

EXECUTIVE
5th AUGUST 2008

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 5 August, 2008.

PRESENT: Councillor A. Woolley (Chairman)

Councillors: C. A. Ellis, P. G. Heesom, M. Higham, N. M. Matthews, N. Phillips, L.A Sharps and N. R. Steele-Mortimer.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors: K. Armstrong-Braun, H. Bateman, B. Dunn, G. Hardcastle, R. Hughes, R.B. Jones, D. Mackie, Mrs D. Mackie and A. P. Shotton

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, County Legal and Democratic Services Officer, County Finance Officer, Assistant Director (ICT and Customer Services), Assistant Director of Children's Services, Interim Assistant Director (Development and Resources), Interim Assistant Director (Human Resources and Organisation Development), Head of Business and Support (Community and Housing), Chief Highways and Transportation Engineer and Head of Committee, Member and Electoral Services.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: H. D. Hutchinson and Helen Yale

At the commencement of the meeting the Chairman welcomed Councillor Mel Higham back to meetings of the County Council and Councillor Higham thanked everyone for the best wishes he had received.

49. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 15 July, 2008 were confirmed as a correct record.

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

51. NORTH WALES REGIONAL WASTE PLAN – FIRST REVIEW

A joint report of the Chief Executive, Acting Director of Community and Housing and Acting Director of Environment and Regeneration, copies of which had been previously been circulated to Members, was submitted. The Chief Executive presented the report the purpose of which was to inform Members and to seek endorsement of the North Wales Regional Waste Plan Review so that it could be used to guide and inform the development of local planning policies in the individual Authorities across North Wales and to facilitate the implementation of UK Waste Policies and Strategy and EU Directives on Waste.

The Chief Executive referred to the background to the report and drew Members attention to Section 7 of paragraph 2.4 which indicated that if Local Authorities in a joint arrangement reached no agreement or individual Authorities did not accept the North Wales Regional Waste Plan, the Assembly had default powers to intervene in the planning process. A failure to agree on the regional level would not remove the need for an individual local authority to satisfy the requirements of the Wales Waste Strategy. Paragraph 1.12 stated “if the Local Authorities in a joint arrangement reached no agreement or if an individual Local Authority do not accept the Regional Waste Plan, the Assembly will consider its default powers to intervene in the planning process”. In referring to the report, Members needed to note that this was being submitted for statutory purposes and its review needed to be endorsed to enable it to be used as a regional planning guidance and to inform the development of Unitary and Local Development Plan policy prepared by the respective Local Planning Authorities across North Wales.

The Executive Member for Waste Strategy and Management explained that the NWRWP was not a statutory binding document but was a tool primarily for use in developing policies within the Unitary (UDP) or Local Development Plan (LDP) or supplementary guidance. This was the first review and the current NWRWP and had been endorsed by all of the relevant Executive/Cabinets of the participant Local Authorities during February to March 2004, and had been formally agreed by the Welsh Assembly Government on 17th March 2004. In order that the plan kept pace with rapidly changing Waste Management Sector and other Government policy and strategy developments, TAN21 required that the plan was subject to regular review at 3 yearly intervals.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the North Wales Regional Waste Plan be noted and accepted, for statutory purposes, on behalf of the County Council.
- (b) That the North Wales Waste Plan Review be endorsed to provide an up to date framework to facilitate the development of future waste infrastructure and facilities, regional collaboration and of local waste planning policy across North Wales, to ensure compliance with UK policy and strategy and EU Directives on the diversion of waste away from landfill and increased recycling and resource recovery.

52. WALES AUDIT OFFICE REPORT – REVIEW OF PLANNING FOR FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROVISION – FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

A report of the Chief Education Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The Interim Assistant Director presented the report, the purpose of which was to provide background information and a summary of the findings of the recent Wales Audit Office report on a review of Flintshire County Council planning for future educational provision. Secondly, to provide Members with details of the proposed actions and recommendations in response of the Wales Audit Office report. The recommendations of the Wales Audit Office report was set out in paragraph 2.03 of the report and the report itself set out how these recommendations had been

addressed. Members attention was drawn to the diagram appended to the report which illustrated the linkages between the six main education plans.

