clear separation must be maintained between neighbouring communities of Hope / Buckley / Drury / Broughton / Hawarden / Higher Kinnerton.	No infringement of separation has occurred, although the Kinnerton Meadows development does expand Kinnerton closer to Penymynydd.	The Community Council will continue to monitor applications.
3.16 Proposals for new council houses will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the Community Council where they otherwise comply with the Objectives set out in this plan.	The Dobshill development has been completed consistent with these principles.	Proposals to develop the old Junior School site for social housing are consistent with the principles in the place plan.
3.17 Sustainability by design In the 1960's and 70's the school system tried to catch up with development and that is the same today - the new school opened on Penymynydd Road in 1972 and was immediately full, Abbots Lane School was the solution - it took over the infant classes in 1978. Today both of these and St John's school are full as is Castell Alun High School in Hope. Plans are being drawn up for a new single-site school on Abbots Lane which will bring the capacity in line with today's needs - with no future provision. Improvements to water, waste and telecoms infrastructure has been limited to repairs and new connections within developments rather than managing capacity of the village as a whole. We need to ensure that new development considers the wider impact and that where possible, retrospective investment is made to right the existing problems.	Due to Welsh Government funding rules regarding new schools, future provision cannot be provided at initial construction. However, expansion was accounted for in the design of Ysgol Penyffordd and is now underway. There continue to be issues with sewage discharge that have not been properly addressed through the planning system. There are concerns about the ability of the drains to cope with the impact of climate change without any further development. Water pressure concerns are being addressed by Hafren Dyfrdwy, with works having been carried out. Broadband speeds within the village are broadly adequate at present but require investment to keep up in future. Mobile phone signal coverage has been improved.	The Community Council will engage with broader consultations wherever possible on these topics, to advance and support proposals for wholesale review and where necessary overhaul of infrastructure.

<p>3.18 Design Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No more than 2-storey building - Traffic calming but not speed humps - Warm LED street lighting, preferably dark sky friendly - Pavement widths of 2 metres - Not harm or impact habitat and wildlife corridors, such as established hedgerows and interlinked areas of open space / woodland - Provide community green space or woodland and restore and provide new nature conservation areas and wildlife havens, wherever possible - Some mock-tudor detailing in the development preferred - The inclusion of Bungalows preferred - Lifetime home design principles preferred 	<p>Developments have broadly complied with some points, but not others.</p> <p>Street lighting replacement work carried out by both FCC and Penyffordd Community Council has not been warm LED or dark sky friendly.</p> <p>Some wildlife corridors have been lost due to developments. Little new community green space has been created as a result of developments, although the West View nature area has increased community woodland access.</p>	<p>The Community Council will continue to press for bungalow provision.</p> <p>The Community Council commits to review streetlight options for its own upgrades, and to communicate with FCC regarding this.</p> <p>West View nature area will be maintained and expanded. The Community Council will continue to explore opportunities to expand green space.</p>
<p>3.19 Mock Tudor details are a character of the area and are found in both Dobshell and Pen-y-ffordd (and were intended to be included in the Meadowslea development), though these should be mixed with more innovate designs in keeping with the original character of the area.</p>	<p>Newer developments have not included this as it is considered less fashionable at present. More modern designs have been provided.</p>	<p>The Community Council will review its model response to planning applications to consider whether reference to mock tudor elements should be added.</p>
<p>3.20 Woodland, Trees & Hedgerows</p> <p>Developments which involve the loss of woodlands, individual trees or significant lengths of boundary hedges will be opposed unless adequate compensatory measures are put in place which result in an overall net</p>	<p>While some developments have been given permission on appeal, resulting in tree and hedgerow loss, greater success has been had with others such as the Sledging Field, where this was a significant community argument.</p>	<p>The Community Council will look to compile a register of locally significant trees, including those without TPOs.</p>

gain in the quality of the environment in the village		
3.21 Vounog Hill Land east of Vounog to be designated as green barrier or green wedge.	While this has not been achieved, proposals to develop this land have been defeated. The area is outside the LDP and so there is a presumption against granting permission to speculative applications.	The Community Council will oppose any future plans to develop this land.
3.22 Size - Advisory Developments larger than 25 homes will be opposed.	Developments larger than 25 homes have been opposed.	No future applications in excess of this are anticipated given the LDP adoption.
3.23 Density - Advisory Discourage housing density greater than 23 houses per hectare.	Reduction in the number of affordable houses due to viability considerations has also led to a density reduction on newer sites. Some smaller developments, such as Melwood and Dobshell, have not met this criteria.	Consideration will be given to the density of the Junior School site, and balanced against other factors including underprovision of affordable housing elsewhere.

