

EXECUTIVE
16 September 2008

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 16 September, 2008.

PRESENT: Councillor A Woolley (Chairman)

Councillors: P Heesom, M Higham, D Hutchinson, N Matthews, N Phillips, T Sharps, N Steele-Mortimer and H Yale.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors A Aldridge, B Attridge, R Baker, C Bithell, B Dunn, G Hardcastle, R Hampson, R Jones, D Mackie, Mrs D Mackie and C Thomas.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, County Legal & Democratic Services Officer, Acting Director of Community and Housing, Acting Director of Environment and Regeneration, Chief Education Officer, Assistant Director of ICT and Customer Services, Assistant Director (Funds and Customer Accounts) and Head of Committee, Member and Electoral Services.

APOLOGY:

Councillor C Ellis.

75. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 5 August 2008 were confirmed as a correct record.

76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

77. EMERGING FLINTSHIRE UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN: CLOSE OF PUBLIC ENQUIRY AND TIMETABLE FOR ADOPTION

A report of the Acting Director of Environment and Regeneration, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The Acting Director presented the report the purpose of which was to inform Members of the closure of the Unitary Development Plan Inquiry, to advise on the procedures for the adoption of the UDP, and to seek Member endorsement of "Additional Further Proposed Changes" to the UDP, including submission to County Council recommending that these additional changes be approved for development control purposes.

The Acting Director referred to substantial additional changes in respect of minerals buffer zones which needed to be taken into account for planning decisions on mineral sites. Discussions were also ongoing with the Inspector to attempt to bring forward the conclusion of the Inquiry process from the latest provisional date of 9 March 2009.

The Executive Member for Housing Strategy and Planning said that this was high risk document for the Authority and with the provisional conclusion date being March 2009, and a probable further consultation on the modifications, the adoption of the plan was some time off. He also referred to the proposed changes which had not been through Member consultation, and that the Member Panel had not met since its last meeting in May 2005. In supporting the recommendations of the report the Executive needed to have regard to the time factors of the UDP particularly for land use for development purposes. He expressed support for the beginnings of a local development plan. He also referred to the extension of the County Council's responsibilities on the waterline for the Dee estuary.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the additional further proposed changes to the UDP as set out in the appendix to the report be endorsed; and
- b) That the submission of the report to the County Council, with a recommendation that the "Additional further proposed changes", July 2008 be approved for development control purposes.

78. TAITH DRAFT REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN

A report of the Acting Director of Environment and Regeneration, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The purpose of the report was to seek views on the Draft Regional Transport Plan following its publication in June 2008.

At this juncture, Councillor H D Hutchinson, sought the Monitoring Officer's advice as to whether he needed to declare an interest as a bus operator and to leave the meeting during consideration of the report. The Monitoring Officer advised the Member that this was a personal interest which was not prejudicial; therefore there was no need for him to leave the meeting and he could take part in the debate and vote.

The Acting Director referred to the background to the report and the Welsh Assembly Government's requirement for each of the four regions in Wales to produce a Regional Transport Plan. For the North Wales region the plan was being developed by the Taith consortium of the six Local Authorities under an Executive Board which had delegated power from each Authority. The plan would be a significant document as it would provide the framework for procurement of Transport Grant funding from the Welsh Assembly Government. Members' attention was drawn to the North Wales Regional Transport Plan objectives which were set out in section 4.2 of the appendix, the North Wales Regional Transport priorities and the appropriate interventions for North Wales.

The Executive Member for the Environment endorsed the Acting Director's statement and emphasised the need for support from all Members, Members of Parliament and Assembly Members on the aims of the plan for future residential and business development. Members also commented on

the plan in the report which illustrated the transport connectivity in North Wales which appeared to focus on a North South access; greater emphasis was needed on the East West links to attract inward investments both in terms of road, rail, shipping and the links to the Deeside Industrial Park and the M56 motorway. It was also suggested that the plan should make reference to expanding the use of Hawarden Airport.

RESOLVED:

That the Executive, on behalf of Flintshire County Council, supports the objectives, priorities and interventions within the Draft Regional Transport Plan.

79. SCHOOL ORGANISATION STRATEGY: PLANNING AND CONSULTATION SCHEDULE TO MID 2009

A report of the Chief Education Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The Chief Education Officer presented the report the purpose of which was to provide the Executive with the proposed main stages of action for the planning and consultation for the School Organisation Strategy for the period up to mid 2009, including a proposed detailed schedule for the final stage of the production and completion of the Education Asset Management Plan.