The Executive Member for Education and Youth welcomed this positive report arising out of the Estyn inspection and said that work was ongoing and further reports will be submitted to the Executive in due course.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the timetable for producing the 5 year Flintshire School Organisation Strategy 2008 – 2013 including the key component parts of the 5 year School Place Plan and Pupil Projections to 2013, Education Asset Management Plan, Primary Schools Organisation Plan, Secondary Organisation Plan, Special Schools Organisation Plan and the Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy, be noted.
- (b) That the new school organisation strategic and planning framework, including arrangements for monitoring and review procedures, be noted.
- (c) That it be noted that it was intended to submit further information for approval to the September 2008 Executive on the development of a Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy which identified the Capital and Revenue Resources to fund the future pattern of school provision within the School Organisation Strategy 2008 – 2013, the Education Asset Management Plan and the Primary and Special School Organisation Planning.

53. ESTYN INSPECTION OF THE FLINTSHIRE YOUNG PEOPLES PARTNERSHIP – ACTIONS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

A report of the Chief Education Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The Interim Assistant Director presented the report which informed Members of actions taken in response to the recommendations from the Estyn inspection of the Flintshire Young Peoples Partnership.

The Interim Assistant Director referred to the Estyn report and to the providers response to the report findings. The key issues for action broadly fitted into the themes of communication, influencing good practice and resource co-ordination. The identification of these themes would provide a sharp focus for the work of the Partnership over the coming year and work was already in hand to address some of the recommendations.

RESOLVED:

That the actions taken in response to the inspection report be noted.

54. POST OFFICE CLOSURES – NORTH WALES

A report of the Chief Executive, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The Chief Executive presented the report the purpose of which was to update the Executive on the proposed Post Office Closure Programme.

The Chief Executive referred to a document issued by Post Office Limited “Network Change Programme – Area Plan Proposals” copies of which had been placed in the Members library. Since the preparation and despatch of his report details of the closures had been announced by Post Office Limited and had been the subject of extensive media coverage. He outlined the criteria used by the Post Office and the effect on the Flintshire area.

The consultation period was for 7 weeks but this was a limited exercise and not designed to provide a forum for debate on individual branch closures. However, the Chief Executive suggested that the County Council should be able to comment on the effects of closure on the immediate area as it saw fit. Further work was required on this matter and a number of Members had made representations to him and it was intended that this matter be debated at the next meeting of the full County Council. The Chief Executive also referred to an approach he had received from a Councillor who was willing to work on a voluntary basis in village post offices in an effort to keep them open.

The Chairman and other Members referred to the complaints they had received on this issue and welcomed the proposal to discuss this further at County Council.

The Chief Executive referred to the limitations of the consultation exercise by Post Office Limited and suggested four areas which the Post Office Limited could be asked to comment on in advance of the County Council meeting. These were the impact the closures would have on the existing post offices that would be retained, the impact of outreach pilot schemes, the relaunch of the Post Office Development Fund and how the changes would affect customers/clients of the County Council.

RESOLVED:

That the matter be referred for discussion to the next meeting of the County Council and that the Council’s response to the consultation exercise be submitted subject to the outcome of that discussion.

55. MOLD TO SALTNEY GREENWAY

A report of the Acting Director of Environment & Regeneration, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The Chief Highways and Transportation Engineer presented the report the purpose of which was to seek approval to adopting the Mold to Saltney Greenway for further investigation in accordance with the recommendations contained within the Executive Summary prepared by Faber Maunsell. The Consultants had been appointed by TAIH to undertake a feasibility study to examine the potential for

utilising approximately 17km of the disused railway line to provide a new greenway facility for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians. TAITH had provided an allocation of £500,000 to undertake further investigation and consultation as well as preparing the detailed design and commencing implementation of a first phase. It was emphasised that if it was decided not to proceed there was no guarantee that the sum allocated by TAITH would be available for other schemes in Flintshire. Members were reassured that this scheme would be reviewed on a regular basis and further reports submitted to the Executive.