10. Progress on objectives: Development: Transport

Objective	Progress so far	Future Actions
4.01 Housing Car Parking Provision All proposals for new developments will be expected to provide off street parking provision commensurate with local car ownership rates in order to avoid an increase in on-street parking in the vicinity of the site which would detract from highway safety and residential amenity. Garages should be extra to this provision	New developments have broadly met this criteria.	The Community Council will continue to consider this in respect of planning applications received.
4.02 The presumption must be made that the majority of people in the village choose to travel by car and therefore parking must be	The parking requirements set out in this section have not been met, however evidence suggests that these are excessive and	No further action is proposed on this point.

<p>provided to support that reality. Car ownership rates indicate that homes should have car parking provision (excluding garages) sufficient for 1.5 car per household minimum, then based on the number of bedrooms i.e. 2-bed house - 2 cars, 3-bed house - 3 cars, 4 or more-bed house - 4 cars.</p>	<p>failure to provide these has not caused problems.</p>	
<p>4.03 Other Car Parking Provision Public, retail and commercial buildings must have a reasonable quantity of off-road parking</p>	<p>The development of the Co-op has caused some traffic issues in the centre of the village. However, this seems to be linked more to driver behaviour than provision.</p>	<p>Any future proposals for such buildings will be subject to consideration of parking provision. Applications to reduce parking provision will be critically assessed.</p>
<p>4.04 School Access The new school must have a car drop-off zone within the grounds to avoid nuisance to neighbours during peak drop-off and pick-up times.</p>	<p>Provision was made for this, however this area has been closed due to unacceptable risk to children following poor driver behaviour.</p>	<p>The Community Council will consider options with the school and County Council to assess these issues, cognisant of the fact that poor driver behaviour is the root cause, and seeking to reduce the number of people driving to school.</p>
<p>4.05 The community facilities and bowling green must be maintained in the school redevelopment, including the provision of car parking.</p>	<p>Community facilities have been maintained, including the bowling green and the football pitch.</p>	<p>The Community Council is establishing a management committee for the new changing rooms.</p>
<p>4.06 Traffic Management When designing/upgrading/repairing/resurfacing takes place on roads consideration should be given to traffic calming measures such as build-outs and creating different surfaces to reduce speed and provide pedestrian refuges.</p>	<p>Major resurfacing work has not taken place in the village during the period, with the exception of certain ancillary roads.</p>	<p>The Community Council will seek discussion with FCC about longer term proposals for resurfacing and the scope for this to be incorporated.</p>
<p>4.07 Cycle Paths Encourage the provision of cycle paths.</p>	<p>Cycle provision has been added between Penyffordd and Hope.</p>	<p>The council will continue to support bids for active travel schemes between Mold and Broughton via the village.</p>

<p>4.08 Housing - Footpath Links Consider, in consultation, with neighbouring properties adequate links to the existing settlement. Staggered gates should be included at the entrance of walkways.</p>	<p>Due to lack of public sector land ownership in the area, and lack of funds to purchase land for new footpaths, little progress has been possible.</p>	<p>Subject to funding, the Community Council will look to increase footpath provision around the village.</p>
<p>4.09 Footpaths should form part of a coherent network, linking to other parts of the village (as a pedestrian alternative to using through roads). These footpaths within the village, should be a minimum of 2 metres wide, must be designed for use in all weathers and in darkness.</p>	<p>Footpath provision within the village is reasonably comprehensive, although many are in a poor state of repair.</p>	<p>The Community Council will continue to press for footpath repairs where appropriate.</p>
<p>4.10 Housing - Traffic Impact Any new development proposal with measurable traffic impact will require a traffic study as part of the planning application.</p>	<p>Traffic studies have been completed as required by PPW.</p>	<p>PPW requirements are part of the planning process.</p>
<p>4.11 Any works recommended by that study as necessary to bring the road network and traffic impact to an acceptable level will be funded by the proposed development. The traffic impact study is to include impact on pedestrians and cyclists in order to promote sustainable travel.</p>	<p>Traffic studies completed by developers rarely suggest additional infrastructure is necessary.</p>	<p>This will continue to form part of the planning process.</p>

11. Progress on objectives: Environment

Objective	Progress so far	Future Actions
<p>5.01 Countryside and Public Open Space The countryside and open spaces will be protected as</p>	<p>The Community Council has no power to enforce this requirement, and any attempt to by FCC planning</p>	<p>The Community Council will continue to raise proposals for reform of planning policy with Welsh Ministers.</p>

