

Community and Town Councils in Wales

Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Accounting statements 2022-23 for:

Name of body: HOPE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers
	31 March 2022 (£)	31 March 2023 (£)	
Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments			
1. Balances brought forward	122565	102806	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	93706	113155	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	6912	7482	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	16881	18050	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, taxable allowances, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and termination costs. Exclude reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	103496	59363	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	102806	146030	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).
Statement of balances			
8. (+) Debtors	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	102806	146030	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	102806	146030	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	100502	101562	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

Annual Governance Statement

We acknowledge as the members of the Council/Board/Committee, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2023, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council/Board/Committee:	PG Ref	
	Yes	No*			
1. We have put in place arrangements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> effective financial management during the year; and the preparation and approval of the accounting statements. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12	
2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7	
3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Council/Board/ Committee to conduct its business or on its finances.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6	
4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the body's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23	
5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Council/Board/Committee and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9	
6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the body.	6, 8	
7. We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Council/Board/Committee and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6	
8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23	
9. Trust funds – The body acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing trust fund(s)/assets. We exclude transactions related to these trusts from the Accounting Statement. In our capacity as trustee, we have discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	3, 6

* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Additional disclosure notes*

The following information is provided to assist the reader to understand the accounting statement and/or the Annual Governance Statement

1. Expenditure under S137 Local Government Act 1972 and S2 Local Government Act 2000

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits the Council to spend on activities for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure. Section 137(3) also permits the Council to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2022-23 was £8.82 per elector.

In 2022-23, the Council made payments totalling £2920.00 under section 137. These payments are included within 'Other payments' in the Accounting Statement.

2. The Balances Carried Forward are higher than expected which is mainly due to reserved balances for Caergwrlle Castle (£23,757), Street Lighting Upgrades (£42,074) and Play Area Match Funding (£25,000).

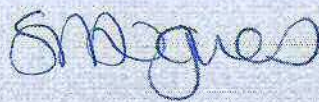

It is anticipated that the Street Lighting Upgrades, investment and improvements at Caergwrlle Castel will be completed in 2023/24. An invoice for the majority of the Play Area Match Funding is due April 2023 with remainder work due to be completed during 2023/24..

3.

* Include here any additional disclosures the Council considers necessary to aid the reader's understanding of the accounting statements and/or the annual governance statement.

Council/Board/Committee approval and certification

The Council/Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements and the annual governance statement in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the Act) and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

Certification by the RFO	Approval by the Council/Board/Committee
I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return present fairly the financial position of the Council/Board/Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2023.	I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:
RFO signature: 	Minute ref: MIN 21
Name: SARAH A HUGHES	Chair of meeting signature: 
Date: 3 / 5 / 2023	Name: DAVID ROBERTS
	Date: 3 / 5 / 2023

Auditor General's report and audit opinion

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2023 of **Hope Community Council**. My audit has been conducted on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales and in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the 2004 Act) and guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

Audit opinion: Unqualified

On the basis of my audit, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention to give cause for concern that, in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements; and
- that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Other matters and recommendations


I draw the Council's attention to the following matters and recommendations which do not affect my audit opinion but should be addressed by the Council.

Procurement

We noted during the audit that the Council did not obtain quotes for replacement of CCTV equipment and for Christmas lighting as the services were provided by the Council's 'regular contractors' and the value of the works was less than £5,000. The Council's financial regulations require that for purchases below £5,000 'the Clerk or RFO shall strive to obtain 3 estimates.'

We recommend that where the cost is below £5,000 the Council should ensure that it is able to demonstrate it has made sufficient efforts to ensure value for money is obtained.

There are no further matters I wish to draw to the Council's attention.

 <p>Deryck Evans, Audit Manager, Audit Wales For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales</p>	<p>Date 27/03/2024</p>
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Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body:

HOPE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Council/Board/Committee's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2023.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Council/Board/Committee's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council/Board/Committee.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	✓				
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓				
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓				
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	✓				
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓				
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			✓		NO PETTY CASH
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓				
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.	✓				

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
9. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	✓				
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓				
11. Trust funds (including charitable trusts). The Council/Board/Committee has met its responsibilities as a trustee.			✓		

For any risk areas identified by the Council/Board/Committee (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
12.					
13.					
14.					

* If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

** If the response is 'not covered', please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not.

[My detailed findings and recommendations which I draw to the attention of the Council/Board/Committee are included in my detailed report to the Council/Board/Committee dated 24/04/2023.] * Delete if no report prepared.

Internal audit confirmation

I/we confirm that as the Council's internal auditor, I/we have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the body (including preparation of the accounts) or as a member of the body during the financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit:	JDM BUSINESS SERVICES LTD
Signature of person who carried out the internal audit:	JDM Business Services Ltd
Date:	24/04/2023

**NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT
AND RIGHT TO INSPECT THE ANNUAL RETURN
FOR THE YEARS ENDED
31 MARCH 2023**

**Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 Section 29
Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014**

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) Insert name, position and address of person to whom local government electors should apply to inspect the annual return | 1. The audit of accounts for Hope Community Council for the year ended 31 March 2023 has been concluded. |
| (b) Insert the times between which a local government elector may apply to inspect the annual return | 2. The annual return is available for inspection by any local government elector for the area of Hope Community Council on application to: |
| (c) Insert a reasonable sum for copying costs | (a) Mrs S A Hughes
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
3 Old Chester Road
Ewloe
Deeside
Flintshire
CH5 3RU |
| (d) Insert name and position of person placing the notice | (b) between 10.00 am and 4.00pm on Monday to Thursday

(excluding public holidays), when any local government elector may make copies of the annual return. |
| (e) Insert date of placing of the notice | (c) Copies will be provided to any local government elector on payment of £1.00 for each copy of the annual return. |
| | (d) Mrs S A Hughes, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer |
| | (e) 1 st May 2024 |

**INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT
HOPE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
2023/24**

Full - Item 11

The internal audit is carried out by the following testing of the internal controls specified on the Annual Return for local councils in Wales:

- Checking that books of account have been properly kept throughout the year
- Checking a sample of payments to ensure that the Council's financial regulations have been met, payments are supported by invoices, expenditure is approved, and VAT is correctly accounted for
- Reviewing the Council's risk assessment and ensuring that adequate arrangements are in place to manage all identified risks
- Verifying that the annual precept request is the result of a proper budgetary process; that budget progress has been regularly monitored and that the council's reserves are appropriate
- Checking income records to ensure that the correct price has been charged, income has been received, recorded and promptly banked and VAT is correctly accounted for
- Reviewing petty cash records to ensure payments are supported by receipts, expenditure is approved and VAT is correctly accounted for
- Checking that salaries to employees have been paid in accordance with Council approvals and that PAYE and NI requirements have been properly applied
- Checking the accuracy of the asset and investments registers
- Testing the accuracy and timeliness of periodic and year-end bank account reconciliation(s)
- Year-end testing on the accuracy and completeness of the financial statements
- Where the Council is Sole Trustee of a Charity, checking that the Council has procedures in place to meet its responsibilities as a sole trustee

Conclusion

On the basis of the internal audit work carried out, which was limited to the tests indicated above, in our view the council's system of internal controls is in place, adequate for the purpose intended and effective, subject to the issues reported in the action plan overleaf. As part of the internal audit work for the next financial year we will follow up all recommendations included in the action plan.