The Chairman welcomed the contents of the report and supported moving forward on the proposals but emphasised the need to be careful in accepting capital funding for the scheme which would need revenue support for maintenance in future years.

The Executive Member for Environment welcomed the assurances given by the Officer that the Executive would receive regular reports and he emphasised that this was a scheme for the future which would require a considerable amount of work before it proceeded. As an example he referred to approximately two hundred different title deeds on or adjoining the disused railway line would need to be considered. The £500,000 from TAITH was ring fenced for this scheme.

RESOLVED:

That the adoption of the Mold to Saltney Greenway be approved for further investigation and consultation.

56. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR WALES 2007-2013 – RESOURCING

A report of the Acting Director of Environment and Regeneration, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The Chief Highways and Transportation Engineer presented the report the purpose of which was to seek approval for resourcing through the creation of two new posts within the Regeneration Division and release these posts for recruitment. The posts would assist with the implementation of Axis 3 of the Rural Development Plan for Wales (RDP) 2007-2013 and Appendix 1 to the report was an explanatory note describing each of the four RDP Axes.

The Executive was reminded that it had received a number of reports on the progress in developing the RDP and the County Council had received notification from the Welsh Assembly Government on 18th June, 2008 that seven Axis 3 and five Axis 4 projects of the Business Plan had been awarded funding of approximately £4.1m. This funding would support the implementation of projects until February 2011 and not 2010 as stated in the report. He also referred to paragraph 3.07 of the report with regard to posts being temporary until 28th February 2011 and not 2010 as stated.

The Executive Member for Housing Strategy and Planning suggested that the report be submitted for consideration by the Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee. However, to enable the appropriate

appointments to be made it was agreed that the appointments proceed and that the plan be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation be approved and the plan be referred to the Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

57. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08 (OUTTURN)

A report of the County Finance Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The County Finance Officer presented the report the purpose of which was to provide Members with the Capital Programme Out Turn information for 2007/08 which was subject to audit.

The County Finance Officer referred to the considerations of the report. She highlighted how the programme had changed during 2007/08 and referred specifically to the reduction of £4.133m for "Contractually Uncommitted" schemes in 2007/08, the funding for which had been carried forward to 2008/09 as part of the Capital Programme reported to the Executive on 11th March 2008. She highlighted additional slippage of £5.189m and Identified Pressures of £0.258m. The final outturn (actual spend) was greater than the Revised Programme total by a net £0.258m and a summary of this position was analysed in Section 3.02.1 of the report which also showed how this additional cost had been funded.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and approved in general.

58. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2007/08 – FINAL OUTTURN

A report of the County Finance Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The County Finance Officer presented the report the purpose of which was to inform Members of the General Fund Outturn for 2007/08 which was still subject to audit and the impact on the level of un-earmarked reserves at as 31st March 2008. These figures had been included in the Statement of Accounts 2007/08 which had been reported to the Audit Committee on 25th June and County Council on 26th June. The report also provided Members with a review of the year and detailed some of the significant variations from the Revised Budget. The Final Outturn was compared to month ten which was the last monitoring report to have been considered by the Executive.

The report and table at Paragraph 2.01 showed that net expenditure was £4.113m below the budget which was an increase of £0.306m on the figure reported at month ten. This included an amount £3.527m returned to the corporate centre for items dependant on external factors such as the effect of the pay award, increases in interest rates and additional "windfall" income.