<p>a matter of priority from unnecessary or inappropriate development. Development in these areas will only be acceptable in exceptional circumstances and where the development clearly enhances these areas, for example landscaping and planting schemes.</p>	<p>committee is liable to be appealed. Protection of best and most versatile agricultural land is included in the planning process, however this is measured against other factors.</p>	
<p>5.02 There is an acknowledged lack of public open space within the village. As such, it is important that the existing countryside and green spaces in and around the village are protected in view of their importance to the community for recreation and the local environment.</p>	<p>Public green space provision has marginally increased during the plan period as a result of developments.</p>	<p>Transfer of part of the old school site to the Community Council will allow for further expansion of green space provision.</p>
<p>5.03 Biodiversity New development will be expected to: -Provide community green space or woodland and restore and provide new nature conservation areas and wildlife havens, wherever possible -Include environmentally friendly features, such as bat boxes, bird boxes and hedgehog gates into the landscape and building design -Not harm or impact habitat and wildlife corridors, such as hedgerows and interlinked areas of open space / woodland.</p>	<p>All of these goals have been met to the extent permitted by PPW. However, Community Council feedback on planning applications has often not emphasised these features.</p>	<p>The Community Council will review its model response to planning applications to consider whether reference to bird and bat box elements, as well as hedgehog gates, should be added.</p>
<p>5.04 This objective will ensure that new developments actively encourage biodiversity and wildlife corridors in the village, maintaining and, where possible enhancing, the quality and diversity of the local environment..</p>	<p>See above</p>	<p>See above</p>

<p>5.05 Water and Drainage All new developments should have a water supply and drainage strategy agreed prior to submission of planning applications. This strategy should ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Consultation and liaison has taken place with the utility provider; -The demand for water and wastewater infrastructure on and off site can be met; -The surface water drainage requirements on and off the site can be met; and -The overall level of flood risk both on the site and elsewhere in the village and beyond will be reduced. 	<p>Changes to SUDs regulations since the introduction of the place plan have shaped the framework that supersedes this section.</p>	<p>The Community Council will continue to raise proposals for reform of planning policy with Welsh Ministers.</p>
<p>5.06 Both sewage and surface water drainage networks are at capacity, with heavy rainfall already resulting in flooding in areas of the village. A large number of respondents to the questionnaire have indicated that they experience issues with poor water pressure, drains and smells and discoloured water and have expressed concern over flooding issues in the village.</p> <p>5.07 This policy therefore looks to address the concerns of the community in relation to the existing capacity, state and sustainability of the existing drainage network in the village, as well as enforcing the management and design of this infrastructure required under Local and National planning policy.</p>	<p>There continue to be issues with sewage discharge that have not been properly addressed through the planning system. There are concerns about the ability of the drains to cope with the impact of climate change without any further development.</p> <p>Water pressure concerns are being addressed by Hafren Dyfrdwy, with works having been carried out.</p>	<p>The Community Council will engage with broader consultations wherever possible on these topics, to advance and support proposals for wholesale review and where necessary overhaul of infrastructure.</p>

12. Progress on objectives: Economic

Objective	Progress so far	Future Actions
<p>6.01 Siting of Businesses Proposals to develop small light industrial, small office and retail sites close to the A550 / railway station will be supported provided they comply with the requirements of other objectives in this plan.</p> <p>6.02 The objective is to promote the best sites for business in the ward in respect of road services, sustainable transport for employees and the impact on the surroundings.</p>	<p>The Community Council put this forward in the LDP consultations, however this was not taken forward.</p>	<p>The Community Council will continue to support proposals for expansion of the village across the bypass where this is of a commercial or industrial character</p>
<p>6.03 There should only be light industrial or starter offices appropriate to the size of the village/ward. No larger industrial developments or commercial developments will be allowed, particularly any developments which would bring increased noise and [sic]</p>	<p>No larger premises have been added. Planning permission for smaller commercial developments have been granted.</p>	<p>The Community Council will continue to consider applications on a case by case basis.</p>
<p>6.04 Change of use: Agricultural & Disused Buildings Proposals for the regeneration of derelict sites or alternative use of agricultural buildings within the ward will be supported providing they comply with the requirements of other policies in this plan and where the proposals would not have a detrimental impact on the, rural setting, residential amenity of neighbours and traffic environment.</p> <p>6.05 The objective is to encourage and promote new industry/businesses to</p>	<p>A number of these have been brought forward, and have been assessed on a case by case basis.</p>	<p>The Community Council will continue to consider applications on a case by case basis.</p>

<p>establish themselves here and provide job opportunities.</p>		
<p>6.06 Non Residential, including Retail, Development within the Settlement Boundary Proposals for non-residential development on sites within the Housing Development Boundary (HDB) will be supported only where the proposals would not have a detrimental impact on the residential amenity of neighbours and traffic environment. Amenity includes issues of noise, traffic congestion, smells and vibration.</p> <p>6.07 The objective is to ensure that non-residential development within the HDB does not have a detrimental effect on neighbouring properties and provides useful amenities to the village, for the benefit of the community.</p>	<p>Successful applications of this nature, including the Co-op and the expansion of the vets, have all complied with this policy.</p>	<p>The Community Council will continue to consider applications on a case by case basis.</p>
<p>6.08 While many villagers are keen for additional choice and capacity in food retail within the village of Pen-y-ffordd, we must be mindful of the need to protect village size and community life and for businesses to be sustainable and appropriate for the village/ward resident numbers. New retail premises must fit into the feel of the village and not cause a reduction in the quality of life of existing and future residents.</p>	<p>The development of the Co-op has been generally well received and residents consider that it has enhanced the village, rather than detracted from it.</p> <p>Planning applications for takeaway food have been assessed on a case by case basis. Many of these have been for temporary or travelling facilities.</p>	<p>Grocery retailers are likely to consider the market saturated and so no further applications are anticipated within the lifetime of the plan.</p> <p>Any applications for takeaway provision will be considered on a case by case basis.</p>
<p>6.09 Provision of Health Services</p>	<p>While provision of a healthcare facility is</p>	<p>Should proposals be brought forward, the</p>