JDH Business Services Limited 23/04/2024

ACTION PLAN

**INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT
HOPE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
2023/24**

	ISSUE	RECOMMENDATION	FOLLOW UP
1	<p>The total contracts for Christmas Lighting (with the same contractor) are in excess of the £5000 level at which the Council should obtain three quotations as per the financial regulations.</p> <p>We have not seen evidence that this contract has recently been subject to market testing.</p>	<p><i>Contracts must be awarded as per the financial regulations of the Council.</i></p>	
2022/23 Internal audit			
1	<p>Staff costs includes a tax free allowance paid to the Clerk for home working of £312.</p> <p>The annual return has been updated this year to clarify that only taxable allowances are to be included within the staff costs.</p>	<p><i>The annual return should be amended as follows:</i></p> <p><i>Staff costs £18,050</i></p> <p><i>Total other payments 59,363</i></p>	<p><i>Implemented - The annual return was amended by the Clerk prior to our certification of the annual return.</i></p>

Annual Governance Statement

We acknowledge as the members of the Council, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2024, that:

	Agreed?			'YES' means that the Council:	PG Ref
	Yes	No*	N/A		
1. We have put in place arrangements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> effective financial management during the year; and the preparation and approval of the accounting statements. 	YES			Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12
2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.	YES			Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7
3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Council to conduct its business or on its finances.	YES			Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6
4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	YES			Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the body's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23
5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Council and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	YES			Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9
6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.	YES			Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the body.	6, 8
7. We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Council and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	YES			Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6
8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	YES			Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23
9. Trust funds – The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing trust fund(s)/assets. We exclude transactions related to these trusts from the Accounting Statement. In our capacity as trustee, we have discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.			N/A	Has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	3, 6

* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Additional disclosure notes*

The following information is provided to assist the reader to understand the accounting statement and/or the Annual Governance Statement

1. Expenditure under S137 Local Government Act 1972 and S2 Local Government Act 2000

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits the Council to spend on activities for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure. Section 137(3) also permits the Council to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2023-24 was £9.93 per elector.

In 2023-24, the Council made payments totalling £3741.44 under section 137. These payments are included within 'Other payments' in the Accounting Statement.

2. The Balances Carried Forward are higher than expected which is mainly due to reserved balances for:

Caergwrle Castle - £23,743

Street Lighting Upgrades - £53,678

Play Area Match Funding - £25,000

Work has been undertaken for the Street Lighting Upgrades and are awaiting the invoice. Improvements works have commenced at the Caergwrle Castle and will be ongoing. Plans for the remaining works at the Willows Play Area Match are due to be completed during 2024.

3.

* Include here any additional disclosures the Council considers necessary to aid the reader's understanding of the accounting statement and/or the annual governance statement.

Council approval and certification

The Council is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements and the annual governance statement in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the Act) and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

<p>Certification by the RFO</p> <p>I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return present fairly the financial position of the Council, and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2024.</p>	<p>Approval by the Council</p> <p>I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council under minute reference:</p>
<p>RFO signature:</p>	<p>Minute ref:</p> <p>Chair signature:</p>
<p>Name:</p>	<p>Name:</p>
<p>Date:</p>	<p>Date:</p>

Hope Community Council
External Audit - Significant Variances
Annual Return for the Year ended 31 March 2024

**Box 3 - Total Other Receipts**

Last Year: £7,482 This Year: £26,763 = +£19,281 (+257.70% variance)

2022/23			2023/24		
HSBC	Interest	£554.49	CADW	Castle Contribution	£4450.00
HMRC	2021/22 VAT Claim	£6892.16	HMRC	2022/23 VAT Claim	£5151.24
Planning Aid Wales	Training Refund	£35.00	HSBC	Interest	£2713.37
			FCC	Street Light VAT Refund	£1066.21
			Zurich	Insurance Claim	£3382.00
			FCC	Play Area Match Funding	£10000.00
	Total	£7481.65		Total	£26762.82

Box 4 - Staff Costs

This is less than 15% variance and no explanation is required.

Last Year: £18,050 This Year: £20,313 = +£2,263 (+12.53% variance)

Box 5 - Loan interest/Capital Repayment

N/A

Box 6 - Total Other Payments

Last Year: £59,363 This Year: £83,185 = +£23,822 (+40.13% variance)

Table below and explains variances over 15%.

Confirm unexplained amount is less than 15% of last year figure = £483.68

<u>Committee/Budget Heading</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Leisure and Environment Committee			
Summer play scheme/Youth	£1,540.00	£2,126.80	Paid for an extra week playscheme in 2023
Environ imp/plygrnd	£1,189.68	£1,597.02	2mths less contractor work in 2022
Caergwrle Castle	£5,088.00	£12,728.40	Additional work in 2023 & replaced Interpretation boards
Caergwrle Castle	£4,176.00	£13.90	Storm damage repairs in 2022
Willow/ Porch Lane Match Funding (21/22)	£0.00	£13,000.00	Paid FCC for Willows Play Area upgrade in 2023
Planning and Highways Committee			
Street lighting – maint (inspec/ repairs)	£2,330.50	£18,696.42	Backdated VAT costs and 4x upgraded columns in 2023
Christmas lights	£8,427.60	£11,701.20	5x new lights purchased 2022, 8x purchased in 2023
CCTV Cameras	£3,736.80	£2,130.00	Replacement camera and new ipad in 2022
P & H Reserves			
P&H Misc/Reserved - Street Light Upgrade	£11,700.00	£0.00	13x commuted sum for street lights in 2022

Finance Committee

Expenses - Clerk Travel (Gen Admin)	£211.98	£145.60	Less miles travelled in 2023
Chain / honours board (Gen Admin)	£126.00	£0.00	Chairs Board updated in 2022
Stationery & equipment (Gen Admin)	£522.90	£270.97	2022 - Mobile purchased, hybrid equipment
Postage (NEW)	£170.74	£245.60	Additional member requesting paper agenda packs
Insurance (Gen Admin)	£1,376.54	£1,666.34	Increase due to index linking and additional xmas lights
Subscriptions (Gen Admin)	£845.00	£115.00	OVW Annual Membership invoice not received
Election expenses	£406.58	£0.00	Elections held in 2022
Office costs (Gen Admin)	£0.00	£120.00	Monthly payments for new Council mobile
Training	£162.50	£73.00	Less training undertaken in 2023
Finance Reserves			
Reserves for Village Celebration	£120.00	£1,041.44	VE Day 2022. King Coronation Grants 2023

Box 8 - Debtors and Stock Balance

N/A

Box 9 – Total & Cash Investments

Last Year: £146,030 This Year: £192,095 = +£46,065 (+31.54% variance)

2022/23	2023/24
Current Account - £14644.69	Current Account - £11146.88
Deposit Account - £131385.47	Deposit Account - £180948.29

Box 10 - Creditors

N/A

Box 12 - Total fixed assets

This is less than 15% variance and no explanation is required.

Last Year: £101,562 This Year: £103,871 = +£2,309 (+2.27% variance)

Total Borrowing - Box 13

N/A



Bank Reconciliation Year End 31st March 2024

Bank Account(s):

Current	£ 11,146.88
Deposit	£180,948.29

Less unpresented cheques (list):

£0.00

Add uncleared payment (list):

Nil	£0.00
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Add Petty Cash:

Not Applicable	£0.00
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Add Short term Investments

Not Applicable	£0.00
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Total

£192,095.17

What is the figure in Box 9 in Section 1 of the Annual Return?

£192,095

Does the total equal Box 9 in Section 1 of the Annual Return?

Yes

If No, there is an error in this statement, as you must be able to verify the figure in box 9

Groups and activities for adults in the Alyn Villages

Looking for things to do in and around Hope, Caergwrle and neighbouring villages? This leaflet provides details of regular groups and activities that take place in our villages. For more information about any group/activity, charges or booking arrangements contact the group direct.