The Executive was reminded that at its meeting on 5 August 2008 approval had been given to the intention to move forward to the recruitment of two key temporary appointments to provide strategic capacity to undertake essential work on the School Organisation Strategy.

The Executive, at its meeting on 5 August, had agreed that an update on progress regarding the strategy process would be submitted to this meeting of the Executive. The main areas covered in the report were the proposed schedule of main stages in the planning and consultation stages of the School Organisation Strategy up to mid 2009. In appendix 1 to the report a schedule of planning and consultation to mid 2009 provided an illustration of the various stages and timescale. Appendix 2 to the report provided information on the Predicted Budget for 2008-2012 and the Indicative Budget for 2012-2016. Major consultation would be required on the School Organisation Strategy and this would need to be coordinated with the statutory admissions consultation. Ongoing collaborative working with Secondary Head Teachers was taking place and meetings with Primary Head Teachers were being arranged. Continued working with schools, dioceses and other stakeholders would be required throughout the Autumn term 2008 and during the Spring term 2009.

The Executive Member for Education and Youth fully supported the recommendations of the report and referred to the implications of the January 2009 Estyn inspection of educational services on the School Organisation Strategy. He also referred to the Welsh Assembly Government Minister who had attended County Hall the previous week and met with himself, the Chief Executive and Leader, the new Director and key Officers and had also visited

Bryn Coch School in Mold in relation to the implementation of the Foundation Phase.

In considering the report Members made reference to Asset Management and due to uncertain times it would not be easy to predict the outcomes and also comments were made on the previous submitted evidence that school numbers were not reliable and would increase and this needed to be monitored. In response to a question on the school surplus places a Member sought assurance that there would be no school closures in Flintshire. The Leader confirmed that this would be the case and it was important to retain schools in small communities which was essential for the viability of such communities.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the focus be maintained during the Autumn term 2008 on the key strategic planning areas of the School Organisation Strategy as set out in appendix 1 of the report and the use of the main stages in the process that had been proposed for the period 2008-2009;
(Note: there was a risk to the Local Authority that slippage could occur on the schedule of main stages due to unforeseen circumstances);
- b) To develop an initial medium term financial plan covering the period 2008-2012 and that this plan be coordinated with the wider School Organisation Strategy timeline. It was also agreed that the predictive medium term financial planning should coordinate with pupil forecast numbers in the first instance up to 2012-13 and after this point pupil data would become less reliable and indicative pupil projections would need to be calculated for the next medium term Financial Plan cycle from 2012-13 to 2016-17 as set out in appendix 2 to the report;
- c) Following the approval received at the 5 August 2008 meeting the Executive noted the intention to make two temporary six month appointments, in the first instance, to secure essential staff capacity to support the School Organisation process (Revenue funding had been secured for these two appointments) as follows:-
 - i) School Organisation Project Manager
 - ii) School Place Planning Management Information Officer
- d) That a further report be brought to the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Executive on Flintshire Local Education Authority's Schools Capital Programme of Funding, to include a summary of the wider implications for School Capital Funding programmes of the new Welsh Assembly Government Strategic Capital Investment framework recently received by the Authority.

80. COMMUNITY PLANNING AND THE FLINTSHIRE LOCAL SERVICE BOARD

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 seek endorsement of the local approach to Community Planning and the Flintshire Local Service Board.

The Chief Executive referred to the Local Service Boards to be established in every Unitary Authority in Wales by the end of 2008/09, with an expectation that local delivery agreements would be finalised by 2009/10. The report outlined Flintshire's developing LSB arrangements and that the first meeting of the LSB Strategy Group had been held on 14 August, 2008. Members had agreed that the terms of reference for the group would be based around four key principle areas of effective partnership relationships, discharging the responsibilities of the LSB, consistent and effective governance and performance of local strategic partnerships, and working together on common issues as public bodies and employers.

RESOLVED:

That the approach taken in the development of the Local Service Board and the Community Strategy be endorsed.

81. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY/BUDGET 2009/10 – PROCESS AND TIMETABLE

A report of the Chief Executive and County Finance Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The Chief Executive presented the report the purpose of which was to provide an update on the work being undertaken on both the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the 2009/10 Budget.