<p>Proposals for the re-introduction of a healthcare facility in the village would be welcomed where the design is of a scale and design fitting of a village environment, provide adequate parking provision and a robust traffic plan. They must not have a detrimental impact on the residential amenity of neighbours including issues of noise, traffic congestion, smells and vibration.</p> <p>6.10 Providing good access to healthcare is a fundamental need and increased with the reduction in public transport provision and the increasing age of the village population. Having an appropriate village facility would increase the quality of life for many residents and increase the sustainability of the village.</p>	<p>universally supported, budgetary constraints have prevented any tangible progress being made towards this.</p>	<p>Community Council will engage with any consultation on location and traffic management.</p>
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13. Looking Ahead: The 2030-45 Place Plan Process

The defining factor in considering when to begin the development of a new place plan is the timescale of the replacement LDP for Flintshire. The Community Council feels strongly that work should commence on the replacement LDP immediately, especially given the time taken to develop and adopt the present one, and will lobby Flintshire's planning department on this point. There can be no return, post-2030, to a situation where the county has no adopted plan and speculative development returns.

Until a timescale for the replacement LDP is announced, development of a new place plan would be premature. A place plan should feed into the LDP, and one carried out years before the LDP would potentially be of limited relevance, and at worst, may actively contradict new planning requirements introduced by the Welsh Government in the meantime.

Therefore the Community Council offers no firm date as to when work on the new place plan will commence. However, we expect preparatory work to begin in advance of the 2027 local government elections.

This early work is likely to involve designing a process, including setting target dates for each stage, and determining the number and form of community consultations. We

anticipate that the substantive issues within the place plan may well prove to be an election issue in 2027, and we look forward to a vibrant democratic discussion on these issues.

In any event, the place plan will be completed in advance of 2030, or the initial consultation on the replacement LDP, whichever is earlier.

The Community Council is always welcoming of the views of local residents, and if you have ideas for what the future of our village should look like, or on how the next place plan should be designed, then we would love to hear from you.

Amendments proposed by Cllr D Williams

Location	Comment / amendment	Response
Contents	"Lack of clarity for residents to understand"	The contents page refers to the titles of each section. Those titles have been chosen to align with the original plan. Changing these would make it harder to cross-reference.
Contents, and third section	Insert "where it will hopefully have some standing in future planning decisions" after original title of section 3, which was "Brief explanation of what the place plan is and isn't, and the context in which it was produced"	This comment caused reflection that led to renaming of whole section more concisely, however, to "The 2017 Place Plan Process"
Contents	Insert new section "Whats changed? Education provision."	Rejected as this was not a standalone theme in the original place plan, however as a compromise greater coverage of education issues has been included in the Fabric of the Community section
Contents	Insert new section "Whats changed? School transport provision.???"	Rejected as this was not a standalone theme in the original place plan, however reference has been added to this in the Fabric of the Community section
Contents	Insert new section "Progress on ?? Adult and youth play space"	This is already covered in Social, Community, History which is the title used in the place plan. There is no policy section in the plan with this title to assess progress against
S3, para 1, sentence 2	Insert "in response to guidance from planning policy team and consultation with the Community intended" after "It was prepared", and before "to be supplementary planning guidance"	Rejected, adds to the length without adding essential context

<p>S3, para 3, final sentence</p>	<p>Reword to “The Place Plan has also been used to in an attempt to combat speculative development in the village that was not taken into account by developers” from “The Place Plan has also been used to combat speculative development in the village.”</p>	<p>Compromise reword: “The Place Plan has also been used in objections to speculative development in the village, with some successes and some failure”.</p>
<p>S4, Reference to Castell Alun</p>	<p>Part of Redrow is outside Castell Alun qualification and changes in school transport policy application have impacted on this????</p>	<p>These points, while valid, have not reduced the effect this has on development due to developers not mentioning this in sales, and external buyers looking at proximity to schools rather than the minutiae of council school transport policy before buying. In addition, most of the development this section refers to was given permission prior to this policy change. These issues are covered in the Fabric of the Community section.</p>
<p>S4, Transport links section</p>	<p>Bus and other transport links???</p>	<p>While bus routes have been cut, this is not relevant to this section as bus routes have very little impact on house prices for demographic reasons. This is covered in the public transport section.</p>
<p>S4, wealthier area section</p>	<p>Insert “The failure of developers and local authority to provide 30% entitlement for Groves and Heritage park has contributed heavily to this fact, in that adequate accessible homes were not built and many local people were forced to buy outside their desired birth homes due to higher house prices within the ward than in neighbouring villages and towns! Future</p>	<p>Inserted “This has been contributed to by the failure to deliver the full amount of affordable and social housing on a number of developments” at the end of the section</p>