Venue Key:		Methodist Church, Castle St Caergwrle	C.MC
Hope Church Hall, Hawarden Road	H.CH	Social Club, High St, Caergwrle	C.SC
Hope Community Centre, Heulwen Cl	H.CC	Cymau Community Ctr, Cymau	Cy.CC
Castell Alun High School, Hope	H.CAS	Ffrith & Llanfynydd Comm Ctr, Ffrith	FL.CC
Hope Community Library, Hope	H.CL	Kinnerton Village Hall, Hr Kinnerton	K.VH
Hope & Gresford churches	HG.C	Royal Oak, Hr Kinnerton	K.RO
Boys Brigade Hall, Caergwrle	C.BBH	Millstone Pub, Penyffordd	P.MP

Social Groups	When	Where	Contact
"Pop In" weekly gathering with activities	Thu 12:30 - 15:00	H.CH	Blodwen/Pat 01978 760715
Friday Tea & Coffee	Fridays 10:30-12:00	C.MC	
Chinwaggers Coffee Mornings	Weds 10:30-12:00	Cy.CC	
Chinwaggers Arms Community Pub (1 st Fri Folk night)	Fridays 20:30-22:30	Cy.CC	(Bring your own drinks)
Community Café - all welcome, just call in	Fridays 10:00-11:30	FL.CC	
Café Church	2nd Sun 10:00	FL.CC	Hazel Hughes 01978 755816
Monthly Penyffordd Memory Café	Last Fri 13:00-15:00	P.MP	Judy/Karol 07983 628091

Lunch Clubs	When	Where	Contact
Soup & Pud	last Thurs 13:00 – 15:00	H.CH	Blodwen/Pat 01978 760715/769238
Bingo Groups	When	Where	Contact
Hope Bingo	Tues 13:00 – 15:30	H.CC	Pauline 07443 422010
Caergwrle Bingo	Mon 14:00 Wed 19:30	C.SC	01978 760495
Places to visit	When	Where	Contact
"Park In The Past" - offers a range of activities & events for people of all ages www.parkinthePast.org	See website	Fagl Lane, Hope	admin@parkinthepast.org.uk
The Ffrith & Llanfynydd Story Heritage project and Book Swap	when centre is open	F&L.CC	Dawn 07599 093049

Community Organisations/Groups

Alyn Villages Age & Dementia Friendly Steering Group 3rd Thursday monthly 10:00 – 11:30, Heulwen Close Community Centre. Community group whose aim is to make the Alyn Villages age and dementia-friendly ~ helen.jones@flintshire.gov.uk / Niaj@newcis.org.uk . **New members welcome.**

Transport

Service LT7 Mold-Buckley, Service 27/29 Mold-Wrexham. For bus times call 0800 4640000 or visit: <https://www.traveline.cymru/timetables/>
Buckley Fflecsi – bookable service for residents (within the Fflecsi service area) not covered by existing public transport services. To book, call 0300 234 0300 or download the app. For more information, visit: <https://www.fflecsi.wales/>
Welsh Border Community Transport - provide individual/group transport to appointments, clubs/activities. For more information call 01244 544474 or visit <https://welshborderct.co.uk/our-services/>

This leaflet has been compiled by the Alyn Villages Age & Dementia-Friendly group to increase awareness of the range of activities available for people in the Alyn Villages and neighbouring communities for people aged 50+.

Updated November 2023



Women's Groups	When	Where	Contact
Mother's Union (monthly)	2 nd Thurs 13:30	H.CH	Pat Farnworth 01352 770298
Hope WI (monthly)	2 nd Mon 19:30	H.CC	
Kinnerton WI (monthly)	1 st Thur 18:00	K.VH	
Llanfynydd WI (monthly)	2 nd Tues 19:00	FL.CC	

Exercise and Dance	When	Where	Contact
Aura Leisure gentle exercise to music	Tues 10:00-11:00	H.CC	Vickie Evans vickie.isaac@aura.wales
Zumba	Thurs 18:30-19:15	C.BBH	Holly 07947 575028
Tai Chi Remedial Therapy	Thurs 09:00-10:00	Cy.CC	Peter Newton
FitFlex Pilates	Thurs 17:45-18:45 18:45-19:45	Cy.CC	Booking required anna.fitflex@gmail.com
Pilates	Mon 18:00-19:00	Cy.CC	Tamzin 07743 532913
Strictly Fun Dancing	Tues 19:00-20:00	Cy.CC	
Ffrith Dance Fever <i>term-time only</i>	Thur 19:00-20:00	FL.CC	Karen Lyon 07791 975375
Pilates	Fri 18:30	FL.CC	Tamzin 07743 532913
Ivengar Yoga (fortnightly)	Wed 19:00-20:30	FL.CC	Maisie Langridge 07910 484461
Summer Walking Group (fortnightly)	Sat am Apr – Oct		Julia 01978 757667
Walkers - meet at Kinnerton Village Hall	Thurs pm 13:00	K.VH	Brian Foley 07983 494235 walk details brianogara@sky.com
Pilates	Thurs 9:00 - 12:00	K.VH	Lucy 07816 776230 lucypalmerpilates@me.com
Line Dancing	Wed 13:00 - 15:00	K.VH	Eileen 01978 760070 EilScttrgd@aol.com

Hobbies/Interest Groups	When	Where	Contact
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Castell Alun Bowling <i>free taster session</i>	Mon 18:00 Thur 14:00	H.CAS	John/Joyce 01978 760794 (seasonal)
Bell Ringing	Tues 19:00-21:00	H&G.C	Margaret Jones 01978 761018
Community Craft Group	Alternate Tues 14:00-16:00	H.CH	Kathleen Graham 01978 760514
Hope Community Library	Sat 10:00-15:00; Mon 15:30-18:00	H.CL	01978 760238 fofhcl@gmail.com
See library notice board for full list of groups, activities and times			
Creative Writing	1 st , 3 rd Wed 19:00-21:00	H.CL	
Welsh Conversation <i>alternate Mondays (see library for dates)</i>	Mon 19:00 - 21:00	H.CL	@hopecommunitylibrary
Flintshire Sews <i>Bring a machine to sew for orphanages in Africa</i>	3 rd Tue 19:00-21:00	H.CL	Contact for details / confirm attendance Peta: 07944 812730
Speaker evening	1 st Fri	H.CL	
Mixed choir/	Fri 19:00-20:00	Cy.CC	
Craft group - <i>Bring your own craft project</i>	1 st , 3 rd Mon 14:00-16:00	FL.CC	Liz Dewey 01978 761315
Craft Club	1 st , 3 rd Fri 13:00	K.VH	Margie Edwards 07929 369259
Art Classes <i>term-time only</i>	Wed 10:00 - 12:00	K.VH	Carol 01352 375493 carol.udale@hotmail.co.uk
Bowls (club nights) Bowls (league matches)	Wed 18:00 Tue <i>Sep-Mar</i>	K.VH	Geoff 01244 660721 geoffhaffenden@yahoo.com
Cambrian Chords Barber Shop	2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th Thur 19:30	K.VH	Steve 07596 750098 w_steve_wallace@hotmail.com

**Hope Community Council
Flintshire Tourism Opportunity Fund Bid Proposal
April 2024**

Overview

Funding exists to support feasibility studies in Flintshire related to the tourism sector. It is proposed that Hope Community Council prepares and submits a bid to the scheme with the objective of **producing a feasibility study which would allow the people and businesses of Hope Community to maximise the economic benefit of the proposed North East Wales National Park.**

The outputs of the feasibility study would be shared with the community following completion of the project.

Funding sought will be c.£6,500 and the project would be fully funded by the scheme with no cost to Hope Community Council.

Decision Requested

The Community Council is requested to:

- a) Approve the proposed approach and;
- b) Delegate authority to the [Clerk and Cllr Bevan] to submit a bid in line with the timescales of the fund; and
- c) Authorise the [Clerk and Cllr Bevan] to make contact with relevant bodies in Hope Community on behalf of the Community Council to advise and prepare them for the potential project; and
- d) Authorise the [Clerk and Cllr Bevan] to undertake a procurement exercise on behalf of the Community Council, with any contract to be subject to funding. The recommended outcome of which to be presented to the Community Council's June meeting for confirmation.