Members were reminded that they had received a presentation at the meeting on 5 August 2008 which outlined the definition of the Medium Term Strategy and detailed the key principles and activities underpinning the Strategy. The Assembly had issued the timetable for the 2009/10 Local Government Revenue Settlement. The key dates were the Assembly Government's Draft Budget would be published on 7 October; the Provisional Settlement would be announced on 15 October; the Final Settlement would be published on 10 December, 2008.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

82. POST OFFICE CLOSURES – NORTH WALES

A report of the Chief Executive, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The purpose of the report was to provide an update on the recommended Post Office closure proposals for North Wales and to consider making a recommendation to the County Council on the Council's formal response.

The Chief Executive reported that since the consideration of this matter at the previous meeting on 5 August, 2008 details of the proposed branch closures across North Wales had been announced by Post Office Ltd and a seven week public consultation had been commenced. In announcing the Branch Closure Programme, Post Office Ltd had referred to the need to ensure that people continued to have adequate access to Post Office services by applying the minimum access criteria prescribed to it by the Government. The Executive had noted that the seven week consultation period was very limited and would not provide a forum for debate on individual branch closures. The Chief Executive explained that his initial response on behalf of the County Council had recorded the Council's dissatisfaction and disagreement with the network change programme consultation. An item was to be included on the Agenda for the Special Meeting of the County Council to be held on 25 September, 2008 to allow Members to have a full discussion on this matter. The Post Office had agreed to send two senior representatives to the meeting. Copies of Correspondence on this matter was attached to the report as an appendix.

The Chief Executive also referred to the Post Office Development Fund and to the Welsh Assembly Government issuing a consultation document "A re-focussed Post Office Development Fund" which set out some draft proposals for the type of support a new fund could provide to diversify and improve Post Offices within Wales. The closing date for this consultation was 30 October 2008 and the Executive would consider a report on this consultation at its meeting on 29 October, 2008.

The Deputy Leader asked the Chief Executive to ascertain the views of the Post Office Association and obtain any information which Mr David Hanson MP may be able to provide on the proposals ahead of the Council meeting. The Chief Executive agreed to request this information for County Council and he also referred to paragraph 3.03 of the report where the Post Office had been invited to discuss openly with elected Members and Officers for areas of network operation. The first two areas were in relation to resourcing Post Offices to be retained to meet the additional customer demands transferred from areas no longer to be served by a Post Office and secondly, how outreach services would support in practice the areas no longer to be served by a Post Office. These two areas were critical factors which the County Council needed to consider.

RESOLVED:

That the County Council be recommended to consider the following:-

- a) The Post Office branch closures proposed in Flintshire and the resultant impacts in the local community;
- b) To support in principle the proposed reopening of a re-focussed Post Office Development Fund;
- c) That the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions making clear the importance that the County Council placed on the social role that Post Offices played in their local community and its concern about the impact that any future loss of business would have should the Post Office Card Account be discontinued; and
- d) That the Chief Executive ascertain the views of the Post Office Association and obtain any information which Mr David Hanson MP may be able to provide on the proposals ahead of the Council meeting.

83. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2008/09 (MONTH THREE)

A report of the County Finance Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The Assistant Director presented the report which provided an update on the Council's financial position for 2008/09 in respect to the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.

Members were requested to note the projected overspend of £0.291m on the General Fund and the projected underspend of £0.127m on the Housing Revenue Account. This report was at an early stage in the year and there were risks associated with the projection and some of these were identified in paragraph 2.18 of the report.

The Executive Member for Housing Strategy and Planning referred to the current economic situation and the need to give careful consideration to non standard inflation and as this was an all Wales issue it needed to be addressed through the WLGA and Welsh Assembly Government.

The Chief Executive referred to the down turn in the economy and the realisation of capital receipts could have an impact on the Capital Programme. He emphasised the importance of in year monitoring and the County Finance Officer's report to the last meeting had confirmed the need to manage expenditure and to report any variations as soon as possible. The Welsh Assembly Government would be requested to provide additional support for non standard inflation through the WLGA. The consideration of the Medium Term Financial Strategy had been the subject of a presentation to the 5 August Executive. Consideration of the Phase 2 of the Organisational Review and Redesign which was expected to produce efficiency savings and reduce overheads would assist the budget considerations.