The report provided analysis of the overall variance against budgets. It was reported that Financial Procedure Rules stated that any Directorate overspend could be carried forward as the first call of the following year's Budget. However, the reasons for the net overall overspend had been communicated at an early stage and discussed with colleagues in the Directorates concerned. Due to the nature of the overspends and in assessing the overall financial position it was recommended that the overspend in respect of Community and Housing, Education Children's Services and Recreation, Environment and Regeneration and Corporate Strategy be funded from un-earmarked reserves.

Section 3.00 provided a review of the year and significant variances. Appendix 11 to the report provided a graph of the monthly reported projections for the General Fund compared to those of 2005/06 and 2006/07. From this it could be seen that monthly projections had been more accurate than in previous years being closer to the budget and less variable. Whilst there had been a marked improvement, there was still more work to be done to improve further. It was pleasing to note from this graph that the relatively minor movement of £0.457m from month eight to the final outturn (£2.300m 2006/07) as it was this information that was key when setting the following year's Budget. This enabled many of the significant in year underspends and overspends to be included in the 2008/09 Budget.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the relatively minor movement in the projected outturn at month eight to the final outturn be noted.
- (c) That the Final Balance of un-earmarked reserves as at 31st March 2008 be noted.
- (d) That the increase in the Contingency Reserve be noted and that approval be given to add this to the amount available for redeployment.
- (e) That the non-ringfenced overspend of £0.137m on Community and Housing be met from un-earmarked reserves, be approved.
- (f) That the non-ringfenced overspend of £0.418m on Education, Children's Services and Education be met from un-earmarked reserves, be approved.
- (g) That the non-ringfenced overspend of £0.114m on Environment and Regeneration be met from un-earmarked reserves, be approved.
- (h) That the non-ring fenced overspend of £0.014m on Corporate Strategy be met from un-earmarked reserves, be approved.

59. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT FINAL OUT TURN 2007/08

A report of the County Finance Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The County Finance Officer presented the report the purpose of which was to inform Members of the Housing Revenue Account Final outturn for 2007/08 (subject to audit) and the impact on the level of HRA Balances at 31st March 2008. The final outturn was compared to month ten being the last monitoring report considered by the Executive. The report also provided Members with a review of the year and detailed some of the significant variations from the revised budget.

The County Finance Officer referred to the final outturn position which had resulted in net expenditure being £0.285m more than the Budget (£0.114m at month ten). The report at Section 4.00 provided a review of the year and significant variances. There was a budgeted deficit of £0.380m on the Building, Maintenance Trading Account for 2007/08 with the final deficit being £0.177m.

As with the General Fund, the graph at Appendix 1 showed an improvement in budget forecasting compared to 2005/06 but with further work to be done to improve this further.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

60. GENERAL FUND AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT INTERIM REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2008-09

A report of the County Finance Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The County Finance Officer presented the report the purpose of which was to provide Members with an Interim 2008/09 Budget Monitoring Report for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account based on projections at the end of May 2008.

The County Finance Officer explained that in the early part of the financial year 2008/09 resources had again been targeted at the closure of the accounts for 2007/08. Therefore, as in previous years, this report only provided detail on significant variances to the Budget that were being projected to date. The report was at an early stage in the financial year and a more detailed report would be made to the Executive on 16th September, 2008.

The County Finance Officer made specific reference to Education Children's Services and Recreation and the out of county placements and an overspend of £0.765m. This was a volatile budget and detailed work was ongoing to analyse the expected costs of new placements and expected termination dates of existing placements. Particular reference was made to fuel costs which had risen significantly in the last twelve months and the effect of this increase was likely to have an impact across many services within the Council. In summary, the County Finance Officer explained that whilst this was at a very early stage in the year and there was uncertainty surrounding a number of budget

pressures and savings but there was currently a potential overspend of £0.97m on the General Fund.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

61. MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION 2008/09

A report of the County Finance Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The County Finance Officer presented the report the purpose of which was to present proposals for the setting of a prudent Minimum Revenue Provision for the repayment of debt as required under the Local Authorities (Capital Financing and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulation 2008.