	developments need to be mindful of this!" at end of section	
S4, after "we are a village" part	Impact perceived and factual??	Unclear what is meant by this comment
S4, para starting "All these factors"	<p>Insert between sentences 3 and 4: "???"Alyn drive, Tates (Penymynydd reasonable mix) Abbotsford drive (all expensive detached), Ffordd Derwyn (all expensive detached), Plas yn rhos (all expensive detached), Rivermead (all expensive detached), Belway first phase of Groves(all expensive detached)???"</p>	Reference to the older parts of the village includes Penymynydd Road, Green Park, Alyn Drive, Hawarden Road, Crossways, Vounog Hill, Wats Road, Holly Drive etc which feature large numbers of semi-detached properties and / or bungalows. Many of the estates referenced in the insert are newer (post 1985). "Older parts of the village" is not intended to refer to all pre-2017 development.
S4, para starting "All these factors"	Insert at end "Well house is the only development that has a real social mix of homes."	Accepted with minor clarifying change
S4, para starting "New developments built"	Insert "approved in December 2023" after Rhos Road South. Sentence would now read "Applications have also been lodged for other sites within the village, including the land South of Rhos Road, approved in December 2023, and land East of the Vounog Hill (the sledging field). This last application was defeated at appeal in April 2022."	Rejected as this is inaccurate.
S4, Table	Context added	Changes accepted
S5, bullet point 1	Proposed deletion of final section of last sentence, "and the fact that the LDP was so close to being passed was a major factor in the rejection of the sledging field site by the	Change accepted

	planning inspector in 2022”	
S5, bullet point 2	Add question marks after “Rhodfa” and “Gladstone”	Rejected, this will appear to be mocking the Welsh naming of streets, which conflicts with the council’s statutory obligations under the Welsh Language Act
S5, bullet point 2	Add references to Hawthorn Way and Rhos Rd North	Accepted
S5 bullet point 3	Insert “that indicates the ward has provided more than its fair share of housing allocation to the Counties requirement?” at end of bullet point	Rejected, while a good point this is not relevant to the specific issue in the bullet point. These bullet points are also entirely factual, inserting opinion muddies the waters and reduces clarity
S6 para 1	Delete last part of last sentence, “and became a major political issue in local elections in 2021 and 2022”	This is a valid point, it was included to highlight how strongly this is felt by the community. Not removed so as to give full council the opportunity to make a determination.
S6, para 2	Change date of withdrawal of the 13 service from “2020” to “October 2019”	The 12 was withdrawn in October 2019, the 13 ran as a reduced service for a few more months.
S6 para 3	Insert new sentence between sentences 2 & 3: “Many elderly residents in particular have difficulty accessing the new services and expressed desire for regular busses at specified times.”	Accepted with minor variation for clarity
S6 para 4	Redraft to “Recently an hourly Chester service has been reinstated, which leaves from St John’s Church. Pen-y-ffordd residents have great difficulty accessing this service given the distance needed to walk to the nearest bus stop. The service originates in Ruthin,	Criticism of service for not covering the full length of the ward not included, as the council has not chosen to do this in the past, eg with former Chester services which did not stop in Penymynydd or Dobshill. If we are to demand that every service includes Penyffordd as well as Penymynydd, will

	<p>giving Penymynydd local residents access to new destinations beyond Mold and into Denbighshire, Although this is a welcome addition, it falls well short of the real need of a regular service to Chester. The village continues to be served by the Wrexham - Mold service, but this is just five busses a day.”</p>	<p>we also apply the reverse? What about Dobshill or Little Mountain? The current version is consistent with previous council practice, if council wishes to change this we will need to decide whether we apply criticism across all parts of the ward, or whether we consider Penyffordd a higher priority than Penymynydd and Dobshill. Specific timetable references in latter part rejected as too variable for a durable document</p>
S6	<p>Insert new para between 5&6: “Moves are still in the pipeline for the station to be a hub for the area under Flintshires broader transport policy, and should the village succeed in achieving this hub, it will put the village in a much stronger position to improve our transport services further”</p>	<p>Accepted</p>
S6, last para	<p>A brilliant ambition that should not be overlooked, but is it really a feasible and practical aim????</p>	<p>As the wording says, this should be a topic of broader discussion moving forwards. Whether we chose to do anything or not is a decision for the future - the answer may be no.</p>
S7, para 1	<p>After “During the long periods of lockdown some community groups ceased functioning and folded”, comment “Examples??, including the folding of the last junior football section that had been in existence for over forty years, other losses were ???”</p>	<p>Considered that naming groups may be perceived as shaming those involved for folding which is not helpful.</p>
S7, para 2	<p>After sentence 1, insert “The working group have recently achieved grant aid for architects fees for modification of the buildi g</p>	<p>Included with reword</p>