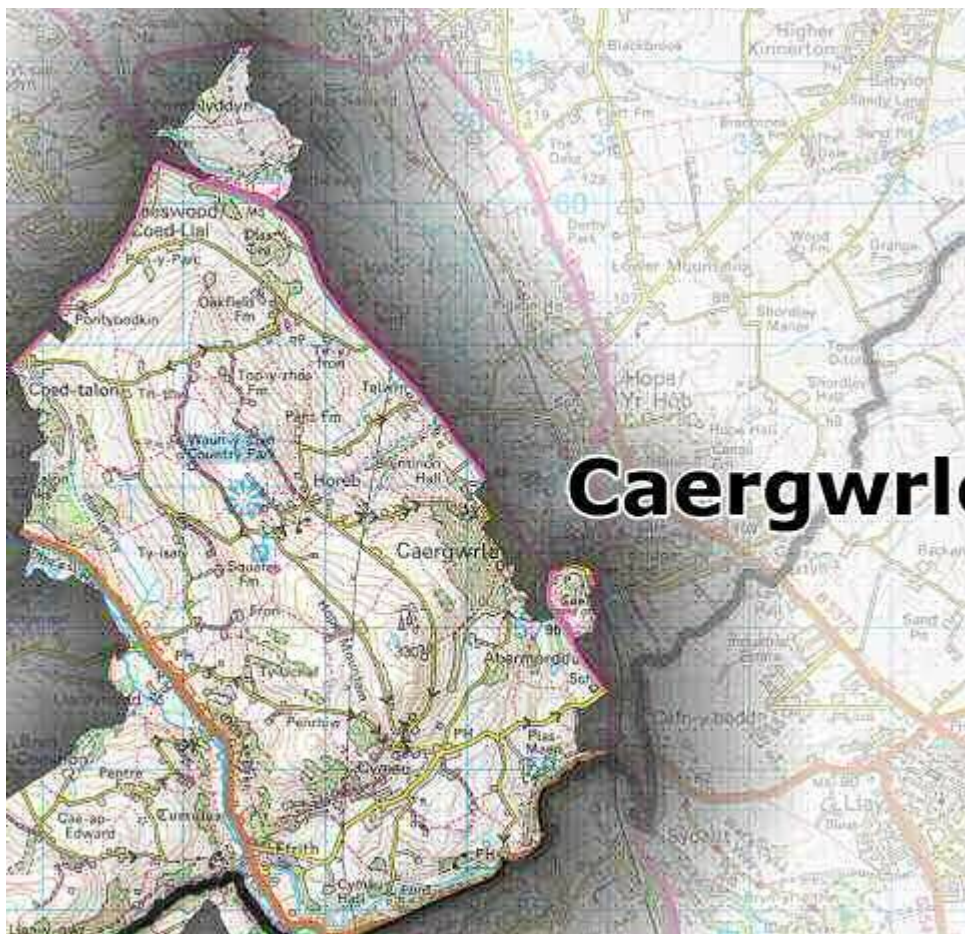
[Authorised individuals to be confirmed by the Community Council]

Background

North East Wales National Park

The proposed North East Wales National Park is anticipated to replace the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB and is part of the current Welsh Government Programme for Government.¹ The proposed timeframe is for the park to be in place by 2026, before the end of the current Senedd term.

Current consultations² indicate that areas including Hope Mountain and Caergwrle Castle could be included in the park, although the residential and commercial areas of Hope Community would be excluded.



Excerpt of NE Wales National Park Area of Search Map³

Hope community will, therefore, sit on the boundary of the park giving the potential for the community to benefit from the new National Park but also the risk that existing heritage and other tourism assets will be overshadowed if they sit outside of the National Park boundaries.

¹ <https://www.gov.wales/north-east-wales-national-park-designation-project>

² https://ymgyngori.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/north-east-gogledd-ddwyrain/national-park-designation-project-engagement-2023/supporting_documents/Nat%20Park%20Des_Engage%20Leaflet_ENG_LR.pdf

³ https://ymgyngori.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/north-east-gogledd-ddwyrain/national-park-designation-project-engagement-2023/supporting_documents/NPP_001_AreaOfSearch_A0Pcolour.jpg

Hope Community Council: Flintshire Tourism Opportunity Fund Bid Proposal April 2024

The Funding Scheme

The Flintshire Feasibility Study Fund is part of the Levelling Up (Shared Prosperity Fund) funding allocated to Flintshire County Council. This aspect of the scheme is administered by Cadwyn Clwyd. Key elements of the scheme include:

- Funding to a maximum of £10,000 (from a pot of £40,000) is available
- No match funding is required
- Spend must be completed by September 2024
- Feasibility studies must show a direct benefit to the tourism and visitor economy in Flintshire.
- Community Councils are eligible along with Business, Voluntary and community groups, other local government bodies, and Social enterprises
- Projects will focus on small and micro businesses and can include medium businesses but cannot directly benefit larger businesses operating in the area.
- Projects must illustrate compliance in other areas (Equalities, Welsh Language, Net Zero, Procurement, etc)
- Feasibility studies must show a direct benefit to the tourism and visitor economy in Flintshire. Overall, supported studies should focus on projects which aim to boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, with focus on supporting micro, small and medium enterprises operating within the tourism and experience economy within Flintshire.

The Opportunity

This small pot of funding could allow the Community Council to bring in an expert to review the existing potential for the community and make recommendations on actions that businesses, the Community Council, and the wider community could take to best take advantage of the proposed park (a three-year forward plan is required by the funding).

This will bring economic and social benefits to the area, particularly for businesses located within the community who will be able to better understand opportunities stemming from the park as a result of the study.

The process of delivering the project will also support further engagement between the Community Council and local businesses and the residents of the area. The project will need to engage both groups in order to collect information and to share results.

The project will need to engage with key stakeholders, including Natural Resources Wales, the Clwydians AONB, CADW, and Flintshire County Council. This will help reinforce Hope Community's desire to work in proactive and innovative ways with partners.

It will also help to offset the risk that the park may draw attention away from areas which sit outside of the boundary which may include the whole of Hope community if the search area alters from the current draft.

Scope of the Proposed Bid

It is anticipated that the project will undertake the following:

- A review and audit of Tourist Assets in the community including Caergwrle Castle, St Cynfarch's Church, Pack Horse Bridge, other Heritage Assets, Long Distance Paths (Wat's Dyke, Wales Link Path), transport links, the River Alyn, Park in the Past)
- An overview of the relevant businesses operating in the community (retail,

Hope Community Council: Flintshire Tourism Opportunity Fund Bid Proposal April 2024

- hospitality, B&Bs, etc)
- An evaluation of the existing Tourist draw to the area and impact on the economy of the community
- An comparative evaluation of the potential of the assets against similar communities within, on the boundary, and close to National Parks
- A model of the potential economic benefits of increased visitors for existing businesses in the community.
- Recommendations of possible areas of investment or growth to maximise the benefit from the future National Park (including a three-year forward plan of proposed actions).

The project will produce an interim and final report, including content suitable for sharing with business and the community via the Hope Community Council website.

Timescales

01 May 2024	HCC Approval to bid
02 May 2024	Bid Submitted
May 2024	Begin procurement (procure subject to funding)
June 2024	Funding Panel Decision
July 2024	Work Begins
August 2024 (estimated)	Interim report produced
15 September 2024	Final Report and Outputs delivered
31 September 2024	Last Possible Final Claim Date

An alternative timeline would be to submit to the 4th June funding panel, reducing the delivery timescale by 1 month.