The Chief Executive also referred to the forecast cost of Out of County placements and that this was currently being reviewed by himself, the Director of Community Services and the Assistant Director of Childrens' Services to provide more accurate reports. He had also spoken to the County Finance

Officer over the approach to the Contingency Reserve which could not be assumed to meet in-year overspends without specific Executive approval.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the report be noted;
- b) That the over all allocation of non standard inflation be dealt with as one amount on a business case basis;
- c) That the General Fund contingency sum available as at 31st March 2009 be noted; and
- d) That the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account be noted.

84. PROPOSED CYCLE LINK – ZONES THREE AND FOUR, DEESIDE INDUSTRIAL PARK

A report of the Acting Director of Environment and Regeneration, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The purpose of the report was to inform Members of the proposed cycle path linking Zones Three and Four on the Deeside Industrial Park and for Members to agree to the proposals.

The Acting Director referred to the original proposal which was to design and construct a bridge which would take the link over the Wrexham-Bidston railway line. Unfortunately, land acquisition difficulties had not enabled this to take place and an alternative alignment to the route had been proposed. The proposal was to take the route under the railway line utilising land owned by the County Council at Zone Three and Four and Network Rail land through the existing A548 underpass.

RESOLVED:

That the proposals as outlined in the report be approved in order to progress the scheme.

85. TOWN CENTRE HEALTH CHECK STUDY AND TOWN ACTION PLANS

A report of the Acting Director of Environment and Regeneration, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The purpose of the report was to inform Members of the findings of the Flintshire Town Centre Health Check Study and to consider the next steps with regards to town centre regeneration as a key part of a regeneration strategy for Flintshire.

The Executive Member for Regeneration and Tourism referred to the study which was a start of regeneration and development of action plans and there was a need for further consultation with the public. Work had already commenced and as an example he referred to the Ffordd Llanarth proposals

which had been agreed by the Planning and Development Control Committee at a recent meeting.

The Executive Member for the Environment supported the report but made observations in relation to Queensferry/Shotton and the number of industrial units that remained empty including the former B&Q site. The Executive Member for Leisure and Public Protection also referred to the limited investment in Buckley which also needed to be addressed.

The Chief Executive referred to the consideration of the Flintshire Local Service Board earlier in the meeting and the development of the Local Vision, and to work being undertaken with the Mersey Dee Alliance and the Spatial Plan, and the recognition that towns needed to be included. The involvement of Town and Community Councils needed to be incorporated.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the contents of the Town Centre Health Check Study and its role as a baseline document to help inform the development of Town Action Plans be noted; and
- b) That the next steps of the development of Town Action Plans be approved.

86. COMMUNITIES NEXT – OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITIES FIRST PROGRAMME

A report of the Acting Director of Environment and Regeneration, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the proposed changes and recommendations on the next stage of the Communities First Programme 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012.

The Acting Director reported that the Welsh Assembly Government had consulted widely on their proposals to strengthen the programme which was to be rebranded on vision, financing and delivering outcomes to the local community. The programme would continue to be known as the Communities First Programme.

The Executive Member for Housing Strategy and Planning proposed that Overview and Scrutiny should consider the Communities First Programme and there was a need for more accountability on the membership of the representation on the Communities First Programme.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the potential changes and recommendations by the Welsh Assembly Government for the next phase of the Communities First Programme be noted; and

- b) That the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to consider this report and recommend a mechanism to enable liaison between Members on Communities First matters and that elected Members on Communities First Boards be invited to take part in the committee's discussions.

87. IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE COUNCIL FOR THE CUSTOMER

A report of the Assistant Director of ICT and Customer Services, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The purpose of the report was to provide an update to Members on current and proposed improvements to customer access to the Council.

The Assistant Director in presenting the report referred to the variety of channels that the customer could use to access the Council. The considerations of the report highlighted these and particular reference was made to the mobile office which was a valued service in the community but usage was not high with the average number of annual visits being 1,000. The future use needed to be considered and if it was to be withdrawn as a service, consideration would have to be given as to how to provide access to Council services in rural communities.

The Executive Member for Corporate Governance in moving the recommendations of the report thanked the Assistant Director for the work undertaken on this matter and emphasised the need to reconsider the mobile office provision and welcomed the other proposals set out in the report.

In the discussion that ensued, the Executive Member for Education and Youth referred to the valued service provided by the mobile office to the rural areas particularly to the North West of the county and suggested that its role could be developed further with additional Officers from different departments being in attendance. Other Members referred to the development of kiosk technologies and other electronic access channels.