	interior and new hall that the scouts and other groups can take advantage of.”	
S7 para 3	Does Emmanuel church still hold services??	The original draft said no, this was amended after the consultation last Summer to yes in the current version after representations from councillors.
S7 para 5	Add to last sentence: “and the Spar continues to support village activities and groups.”	Accepted
S7	New para after para 5: “The village also has a new barbers and the hairdressers at the bottom of the Vounog has recently reopened after three years of closure. The village has lost its Pet shop of Dobshill and its mobile takeaway due to unavailability of appropriate business premises. The fact that this sort of village amenity of business and employment space was not provided as it should have in a previous plan, needs addressing in future plans!”	Partially included. Those bits not included due to opinion rather than fact
S7	Final para, “Excellent point!”	Noted
S8-12	Proposed wholesale deletion	Rejected - no need to delete, and the comparison of progress with policies is the main point of the review



Proforma for Councillors to add items to the Agenda.

Name of Councillor	Cllr Pat Ransome
Title of Proposal	Community Council Information Table/Stall at the Penyffordd, Penymynydd and Dobshill Carnival – Saturday 15 th June 2024
Purpose of Proposal	To be a visible presence at a community event enabling council to meet and talk with residents as part of our commitment to community engagement.
Background to this request	<p>Following the success of our presence last year, proposed to hold another this year on date as above.</p> <p>Taking leaflets or sharing contact numbers of relevant parties – FCC Streetscene; PCSOs was appreciated</p> <p>The distribution of bins and bags was well received plus information re where to obtain them</p>
Financial Implications	<p>Printing contact numbers – minimal</p> <p>There were no additional costs</p>
Environmental Implications	<p>Chris and Glynn– promotes their work undertaken within the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planters/Trees/West View Nature Area/ Clock area - Play Areas/Roads/Verges
Equality Implications	Reaches out to community to include all including our youngsters. Role for Youth Representative if wished
Advantages of this proposal	<p>The community put faces to names and do have queries to share. It provides the opportunity to meet face to face.</p> <p>We are sharing information (not there as a business) to highlight what Council does</p>
Disadvantages of this proposal	Weather dependent though we did have use of a gazebo
Date submitted	3 rd March 2024

Item 18



Proforma for Councillors to add items to the Agenda.

Name of Councillor	Clr Pat Ransome
Title of Proposal	Circular Walk Print copies
Purpose of Proposal	To request additional printed copies of Circular Walk 1-4 and Area Information leaflet
Background to this request	<p>All copiesa of the printed leaflets have been distributed and positive comments still received.</p> <p>Before Christmas we agreed to print additional QR codes which have also been distributed. These were well received but we do not know what the take up of these has been.</p> <p>It would, given the success of these in the community, be appropriate to share both options (not all potential walkers have phones with access to QR Codes)</p>
Financial Implications	<p>Cost of print</p> <p>Print Centre wales (our traditional printer in Mold, has closed down so would need to cost other options</p>
Environmental Implications	We would encourage use of paperless QR access but as above would be inclusive of all to have both options
Equality Implications	As above – the option to be available to all
Advantages of this proposal	The leaflets have always been popular and have been shared with new developments and newcomers to the area. A fifth walk is in its planning stage and the leaflet does provide a visual copy.
Disadvantages of this proposal	Cost of print. We could encourage a by request system that requires the community to request paper copies and keep QR code in local businesses with a poster advising re hard copies
Date submitted	January 2024



Proforma for Councillors to add items to the Agenda.

Name of Councillor	Cllr Pat Ransome
Title of Proposal	In line with Community Engagement Working Group to arrange a suitable date for a Community Council Drop In event
Purpose of Proposal	As previously discussed in our Working Group more opportunities to meet with the community needed. It is an important role of Council that they serve and support the community but a given fact that many still say they do not know their council or councillors.
Background to this request	We know that the invite to our monthly meetings brings little response and that in some quarters Community Council is held in scant regard. We want to work actively in engaging with the community and they are pivotal to our role.
Financial Implications	Refreshments
Environmental Implications	There are none
Equality Implications	It will give all the opportunity to meet with councillors and particularly those in the community with no access to social media or who do not visit local venues
Advantages of this proposal	It helps Community Council to move forward collectively whilst providing the opportunity to share our role and statutory responsibilities in a non political arena
Disadvantages of this proposal	Encouraging interest to become involved
Date submitted	January 2024

Local Government Pension Scheme Discretionary Policy

Item 21



Document type: Policy

Version number: 1 (July 2016)

Date review due: 13th March 2024

1. PART A

The regulations of the LGPS require every employer to

- (i) issue a written policy statement on how it will exercise the various discretions provided by the scheme,
- (ii) keep it under review and
- (iii) revise it as necessary.

This document meets these requirements stating the regulation requirement and the organisation decision on these.