Risks

The project is fully funded and is broadly low risk, however the following risks have been identified:

<u>Rating</u>	<u>Risk</u>	<u>Mitigation</u>
Low	If the community/businesses do not engage then the output will be less useful	HCC has a strong local relationship and the stakeholders are already identified.
Medium	If an appropriate consultant cannot be found then the funding will not be able to be claimed	Consultants will be identified in advance of funding decision, with contracting made subject to funding.
Low	The research period is over the summer, which may make engagement with some partners (CADW, FCC, NRW) difficult	Stakeholders will be given an early 'heads up' once funding is confirmed and asked to nominate key contacts.
Low	Failure to comply with guidance	All guidance has been discussed with the funder and will be clearly articulated in the bid.

Ffurflen Cynnig Prosiect ar gyfer Cronfa Astudiaethau Dichonolrwydd Twristiaeth Sir y Fflint
Project Proposal Form for Flintshire Feasibility Study Fund

Ariennir y prosiect hwn gan Lywodraeth y DU trwy Gronfa Ffyniant Gyffredin y DU
This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund

1. ENW'R PROSIECT / PROJECT NAME

Enw'r prosiect / Name of project:	Hope Community Tourism Growth Programme
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2. MANYLION Y GRŴP / GROUP DETAILS

Enw'r grŵp / Group Name:	Hope Community Council		
			Ticiwch un / Please tick
Math o grŵp / Group Type:	Business groups e.g. tourism, food and drink, area-based groups		
	Voluntary and community groups		
	Community Councils / Town Councils / Local Authority		X
	Social enterprises, including companies limited by guarantees provided they operate on a not-for-profit basis (CICs by shares are excluded from this funding)		
	Os arall nodwch / Other please specify		

Rhif Cofrestru Cwmni / Company Registration Number:	N/A			
A ydych wedi cofrestru ar gyfer TAW / Are you VAT Registered:	Ydw / Yes		Nac Ydw / No	X
Rhif TAW / VAT Number:	N/A			
Enw cyswllt / Contact Name:	Mrs Sarah Hughes			

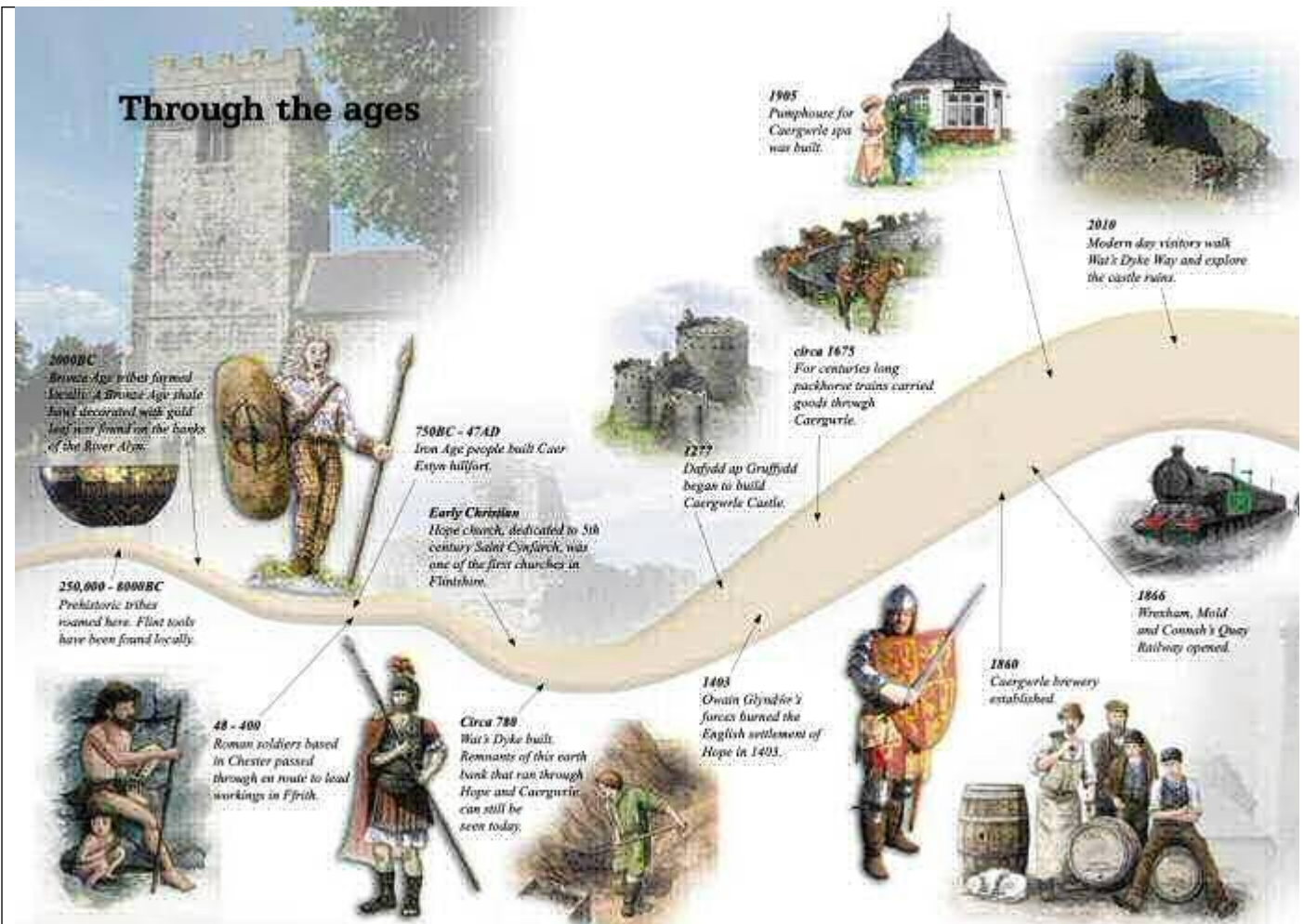
Cyfeiriad / Address: <i>Gan gynnwys Sir a Chod Post / including County and Postcode</i>	3 Old Chester Road, Ewloe, Deeside, Flintshire, CH5 3RU
Rhif Ffôn / Tel. No:	07566 706858
E-bost / Email:	clerk@hopecommunitycouncil.gov.wales
Cyfrngau cymdeithasol / Social Media:	https://www.facebook.com/groups/623844612646485

3. LLEOLIAD Y PROSIECT / PROJECT LOCATION

Manylwch ble bydd holl weithgaredd y prosiect yn digwydd / Please detail where all the project activity will take place:
Project will take place predominantly within the boundaries of Hope Community, Flintshire. Engagement with stakeholders may take place outside of the area and/or remotely as required.

5. MANYLION Y PROSIECT / DETAILS OF PROJECT

Dyddiad cychwyn y prosiect / Project Start Date
June 2024 (subject to funding approval date)
Dyddiad gorffen y prosiect / Project End Date:
15 th September 2024
Beth yw nod y prosiect? / What are the aims of the Project?
<p>Hope Community Council operates across the villages of Hope, Caergwrle, and Abermorddu and serves a population of c.4,200 residents. The community includes a broad range of micro and SME businesses predominantly in the retail sector and focused on serving the community itself.</p> <p>Despite a long and vibrant history (including bronze age, Celtic, Roman, medieval, and post-industrial significance), a wide variety of heritage assets, excellent public transport and walking connectivity, and a relatively recent role as a tourist destination and spa in the 19th and early 20th Centuries, the community today does not have a significant tourist economy. No locations in the community are listed on Go North Wales as accommodation or hospitality venues and six 'Air B&B' sites – illustrating a lack of overnight visitor demand. Day visitor numbers are unknown due to lack of studies to date.</p>



Excerpt of Flintshire County Council "Discover Hope & Caergwrle" Publication

A proposed North East Wales National Park is anticipated to replace the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB and is part of the current Welsh Government Programme for Government. The proposed timeframe is for the park to be in place by 2026, before the end of the current Senedd term.