The Executive Member for Environment asked for the report to be deferred as he considered that the investment in this project could be better used on other essential services.

The Chief Executive referred to the inadequacy of the County Hall facilities for the general public including access, parking, and reception particularly for those attending over planning applications and enquiries. It was intended to create an integrated reception for regular visitors at Phase three with Phase One being the civic entrance. The ongoing developments were highlighted in the report and he also referred to the need to examine the future role of the mobile office.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the multi channel approach to customer access be endorsed;

- b) That the proposals to improve receptions at County Hall, Mold including the introduction of a Customer Services reception, be noted and endorsed;
- c) That the launch of the new Flintshire web site be noted and that the longer term objective of making the web site the access channel of choice by 2013 be supported; and
- d) That the Council continues to provide the mobile office for the time being but looks at options for the improvement of the service and other options in rural communities for further consideration in the future.

88. HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE – OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH STATISTICS 2007/08

A report of the Chief Executive, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The purpose of the report was to report referral trends to the Occupational Health and Safety Unit during 2007/08 by Directorate and cause for referral.

The Chief Executive reported that the Unit continued to generate income by providing services to external customers, the largest being the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service. The unit also continued to contribute to the Authority's over all productivity by facilitating an early return to work following sickness absence, through liaison with external health agencies and giving advice on rehabilitation, redeployment or retirement. Appendix 2 to the report provided information in relation to employee and manager satisfaction surveys which indicated over all satisfaction rates of 98% and 100% respectively.

The Executive Member for Environment asked if the recently introduced HR system could provide information on absenteeism on and if possible could a report be provided. The Assistant Director confirmed that this information was available and that a report could be submitted to a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the report be accepted as a summary for OHSU referral/clinic activities in 2007/08;
- b) That Flintshire County Council remains committed to the provision of high quality in-house Occupational Health and Safety services including the provision of counselling services;
- c) That the statistical collation would change to reflect the new organisational structure; and
- d) That a further report be provided on staff absences.

89. WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME MONITORING REPORT 2007- 08

A report of the Chief Executive, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The purpose of the report was to provide Members with the Council's Welsh Language Scheme Annual Monitoring Report 2007/08 and to seek agreement of the formal submission of the report to the Welsh Language Board.

This report had previously been considered by the Executive and by the People and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee and was now submitted to the Executive for endorsement.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and the formal submission of the report to the Welsh Language Board be agreed.

90. BUSINESS RATES – WRITE OFFS

A report of the County Finance Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The purpose of the report was to seek authorisation to write off a single debt outstanding for Business Rates to the value of £28,272.24.

RESOLVED:

That the write off of this debt amounting to £28,272.24 be approved.

91. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2007/08

A report of the County Finance Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The Assistant Director presented the report, the purpose of which was to provide Members with the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2007/08.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Report for 2007/08 be noted.

92. AMALGAMATION OF DEE ROAD INFANTS SCHOOL AND CUSTOM HOUSE LANE JUNIOR SCHOOL: INITIAL REPORT

A report of the Chief Education Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The purpose of the report was to provide the Executive with an initial report on the possible amalgamation of Dee Road Infants School and Custom House Lane Junior School, Connah's Quay. Secondly; provide the Executive with background information on the amalgamation process and to outline the next stage in the move towards entering a formal amalgamation process; make arrangements to present a full proposal to the Executive to be titled Amalgamation Report

One and seek the Executive approval to commence the formal amalgamation process.

The report provided the background to legislation and guidance together with the process of amalgamation and amalgamation process options. There were six key steps in the process and the details of these were provided in the report. A timeline for the proposals would be presented with the next report to the Executive.

The Executive Member for Education and Youth referred to the comments made on the report considered earlier in the meeting and emphasised that this was not a school closure as both schools were on the same site and would provide a more efficient use of resources.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the information enclosed within this initial report on the generic amalgamation process and early position on the possible amalgamation of Dee Road Infants School and Custom House Lane Junior School, be received;
- b) That the next step in moving towards an amalgamation process in the form of a meeting to be held in October with the two Head Teachers and Chairs of Governing Body be noted; and
- c) That arrangements for the Executive to receive an Amalgamation Report One containing a full proposal to amalgamate and supporting information of the process actions and timeline, financial implications both revenue and capital, and personnel implications be noted.