RESOLVED:

That it be recommended to the County Council on 25th September, 2008 that

- (a) Option 1 (Regulatory Method) be used for the calculation of the Minimum Revenue Provision in 2008/09 (and retrospectively 2007/08), for all supported borrowing.
- (b) Option 3 (Asset Life Method) be used for the calculation of the Minimum Revenue Provision in 2008/09 (and retrospectively 2007/08) for all unsupported (prudential) borrowing.

62. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS – ACTUALS 2007/08

A report of the County Finance Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The County Finance Officer presented the report the purpose of which was to provide Members with 2007/08 (Actual) Prudential Indicator figures as required under the Prudential Code for Capital Finance.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and approved.

63. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The Executive received a presentation by the Chief Executive and the County Finance Officer which set out the Medium Term Financial Strategy definition, core principles and activities to be undertaken and timescales for 2009/10.

The Chief Executive referred to the timescale and the adoption of a four year strategy to coincide with the four year term of the Council with 2009/10 being year two of the current four year period. The joint presentation set out a

definition of the medium term strategy and its core principles and activities to be undertaken.

The Chief Executive then referred to the timescales for the strategy which would commence with this meeting considering the core principles and activities and then the development of a detailed work programme during August. In September 2008 and ongoing, detailed Member participation/discussion/input would be required at both Executive and Overview and Scrutiny together with engagement with management teams and budget managers.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

64. COUNCIL PERFORMANCE AND TARGET SETTING

A report of the Chief Executive, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The Chief Executive presented the report the purpose of which was to provide Members with an overview of the new approach to target setting using performance indicators and Members were provided with a presentation. Secondly, Members were asked to endorse the approach for further development of full consultation including Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees at the meeting to be held on 18th August.

The Chief Executive referred to the Executive meeting on 24th June when a report had been received on the performance of Council services in 2007/08 against performance indicators. The Council had not yet formally adopted targets for 2008/09 against the performance indicators. The report set out four classifications that could be used to set targets which were:-

- a **minimum standard** which should be met as an entitlement and the client can expect;
- an **improvement target** to set business objectives to improve performance which is currently unsatisfactory; and
- an **incremental target** where a marginal improvement in performance is sought as a business objective where performance is currently satisfactory; and
- a **maintenance target** where performance is currently good and needs to continue.

The Chief Executive gave a short presentation to illustrate such targets and stated that Directorates were working to draft targets. He would prepare draft targets for consideration with Members in August and referred to the meeting of the People and Performance and Corporate Management Overview and Scrutiny Committees to be held on 18th August to which Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees had been invited and this would discuss the new approach for target setting.

RESOLVED:

That the approach to target setting for further development and consultation be endorsed.

65. AGENCY WORKERS

A report of the Interim Assistant Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The Interim Assistant Director presented the report the purpose of which was to provide an update on the current situation with regard to agency workers.

The report provided details on the background to establish a single agency supplier for all agency workers in Flintshire County Council. A Managed Agency Staff Solution (MASS) had been established and was a collaborative project between Denbighshire County Council, Wrexham County Borough Council and Flintshire County Council. A single agency supplier Matrix, had been approved by the Executive on 1st April 2008 to fulfil the contract for the provision of agency workers to the County Council in accordance with an agreed implementation plan.

The Interim Assistant Director responded to a question on the total cost of agency workers being approximately £6m for the period 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008 and confirmed that this was the total cost including fees and salaries.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

66. DRAFT RECRUITMENT POLICY

A report of the Interim Assistant Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The Interim Assistant Director presented the report the purpose of which was to recommend the adoption of a Recruitment Policy for the County Council. A copy of the latest version of the policy had been circulated as an appendix to the report but it was noted that this would change from time to time as changes took place.