Current consultations indicate that areas including Hope Mountain and Caergwrle Castle could be included in the park, although the residential and commercial areas of Hope Community would be excluded:



Excerpt of NE Wales National Park Area of Search Map

Hope community will, therefore, sit on the boundary of the park giving the potential for the community to benefit from the new National Park but also the risk that existing heritage and other tourism assets will be overshadowed if they sit outside of the National Park boundaries.

Whilst there is no desire to change the nature or character of the community, the creation of a new North East Wales National Park provides the opportunity for economic growth within the existing businesses of the community, maximising the local benefits from the new National Park.

The project aims to produce a feasibility study, with specific actions over a three-year period, to best position the community for the National Park's creation (anticipated to be by 2026) and delivery, bringing economic benefits to micro and SME businesses in the area.

These actions can then be taken forward by businesses and the community to bring economic and social benefits to the area, particularly for businesses located within the community who will be able to better understand opportunities stemming from the park as a result of the study.

The process of delivering the project will also support further engagement between the Community Council and local businesses and the residents of the area. The project will need to engage both groups in order to collect information and to share results.

Finally, the project will need to engage with key stakeholders, including Natural Resources Wales, the Clwydians AONB, CADW, and Flintshire County Council. This will help reinforce Hope Community's desire to work in proactive and innovative ways with partners.

Disgrifiwch beth fydd y prosiect yn ei wneud. Gan ddilyn y strwythur yn Adran 3 y canllawiau, dylech ddarparu yma y y

prif elfennau o ddarpariaeth a fydd yn sail ar gyfer y briff i'r ymgynghorwyr fydd yn gwneud yr astudiaeth. / **By following the structure provided in section 3 of the Guidance, please provide the key deliverables which will form the basis of the brief for consultants undertaking the study. Please provide a description of what the project will do.**

The Project will:

1. Procure a consultant to undertake the work on behalf of and in conjunction with the Community Council
2. Review and audit Tourist Assets in the community including Caergwrle Castle, StCynfarch's Church, Pack Horse Bridge, other Heritage Assets, Long Distance Paths (Wafs Dyke, Wales Link Path), transport links, the River Alyn, Park in the Past)
3. Produce an overview of relevant businesses operating in the community (retail, hospitality, B&Bs, etc)*
4. Produce an evaluation of the existing Tourist draw to the area and impact on the economy of the community (based on available data)
5. Produce a comparative evaluation of the potential of the assets against similar communities within, on the boundary, and close to National Parks
6. Produce a model of the potential economic benefits of increased visitors for existing businesses in the community.
7. Provide recommendations of possible areas of investment or growth to maximise the benefit from the future National Park (including a three-year forward plan of proposed actions).

* The project will be limited to SMEs and micro-businesses within the area, however reference will be made to the larger businesses which operate outlets in the community for completeness.

The key deliverables of the project will be:

Deliverable A: A completed compliant procurement (June 2024, subject to funding approval date)*

Deliverable B: An interim report for review by HCC and identified stakeholders (August 2024)

Deliverable C: A final report suitable for distribution (September 2024)

Deliverable D: A summary output suitable for sharing with businesses and the community (e.g. a roadmap/action plan) (September 2024)

The interim and final report deliverables will include draft or final versions of:

- A detailed description of the issues and opportunities related to the proposed North East Wales National Park that the study will address.
- A stakeholder map covering both the community and external stakeholders
- The current position of the community in reference to the tourism draw and the proposed National Park
- An action plan showing specific measurable activities which can be undertaken by businesses, the Community Council, and other stakeholders to maximise the opportunities of the National Park including:
 - Responsible business/group
 - Scope of activity
 - Need for action
 - Benefits (across groups, including social and economic benefits)
 - Funding sources (including grant sources)
 - A recommendation on the risk and viability of each action
 - A high-level impact assessment for each action covering equality and Welsh language considerations
 - A three-year forward cash flow projection for the action plan
 - A three-year forward business plan for the action plan

* Note: the intention is to procure subject to funding to maximise available time. The procurement process will be conducted in discussion with Cadwyn Clwyd (as per the guidance provided).

Ydy'r prosiect wedi derbyn caniatâd am bopeth sydd ei angen?

Are all the required permissions in place?

Yes.

6. MANYLION AM Y BARTNERIAETH / PARTNERSHIP DETAILS

Rhowch fanylion am bartneriaid y prosiect ac am eu rhan nhw yn y prosiect /

Please provide details of the project's partners and their involvement with the project:

N/A

Darparwch fanylion ymgysylltu a chyfranogiad y sector dwristiaeth yn y prosiect /

Please provide details of engagement and involvement of the tourism sector in the project:

Stakeholder scoping exercise undertaken with local tourism sector

7. MANYLION AM GOSTAU'R PROSIECT / DETAILS OF PROJECT COST

Costau prosiect yn ôl blwyddyn a chwarter / **Project costs by year and quarter**

(Rhaid i'r holl gostau gynnwys TAW lle bo hynny'n berthnasol / All costs must include VAT where applicable)

Nodwch y costau fesul un / Please provide itemised costings	2023 (£)		2024 (£)				Cyfanswm / Total (£)	
	Ch1 (Hyd'23-Rhag'23) Q4 (oct'23-dec'23)		Ch1 (Ion'24-Maw'24) Q1 (Jan'24-Mar'24)		Ch2 (Ebr'24-Meh'24) Q2 (Apr'24-Jul'24)		Ch3 (Aws'24-Med'24) Q3(Aug'24-Sep'24)	
	Cyfalaf / Capital	Refeniw / Revenue	Cyfalaf / Capital	Refeniw / Revenue	Cyfalaf / Capital	Refeniw / Revenue	Cyfalaf / Capital	Refeniw / Revenue
	n/a	£0	n/a	£0	n/a	£0	n/a	£6500
CYFANSWM / TOTAL								£6500
								£6500

Dim ond i'w gwblhau os yn dod ag ARIAN CYFATEBOL i mewn / only to be competed if bringing in MATCH FUNDING

Costau prosiect yn dangos cyfraniad Arian Cyfatebol / **Project Costs showing Match Funding contribution**

(Rhaid i'r holl gostau gynnwys TAW lle bo hynny'n berthnasol / All costs must include VAT where applicable)

Nodwch y costau fesul un / Please provide itemised costings	Cyfanswm / Total (£)	
	Cyfanswm Costau / Total Cost	Cyfraniad Arian Cyfatebol / Match Funding Contribution
Consultant Fees (to include all expenses)	£6000	£0
Production of final outputs for community & business engagement	£500	£0
CYFANSWM / TOTAL		

8. CANLYNIADAU PROSIECTO / OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT

Nodwch sawl dangosydd perfformiad fyddwch chi'n ei gyflawni / Please indicate the number of Performance indicators that will be achieved:	
Prif Ddangosydd / Main Indicator	Nifer i'w Gyflawni / Number to be Achieved
Outputs	
Nifer o asudiaethau dichonolrwydd a gefnogwyd / Number of feasibility studies supported	1
Outputs	
Cynnydd yn nifer y prosiectau sy'n deillio o astudiaethau a arianwyd / Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	4 (Estimated, but subject to outputs of the feasibility study)