These discretions are subject to change, either in line with any change in regulations or by due consideration by Penyffordd Community Council. These provisions do not confer any contractual rights.

Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 and the Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions and Savings) Regulations 2014

1.1 LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2014 Regulation 16 (2) (e) & 16 (4) (d)

An employer may choose to contribute to a Shared Cost Additional Pension Contribution (APC) scheme in certain circumstances. In the case of an employee paying APCs to buy any or all the 'lost' pension for a period of authorised unpaid leave of absence (including any period of unpaid additional maternity, paternity or adoption leave), the employer shall pay 2/3rds of the cost of the APC (election by the employee to buy back lost pension must be made within 30 days of returning to work). This is known as a Shared Cost Additional Pension Contribution (SCAPC).

Where the absence is in relation to a trade dispute, the employee meets 100% of the cost.

If an employee chooses to make a one off contribution or regular additional contributions in order to buy a set amount of additional pension. It is possible for an employer to contribute towards the cost of purchasing such pension on a voluntary basis. The split between an employee's and employers' additional contributions for an SCAPC can be any ratio as agreed but not 100% cost to the employer.

Details of Policy Concerning Resolution

Where a member must elect to buy back lost pension within 30 days of returning to work, Penyffordd Community Council may choose to extend the 30 in cases of extreme circumstances.

Due to potential cost burden Penyffordd Community Council will not contribute towards the cost of the employee purchasing additional pension.

1.2 LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2014 Regulation 30 (6) & Transitional Regulation 11 (2) (flexible retirement)

An employer may allow a member of the pension scheme who has attained the age of 55 to reduce the hours he / she works, or the grade in which he / she is employed and gain access to some or all of their pension benefits.

Details of Policy Concerning Resolution

Each case will be considered on its own merits following full consideration of all financial and service delivery implications.

1.3 LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2014 Regulation 30 (8) (flexible retirement)

A member of the pension scheme who has attained the age of 55 and with his / her employer's consent, reduces the hours he / she works, or the grade in which he / she is employed, may make a request in writing to receive all or part of his / her benefits under the Benefits Regulations.

If the benefits are reduced in accordance with guidance issued by the Government Actuary, the employer may agree to waive, in whole or in part, any such reduction.

Details of Policy Concerning Resolution

Any employee request for flexible retirement will be considered on its own merits following full consideration of all financial and service delivery implications.

Where there is a capital cost to Penyffordd Community Council it is unlikely that the request will be agreed unless the capital costs can be offset by financial savings.

This does not preclude younger employees requesting flexible working but without the payment of their retirement benefits.

Under flexible retirement a minimum of 20% reduction in working hours will be necessary.

1.4 LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2014 Regulation 30 (8) (early retirement)

An employer may waive, in whole or in part, actuarial reduction on benefits which a member voluntarily withdraws before normal pension age.

Details of Policy Concerning Resolution

It is not the policy of Penyffordd Community Council to waive any reduction applied to the pension benefit due to the early payment, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Each case will be considered on its own merits following full consideration of all financial and service delivery implications.

1.5 LGPS (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014, Schedule 2 – (85 Year Rule)

The “85 Year Rule”, where a member’s service and age equal 85, can be activated for individual members, prior to age 60 in the case of Early Retirement, the cost of which can be borne, in full or in part, by the employer.

Details of Policy Concerning Resolution

Penyffordd Community Council has the discretion to waive reductions in full, or in part and will consider each case on its own merits following full consideration of all financial and service delivery implications

1.6 LGPS (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014, Schedule 2 – (waiving reductions)

It is an employer’s discretion review applications for waiving the reductions applied to benefits from pre 1 April 2014 membership where an employer has switched on the rule of 85 for a member voluntarily drawing benefits on or after age 55 but before age 60.

Details of Policy Concerning Resolution

It is not the policy of Penyffordd Community Council to waive the actuarial reduction on early payment of pension unless:

(i) the payment relates to someone who is being made redundant or taking efficiency retirement from active employment with Penyffordd Community Council.

(ii) If there are compelling, compassionate reasons to do so.*

1.7 LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2014 Regulation 31

From 1 April 2014, an employer may grant additional pension up to a maximum of £6,500. The decision to award additional pension can be made only in respect of an employee who is an active member of the LGPS, or within 6 months of leaving employment if the reason for leaving was redundancy or business efficiency.

Details of Policy Concerning Resolution

It is not the policy of Penyffordd Community Council to award additional pension

2. PART B - Discretionary policies relating to earlier Scheme rules

2.1 LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 Regulation 12

An employer may increase (i.e. augment) the total membership of an employee who is currently paying contributions to the Scheme, for example, to enhance a redundancy package for staff with scarce and/or key skills.

The member's (of the pension scheme) increase in membership under this regulation (including additional membership in respect of different employments) must not exceed 10 years or go beyond age 75 if retiring after age 65. This discretion is spent entirely after 30/09/14.