The County Legal and Democratic Services Officer referred to the recommendations of the report and as this related to both Executive and County Council functions suggested that the recommendation should be changed to read "To adopt the proposed Recruitment Policy and recommended it's adoption by the County Council." In addition he suggested that delegated powers be given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Executive Member for Corporate Governance and Strategy to make minor amendments to the policy where required from time to time. It was agreed that the suggestion made by the County Legal and Democratic Services Officer be incorporated into the recommendation.

RESOLVED:

- (a) To adopt the proposed recruitment policy and recommended its adoption by the County Council such a policy to include:-
- An objective assessment and selection process.
 - A competency based approach to interviewing.
 - Welsh language skills assessment for positions.
 - A 6 month probationary period.
 - Pre-employment checks, such as, Criminal Records Bureau, eligibility to work in the UK.
- (b) That delegated powers be given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Executive Member for Corporate Governance and Strategy to make minor amendments to the policy where required from time to time.

67. COUNCILLOR WARD GRANT SCHEME

A report of the Assistant Director of ICT and Customer Services, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The Assistant Director of ICT and Customer Services presented the report the purpose of which was to provide Members with information on Councillor Ward Grants Schemes in place at a number of Councils' across England and Wales. The report also highlighted some of the issues and considerations that would need addressing should such a scheme be implemented in Flintshire.

The Assistant Director reported that the schemes researched varied in scale focus and operation and details were contained in Appendix 1 to the report. Councillor Ward Grants were a way of enhancing the role of Ward Members as community champions, providing support to the local community groups and voluntary organisations that provided services within the Council Wards. Members would need to consider whether a scheme would provide each Councillor with a grant or whether this should be considered on ward basis or an allocation on a per capita basis based on ward population. Members were also advised that in Wales, individual Councillors had not been given the powers to determine grant applications. If a grant scheme was to be introduced, the grants would have to be made under the delegated authority of an Officer in consultation with the Member(s) based on their recommendations/preferences.

The financial implications of the report were highlighted and if, for example, £5,000 per Member was to be provided the total fund required would be £350,000 and on a ward basis this would be reduced to £285,000. If Members wished to support the introduction of such a scheme for Flintshire, further work would be required and the recommendations of the report suggested a consultation exercise be undertaken with all County Councillors following which a further detailed report would be made to the Executive.

The Chief Executive referred to the request from Members to consider the introduction of such a scheme which would be of benefit to all Members and

therefore, as suggested in the recommendation, it was appropriate to consult with all Members. If it was intended to introduce this scheme in the current year funding would have to be met from in year under spends or from the contingency reserve and a budget growth bid would need to be considered for the 2009/2010 budget.

The Executive Member for Environment thanked the Officers for the research undertaken on this proposal and referred to the other funding schemes available in Flintshire which were the Welsh Church Acts Fund, Flintshire Community Chest and these were well established and successful should remain unchanged. He then referred to the considerations of providing £5,000 per Member and proposed that this be introduced for the current financial year 2008/2009 subject to a further report back to the Executive. This would allow the scheme to be fully tested out to allow the Council to make a decision as to whether the scheme be introduced on a permanent basis or not.

The Chief Executive referred to the recommendation and suggested that a consultation exercise be undertaken with all County Councillors as soon as possible to enable a further report to be made to the September Executive meeting.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the principle of a Ward Grants Scheme for Flintshire Councillors be agreed, subject to consultation with all Members.
- (b) That a consultation exercise be undertaken with all County Councillors on the considerations set out in Section 3 of the report and;
- (c) That following the consultation a further detailed report be presented to the Executive in September.

68. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

A report of the Chief Executive, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The Chief Executive presented the report the purpose of which was to enable the Executive to receive a presentation the proposed approach and draft contents of the Forward Work Programme for the period commencing September 2008.