9. IAITH GYMRAEG, SERO NET A CYDRADDOLDEB / WELSH LANGUAGE, NET ZERO & EQUALITIES

IAITH GYMRAEG / WELSH LANGUAGE

A oes gan eich sefydliad Bolisi neu Ddatganiad Iaith Gymraeg? / Does your organisation have a Welsh Language Policy or Statement?	YDI / YES	NAC YDI / NO
		X
Os na, amlinellwch sut y byddwch yn defnyddio'r grant i sicrhau gwasanaethau dwyieithog i'r cyhoedd? Gall hyn gynnwys eich gwasanaethau (a chyfarfodydd) wyneb yn wyneb neu dros y ffôn, deunydd printiedig, arwyddion a thudalennau gwe. / If not, outline how you will use the grant to ensure bilingual services for the public? This may include your services (and meetings) on a face-to-face level or over the phone, printed material, signage and web pages.		
<p>Although Community Councils are not subject to Welsh Language Standards, the council operates under Welsh Government statutory guidance which includes guidance for councils on upholding the main principle of the measure (section 2.14)</p> <p>In this project we will support the Welsh language by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including ability to undertake activity and support the project bilingually as a desirable criteria for the procurement scope • Providing an opportunity for those involved in the study to contribute through Welsh or English wherever possible • Providing a bilingual version of the final summary output 		

SERO NET / NET ZERO

Sut mae'r cynnig yn cefnogi polisiâu neu uchelgeisiau amgylcheddol ehangach Sero Net Llywodraeth y DU a Llywodraeth Cymru? (150 gair) Dylai'r ateb i'r cwestiwn hwn fod yn benodol i'r prosiect yr ydych yn ceisio cyllid ar ei gyfer / How does the proposal support the wider environmental Zero Net policies or ambitions of the UK Government and Welsh Government? (150 words) The answer to this question should be specific to the project you are seeking funding for
The study produced will take specific account of the environmental risks and benefits of tourism to the community, helping businesses to align any growth with their own Net Zero plans and the wider Wales and UK frameworks. We

will require the consultant to provide a statement illustrating their own approach to Net Zero which will form part of the evaluation of the proposal.

CYDRADDOLDEB / EQUALITY

Disgrifiwch sut rydych wedi ystyried effeithiau cydraddoldeb eich cynnig, y grwpiau perthnasol yr effeithir arnynt yn seiliedig ar y nodweddion gwarchoddedig, ac unrhyw fesurau yr ydych yn eu cynnig mewn ymateb i'r effeithiau hyn. (150 gair) Dylai'r ateb i'r cwestiwn hwn fod yn benodol i'r prosiect yr ydych yn ceisio cyllid ar ei gyfer / **Describe how you have considered the equality impacts of your proposal, the relevant affected groups based on the protected characteristics, and any measures you are proposing in response to these impacts. (150 words) The answer to this question should be specific to the project you are seeking funding for**

The community council has considered the scope of work and will mitigate any potential equality impacts as follows:

- All business in scope will be contacted, avoiding any selection bias
- Public engagement will be open to the whole community and advertised openly to all
- Access arrangements will be reviewed for any physical or digital meetings
- Publications will be reviewed to ensure accessibility and clarity of content

11. DATGANIAD/DECLARATION

Wrth lofnodi a chyflwyno'r Ffurflen Cynnig Prosiect hon rydych yn cadarnhau: /

In signing and submitting this Project Proposal Form you confirm:

- Bod gennych yr awdurdod i gyflwyno'r Ffurflen Cynnig Prosiect hon ar ran y grŵp a enwir.
That you have the authority to submit this Project Proposal Form on behalf of the named group.
- Bod y wybodaeth a ddarparwyd yn wir ac yn gywir.
That the information provide is true and correct.
- Na fyddai'r cyllid a ddarparwyd i'r prosiect yn mynd yn groes i reolau a rheoliadau Rheoli Cymhorthdal.
That the funding provided to the project would not contravene Subsidy Control rules and regulations.

Enw'r grŵp / Group Name:	Hope Community Council
Enw cyswllt / Contact Name:	Mrs Sarah Hughes
Llofnod / Signature: (Electroneg / Electronic)	
Dyddiad / Date	

Mae Cadwyn Clwyd yn ymdrin a phreifatrwydd mewn modd difrifol iawn ac yn cydymffurfia phob agwedd ar fframwaith deddfwriaethol diogelu data'r DU sy'n cynnwys Rheoliad Gwarchod Data Cyffredinol Ewrop (GDPR) a deddfwriaeth y DU ei hun. Gallwch weld ein polisi preifatrwydd ym <http://cadwynclwyd.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Cadwyn-Clwyd-Privacy-Policy.pdf> sy'n esbonio sut rydym yn diogelu eich hawliau personol.

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Dear Sir/Madam

Consultation on Reviewing the Council Tax Premium Scheme for Long Term Empty Properties and Second Homes in Flintshire

We are writing to you to advise of an important public consultation that the County Council is currently undertaking regarding the future of the Council Tax Premium.

Councils in Wales currently have discretionary powers to charge, or vary, a council tax premium of up to 300% above the standard rate of council tax on second homes and long-term empty properties.

The Council first introduced a local premium scheme in 2017 and premium rates of 75% are currently charged for long-term empty properties and 100% for second homes. The Council is consulting with the public again, as part of the process of reviewing the premium rates.

The results of the consultation will help elected members to consider whether the premium levels should be changed from April 2025, and if so, to what level.

We welcome consultation responses from Town and Community Councils, and from individual elected members and for Town and Community Councils to communicate it through their community to encourage members of the public to also make a submission if they wish.

For anyone wishing to take part in this consultation, a short on-line questionnaire is now available until 5pm on 8th July 2024 at www.flintshire.gov.uk/CouncilTaxPremium

Yours faithfully



David Barnes

Have Your Say - Council Tax Premium

Consultation on the review of the Council Tax Premium Scheme for long term empty properties and second homes.

Flintshire County Council is undertaking a public consultation from 15th April 2024 to 8th July 2024 to provide all members of the public and interested parties the opportunity to have their say on the future of the Council Tax Premium Scheme. The consultation responses will help to shape the Council Tax Premium scheme in the future.

Local authorities in Wales have discretionary powers to charge, or vary, a council tax premium of up to 300% above the standard rate of council tax on certain classes of second homes and long-term empty properties. Flintshire County Council introduced a premium scheme in 2017 and currently charges a council tax premium level of 75% on long-term empty properties and 100% on second homes.

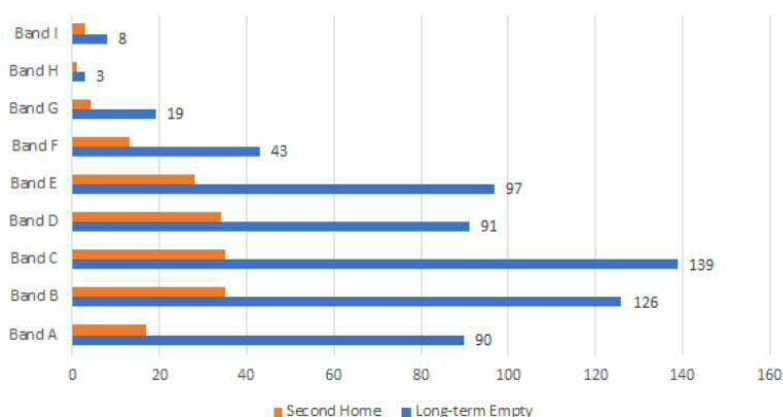
The premium is currently charged on properties that are not in use as someone's sole or main residence due to either being:

- A long-term empty property which is defined as one that has been empty and has had no resident for over 12 months; or
- A second home which is defined as a dwelling that is substantially furnished and occupied only periodically, for example a holiday home.

Not every property that falls into the categories above pays a premium and the scheme provides limited exceptions (some time-limited and some indefinite) where the premium would not apply. The exceptions include properties being marketed for sale or let, annexes, and seasonal properties where year round occupation is prohibited.