Details of Policy Concerning Resolution

It is not the policy of Penyffordd Community Council to augment pension.

2.2 LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 Regulation 30 (2)

It is an employer's discretion review applications from former employee's for releasing the deferred benefits on or after age 55 but before age 60.

Details of Policy Concerning Resolution

It is not the policy of Penyffordd Community Council to waive any reduction applied to the pension benefit due to the early payment.

2.3 LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 Regulation 30 (5)

It is an employer's discretion review applications for waiving the reductions applied to benefits where an employer has agreed to release the deferred benefits on or after age 55.

Details of Policy Concerning Resolution

It is not the policy of Penyffordd Community Council to waive the actuarial reduction on early payment of a deferred pension unless there are compelling, compassionate reasons to do so.*

2.4 LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 Regulation 30A (3)

It is an employer's discretion review applications from former employee's for releasing the deferred benefits on or after age 55 but before age 60 following a suspended ill health pension.

Details of Policy Concerning Resolution

It is not the policy of Penyffordd Community Council to waive the actuarial reduction on early payment of a deferred pension unless there are compelling, compassionate reasons to do so.*

2.5 LGPS (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 Regulation 47

A scheme member who meets the normal criteria for a refund of pension contributions is not entitled to such a refund if he/she left his/her employment because of:

- An offence of fraudulent character – unless the employer directs that a total or partial refund may be made to the member.
- Grave misconduct – unless the employer directs that a total or partial refund may be made to the member, his/her spouse, civil partner nominated cohabiting partner or any dependant of his/her.

Details of Policy Concerning Resolution

Each case to be individually considered by Penyffordd Community Council before a decision is made.

3. PART C

3.1 Background

There are a further five discretions that are not compulsory to include in the Policy Statement but that are recommended to be included:

3.2 LGPS (Administration) Regulations 2008 Regulation 22 (2)

A scheme member may elect to pay optional contributions to cover a period of absence from work providing the option is made within 30 days of return to work or cessation of employment or such longer period as the employer allows.

Details of Policy Concerning Resolution

It is the policy of Penyffordd Community Council to consider an extension in cases where the member of staff was not notified of their rights to pay contributions in respect of a period of absence before returning to work, or ceasing to be employed without returning to work. The extension would be for one month from the date that they were notified of their right to pay.

3.3 LGPS (Administration) Regulations 2008 Regulation 83 (8)

If a scheme member wishes to transfer pension into the LGPS he/she must opt to do so within 12 months of joining the LGPS or such longer period as the employer may allow.

Details of Policy Concerning Resolution

It is not the policy of Penyffordd Community Council to consider extending the time limit for a transfer in of previous pension rights to proceed after twelve months of joining unless:

(i) the scheme member has requested that investigations commence within the twelve month time limit, or

(ii) if there is reason to believe that the individual would not have known of the need to request an investigation into potential transfer in or previous pension rights within the twelve month time limit, and the HR &/or pension files support this. Only in exceptional circumstances will a longer period be allowed so long as there is no known reason or prospect of the employee having access to their pension rights within the next 12 months.

3.4 LGPS (Administration) Regulations 2008 Regulation 25 (3)

Where the member's employing authority contributes to the scheme, the additional voluntary contributions arrangement is to be known as a shared cost additional voluntary contributions arrangement and contributions to it as "SCAVCs".

Details of Policy Concerning Resolution

It is not the policy of Penyffordd Community Council to contribute towards a shared cost additional voluntary contributions scheme.

3.5 LGPS (Benefits, Membership & Contribution) Regulations 2007 Regulation 3 (4)

Where a member is employed in any employment for part only of any financial year, the range (and the contribution rate) applicable to him are those that would have applied had he been so employed for the whole of that financial year.

The tiered contribution rate for each employee will be based on the pensionable pay elements Basic salary is assessed at the full time equivalent rate, in each post an employee holds at 1 April.

The contribution rate will be re-assessed annually on implementation/application (regardless of when the award is made) of the annual pay award. Re-assessment will take place at any point in the year in the following circumstances:

- Promotion
- Demotion
- Incremental progression
- Pay award
- Acting up starts/Acting up ceases
- Contractual Allowance starts/Contractual Allowance ceases

4. Definitions

*Definition of compelling, compassionate reasons:

(i) The member can clearly demonstrate that they have a dependent, who is in need of the member's constant supervision due to a long term illness and as a result the member is suffering from severe financial hardship OR

(ii) There is another substantial reason (not relating to caring for a dependant who is unwell) where the member can demonstrate that they are facing very severe, on-going financial hardship and will be doing so on a long term basis.

In exceptional circumstances, and only with the prior approval of Penyffordd Community Council, Penyffordd Community Council may vary the terms of this policy on an individual basis.

The list is subject to statute, regulations and Penyffordd Community Council's policy. It may be varied in the future as necessary.

Each discretion will be dealt with independently.

Review – Penyffordd Community Council may review its policy at any time.