93. DEVELOPMENT OF SANDYCROFT HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECOVERY CENTRE (RECYCLING PARK)

A report of the Acting Director of Community and Housing, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The Executive Member for Waste Strategy and Management presented the report, the purpose of which was to seek approval to develop a split level Recycling Park at Prince William Avenue, Sandycroft to replace the single level site at Queensferry.

The Executive Member reminded Members that the Queensferry Recycling Park, along with the Queensferry Operational Depot were the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order as part of the intended A494 road widening scheme at Aston Hill. The recent decision of the Public Inquiry Inspector was not to proceed with the proposed road widening scheme but it was considered that a lesser scheme would, at a future date, be brought forward and to that end both the recycling park and depot would remain blighted. It was therefore intended to proceed with the proposals for the recycling park at Sandycroft.

The Acting Director of Community and Housing referred to the financial implications of the report and provided details on the financing of the project. The Chief Executive referred to considerations that had been given to funding this project through prudential borrowing. This was not recommended as it would add a cost to the future Capital Programme.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the use of £0.150m from the additional SWMG monies to top up the available programme budget (from £0.644m to £0.794m) in order to enable the development of a split level recycling park in Sandycroft to assist the meeting of the wider landfill diversion targets, be approved;
- b) That the use of a further £0.050m from the additional SWMG monies be approved to provide the deposit for the procurement of the industrial land in order to realise the "Spend to Save" initiative relating to the procurement over lease option for the site at Sandycroft as set out in paragraph 2.11 of the report, with the balance of the land purchase monies (£0.250m) to be added to the agreed 2008/09 Capital Programme of Capital Scheme Priorities; and
- c) That the allocation of £0.083m from the Contingency Reserve, to reinstate on a one off basis the approved 2008/09 Budget Savings Option relating to the intended closure of the Saltney Recycling Park in July 2008 be approved.

94. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008/09 – PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS

A report of the Head of Leisure Services, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The Chief Executive presented the report which provided the proposed redeployment of the capital allocation in the 2008/09 Programme for Play Area Improvements.

The Chief Executive referred to the previous Council's decision to provide a capital allocation in the 2008/09 Programme of £350,000 for play area improvements throughout the County. The reasons for this were the decline in capital investment and ageing equipment becoming unserviceable. The report emphasised the need to make meaningful improvements a sum of £250,000 of the allocation should be used for improvement schemes of a value up to £50,000 at five destinations which were highlighted in paragraph 3.02. The remaining balance of £100,000 would be used to provide five £20,000 schemes to upgrade play areas which were in a poor condition and provided low play area for children and these were outlined in paragraph 3.03. There was also a need for provision to be made for the maintenance of the play areas and a maintenance sum would need to be identified as part of the 2009/10 Budget process.

The Head of Leisure Services reported that there were some 165 play facilities of varying size and quality throughout Flintshire and the report emphasised the focus had been given to play needs and value in bringing

forward the proposals in the report. This would not deal with all play areas but would deal with the most urgent ones.

The Executive Member for Leisure and Public Protection welcomed the recommendations of the report and the Budget provision of £350,000 and emphasised the need to secure further funding to deal with the other outstanding areas which needed investment.

RESOLVED:

That the proposals for the redeployment of the funding allocation of £350,000 be approved for design and implementation and that the addition of £17,500 to the Revenue Budget for Play Areas be considered as part of the 2009/10 Budget process.

95. 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) Transfer of land known as Coronation Park, Chester Road, Buckley to Buckley Town Council – Acting Director of Community and Housing
- b) Disposal of land to rear of Cornist Hall Courtyard, off Cornist Lane, Flint - Acting Director of Community and Housing
- c) Disposal of land at 4 Bod Hyffryd, Chapel Street, Flint – Acting Director of Community and Housing
- d) Capital Minor Works Programme 2008/09 – Director of Community Services.

96. 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 it would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 12, 13 and 15 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

97. DESIGN AND PRINT SERVICE REVIEW

A report of the Assistant Director of ICT and Customer Services, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The purpose of the report was to provide the Executive with details of the outcome

of the review of the Design and Print service and seek approval to the proposed structural changes.

RESOLVED:

That the findings of the Service Review be endorsed and the proposed restructure be approved.

98. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 9.30am at ended at 12.05pm.

99. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were two members of the press in attendance.

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Chairman

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

EXECUTIVE	DATE: 16th September 2008
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
NO DECLARATIONS WERE MADE		