The Chief Executive explained that the Council was required, under the Legislation for Council Governance and Constitutional Practice, to publish a Forward Work Programme. This would set out the important business of the County Council and the Executive intended to deal with over a fixed period against its pre-set meeting schedule. The Constitution stated that the work programme would be prepared to cover a period of 6 months and would be updated 6 monthly on a rolling basis to maximise the opportunity for consultation and dialogue.

The Chief Executive presented a draft Forward Work Programme as an illustration and this provided the date of the Executive, the Directorate/Division responsible, the topic and whether the report was strategic or operational. The draft work programme was developed around the budget cycle, governance cycle and regulatory cycle, as examples, and Executive Members and Overview & Scrutiny Chairman were invited to add to this. In response to a question by a Member on the content and the timing of reports to the Executive the Chief Executive explained that the initial draft had been shared with Executive Members and was open to addition and adjustment.

RESOLVED

That the proposed approach and draft content of the Forward Work Plan for the period commencing September 2008 be endorsed.

69. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS

An information report of the Chief Executive, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The purpose of the report was to inform Members of actions taken under delegated powers.

The actions taken were as set out below:-

- (a) Temporary renewal of lease of Police land at Council depot at Alltami until 31st March 2010 – modification of rental level. Acting Director of Community and Housing.
- (b) Agricultural estate – Acting Director of Community and Housing

Re-letting of Oaks Farm, Hope.

Re-letting of Oak Tree Farm, Padeswood.

Re-letting of Morrision Farm, Green Lane, Sealand.

Re-letting of Dairy/Stock Farm, Hope Hall Farm, Hope.

Re-letting of Bridge Farm, Green Lane, Sealand.

Re-letting of Aberllanerch Bungalow, Alltami.

70. ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS

The Chief Executive, with permission of the Chairman provided information for Members on recent appointments.

- (a) The appointment of Maureen Harkin as Temporary Head of Housing with effect from 18th August 2008 with specific functions in relation to Housing Management and Operations.
- (b) The retirement of Huw Evans who had left the Authority on 31st July 2008 and the interim appointment of Mr Glyn P Jones as Acting Chief Planning Services Officer following interviews held the previous day.

RESOLVED:

That the information provided by the Chief Executive be noted.

71. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 – TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following Agenda item as it was likely would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

72. **SUPPORT FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR – DE-COMMISSIONING OF TY'R BYNWDYDDEN**

A report of the Chief Executive, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The Chief Executive presented the report the purpose of which was to present a package of support for those organisations who would be required to leave Ty'r Bynwydden as the complex was de-commissioned and secondly, to support the Flintshire Council for Voluntary Action to develop a voluntary sector centre capable of offering alternative accommodation to those organisations currently occupying Ty'r Bynwydden.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Council supports in principle the business case presented by FLVC and awards a revenue grant of up to £51,000 as detailed in paragraph 3.07 of the report, to be funded from the contingency reserve, subject to the finalisation of the business case and the Council being provided with the assurances required of FLVC of the viability of the new complex beyond the period of subsidy;
- (b) That, subject to (a) above, the Council calculates and negotiates the additional annual costs of market rents of the voluntary organisations commissioned or grant aided by the Council and, where the Council accepts responsibility, in 2008/09 meet the additional costs from in-year efficiencies and/or the contingency reserve and from 2009/10 from within the base budget;
- (c) That, subject to (a) above, the Council makes a payment of disturbance and relocation allowances to the resident organisations of Ty'r Bynwydden, according to a formula to be set, to be met from the contingency reserve;
- (d) That, the Council ensure open and continuous communication with all parties affected to provide reassurance; and

- (e) That, the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, be granted delegated authority to conclude arrangements under (a) to (c) due to the urgency of the situation.

73. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 09.30 am and ended at 12.05 pm.

74. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were two members of the press in attendance and one member of the public.

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Chairman

SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S
CODE OF CONDUCT

EXECUTIVE	DATE: 5 August 2008
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
NO DECLARATIONS WERE MADE		