The latest analysis of properties shows a total of 786 properties are currently subject to the premium charge, consisting of 616 long term empty properties and 170 second homes. This equates to 1.1% of all domestic properties in Flintshire being liable for the premium charge. [You can view how many properties are liable for the premium in the 34 Town and Community Council areas across Flintshire here.](#) (image also attached at end of report)

Number of Properties in Flintshire Currently Subject to a Council Tax Premium



When considering whether or not to amend the premium levels, the discretion given to local authorities to charge a premium is intended to be a tool to help local authorities to:

- Bring long-term empty homes back into use to provide safe, secure and affordable homes; and
- Increase the supply of affordable housing and enhance the sustainability of local communities.

Currently 17 local authorities in Wales, including Flintshire apply a premium scheme with the level of premium set by each authority varying from 50% to 300%. The Council is now consulting with the public as part of the process of reviewing if the premium level should be changed in the future. We are committed to giving you the opportunity to have your say.

The responses you provide are completely anonymous and the on-line questionnaire should only take a few minutes of your time to complete. The consultation is open for a twelve week period and close at 5pm on 8th July 2024.

	Number of Properties	Second Homes Premiums	Long Term Empty Premiums	Total Premiums
Argoed	2,538	3	12	15
Bagillt	1,807	4	10	14
Broughton & Bretton	2,898	2	14	16
Brynford	439	1	9	10
Buckley	7,506	4	45	49
Caerwys	631	2	11	13
Cilcain	608	7	7	14
Connahs Quay	7,342	11	49	60
Flint	6,180	10	52	62
Gwernaffield & Pantymwyn	871	6	9	15
Gwernymynydd	530	3	8	11
Halkyn	1,283	3	13	16
Hawarden	6,329	11	35	46
Higher Kinnerton	754	1	1	2
Holywell	4,343	16	37	53
Hope	1,891	5	20	25
Leeswood	977	1	20	21
Llanasa	2,193	22	51	73
Llanfynydd	825	0	9	9
Mold	4,931	11	35	46
Mostyn	871	3	11	14
Nannerch	214	3	5	8
Nercwys	264	1	5	6
Northop	1,399	1	12	13
Northop Hall	764	1	8	9
Penyffordd	2,179	2	7	9
Queensferry	967	2	28	30
Saltney	2,347	6	10	16
Sealand	1,673	3	24	27
Shotton	2,995	6	29	35
Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgor	414	2	8	10
Treuddyn	749	6	0	6
Whitford	1,044	9	17	26
Ysceifiog	548	2	5	7
Total Number of Properties	71.304	170	616	786

Council Tax Premium – 2024 – Questionnaire

Local authorities in Wales have discretionary powers to charge, or vary, a council tax premium of up to 300% above the standard rate of council tax on certain classes of second homes and long-term empty properties.

Flintshire County Council introduced a premium scheme in 2017 and currently charges a council tax premium level of 75% on long-term empty properties and 100% on second homes.

The Council is now consulting with the public as part of the process of reviewing if the premium level should be changed in the future for both long-term empty properties and second homes. We are committed to giving you the opportunity to have your say.

For more information about the Council Tax Premium Scheme go to www.flintshire.gov.uk/CouncilTaxPremium

The responses you provide are completely anonymous and the on-line questionnaire should only take a few minutes of your time to complete.

The consultation is open for a 12 week period from 15th April 2024 and will close at 5pm on 8th July 2024.

Important Definitions

To assist you in completing your response, the definitions of the term long-term empty property and a second home are below:

A long-term empty property is a domestic dwelling that remains unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for a continuous period of 12 months or more.

A second home is a domestic dwelling that is substantially furnished and is not a person's sole or main residence. This includes properties that are furnished but are only occupied periodically or not at all.

Question1. From the list below please select the option(s) which best describe you.

Please tick all that apply to you

- I am a permanent resident of Flintshire who currently pays Council Tax
- I am a permanent resident of Flintshire who currently does not pay Council Tax
- My main residence is in Flintshire and I own a second home in Flintshire
- My main residence is in Flintshire and I own another long-term empty property in Flintshire
- My main residence is outside of Flintshire and I own a second home in Flintshire
- My main residence is outside of Flintshire and I own another long-term empty property in Flintshire
- I am a Flintshire County Councillor
- I am a Town or Community Council Councillor
- Other (please specify):

Question2. In Flintshire there are currently 616 long-term empty properties subject to the council tax premium. In your opinion, what overall impact do long-term empty dwellings currently have on local communities?

- Positive impact
- No impact
- Negative impact
- I do not know

Question3. In Flintshire there are currently 170 second homes subject to the council tax premium. In your opinion, what overall impact do second homes currently have on local communities?

- Positive impact No impact Negative impact I do not know

Question4. In Flintshire there are currently 2,088 people on the waiting list for social/affordable housing. In your opinion, what impact do long-term empty dwellings and second homes currently have on the availability of affordable housing in Flintshire?

- Increase availability Have no impact Decrease availability I do not know

The Welsh language is spoken as part of everyday life in many parts of Wales and is protected by the Welsh Language Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards 2016. The number of residents that can speak Welsh in Flintshire has shown a decline in recent years with only 11.6% of those resident in Flintshire speaking the language as recorded in the 2021 Census. Further details can be found here (www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Welsh-Language/The-Welsh-Language-in-Flintshire.aspx) An increase in the number of long-term empty properties and second homes may contribute to lower numbers of people in the communities across Flintshire speaking or learning the Welsh language.

Question5. Do you think an increase of the council tax premium on both long-term empty properties and second homes could have a negative/positive or neutral impact on:

	Positive impact	No impact	Negative impact	I don't know
Opportunities to use Welsh socially?				
Increase the number of people speaking or learning Welsh in Flintshire?				
Use of Welsh language services?				
Welsh speaking communities?				

Question6. The Council is currently reviewing its premium scheme of 100% on second homes. In your opinion what should the proposed level of premium be in Flintshire?

- Should remain at the current level of 100%
- Should be raised to between 101% and 150%
- Should be raised to between 151% and 200%
- Should be raised to between 201% and 300%
- Should be reduced below the current level of 100%
- Should not be charged

Question7. The Council is currently reviewing its premium scheme of 75% on long term empty dwellings. In your opinion what should the proposed level of premium be in Flintshire?

- Should remain at the current level of 75%
- Should be raised to 100%
- Should be raised to between 101% and 200%
- Should be raised to between 201% and 300%
- Should be reduced below the current level of 75%
- Should not be charged

Question8. Please briefly explain the reason for your selections in questions 6 and 7.

Question9. A premium becomes payable for a long term empty property after it has been vacant for 12 months – unless it qualifies for an exception.

Do you think that the level of the premium charged should increase, the longer a property remains continuously empty?

- Yes No

Question10. If the premium were to be increased, what impact do you think this would have on the number of second homes and long term empty properties in Flintshire?

- The number would increase The number would stay the same The number would decrease
- I do not know

Question11. What impact do you think an increase in the council tax premium on long-term empty properties and second homes could have on house prices in Flintshire?

- No impact A decrease in house prices An increase in house prices I don't know

Question12. If you are the owner of a second home or long-term empty property in Flintshire, what action would you be likely to take if the premium was to be increased.

- No action, I would pay the premium
- Sell the property
- I would move into the property myself
- Rent the second home
- Refurbish the property to a habitable standard and rent it out
- Not applicable - I do not own a second home or long-term empty property in Flintshire
- Other (please specify):

Question13. In your opinion, what impact would an increase - above the current premium level - have on your local community.

- Positive impact No impact Negative impact I do not know
- Not applicable - I am not a resident of Flintshire

Question14. In the event a property becomes subject to the long-term empty premium, do you think there are any circumstances where it should be waived

- Yes No Don't know If yes, please provide further details below:

Question15. We welcome any other comments or suggestions you may have regarding council tax premiums on long term empty properties and second homes.