

**EXECUTIVE**  
**18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008**

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2008.

**PRESENT: Councillor A Woolley (Chairman)**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillors: K. Armstrong-Braun, R.C Bithell, V. Gay, R. Hughes, R. Jones, D. Mackie, Doreen Mackie, and A.P Shotton.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Environment, Director of Lifelong Learning, County Legal and Democratic Services Officer, County Finance Officer, Assistant Director of ICT and Customer Services and Head of Committee, Member and Electoral Services.

**161. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> October and 29<sup>th</sup> October 2008 were confirmed as a correct record.

**Change to the Agenda for the Meeting**

The County Legal and Democratic Services Officer reported that the Chairman had agreed to the submission of three additional urgent items. Two reports had been referred to the Executive from the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous day on AD Waste and the North Wales Waste Treatment Process and a third item which had been considered by the Housing Strategy Board the previous Friday which required consideration by the Executive. He also referred to agenda item 18 which was a report of the Director of Lifelong Learning and to a paper tabled at the meeting which made a number of amendments to the report. Agenda item no. 21 which was a report of the Director of Environment on the A541 Hendre – 30/40 MPH speed limit was being withdrawn as some correspondence from an objector had not been circulated with the report.

**162. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interests were made but Councillor Carol Ellis indicated that as a Ward Member and a Governor of the Elfed High School she would not be voting on the report by the Director of Environment on the disposal of parts of the site of the Belmont Special School, Buckley for the construction of a primary health care centre.

**163. COUNCILLOR WARD GRANTS**

The Chief Executive and the Executive Member for Corporate Governance and Strategy introduced a report the purpose of which was (1) to inform the Executive of the findings of the consultation exercise carried out with County Councillors on Councillor Ward Grants and (2) to provide options for Members to consider how the grants scheme could be progressed.

The Assistant Director for ICT and Customer Services referred to the previous report to the Executive on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2008 and to the further work that had been undertaken. The report outlined the results of the consultation exercise carried out with Members and provided a criteria should the Executive wish to implement the scheme. The Executive Member advised the Executive that if the scheme was agreed it would be introduced from 2009/10 as a budget growth bid. Capacity to manage and administer the scheme would be found from within existing resources and there would be no additional staffing costs.

The Executive Member for Environment referred to the previous consideration of this matter and proposed that the recommendations be supported with the addition that the amount to be allocated to each Councillor be limited to £2,500 and that the scheme be implemented from July 2009. This was duly seconded.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Member Grants Panel would set out the detailed criteria for the scheme if adopted.

**RESOLVED**

That the Ward Grants Scheme be agreed and that the amount to be allocated to each Councillor be limited to £2,500.

**164. POLICE GREEN PAPER: "FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD TO THE NATIONAL". CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

The Chief Executive and the Leader introduced a report the purpose of which was to report the response of the Community Safety Partnership to the consultation on the Green Paper on Policing entitled "From the Neighbourhood to the National" and to provide an overview of the document and highlight particular areas that will impact upon the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

The Leader referred to the consultation period which had ended on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2008. He had concerns on the bullet points that were referred to as key issues for noting by Local Authorities which were set out in paragraph 2.04 of the report.

The Chief Executive responded to this question and explained that whilst the closing date for consultation had passed the County Council as members of the WLGA had endorsed a national response. There were some important issues including governance, funding and in relation to the elected

Member roles. As a result, arrangements had been made for Chief Superintendent Ruth Purdie to attend the special meeting of the County Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2008 to contribute to a full debate.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That the response prepared by the Community Safety Partnership to the recent Policing Green Paper “from the neighbourhood to the national” be noted.
- (b) That the possible implications of the Green Paper be noted.

**165. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2008/09 – 2010/11**

The County Finance Officer presented a report the purpose of which was to seek approval to the Procurement Strategy which provided a three year framework for improving procurement within the Council.

**RESOLVED**

That the Procurement Strategy 2008/09 – 2010/11 be adopted.

**166. PEOPLE STRATEGY 2006-2009 UPDATE ON PROGRESS**

The Interim Assistant Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development and the Executive Member for Corporate Governance and Strategy introduced a report the purpose of which was to report to the Executive on the progress of the People’s Strategy Action Plan for 2008/09.

The Chief Executive referred to a number of projects and outlined the current position. The MASS project which was being undertaken with Denbighshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council had been introduced and was now reducing overhead costs. The HRMIS system had recently gone live and he paid tribute to the work undertaken by the payroll team that had made this possible. On Single Status a further meeting was to be held with the trade unions the following day; the outcomes of the project would be reported to a special meeting of the County Council in December 2008. A commitment had been made to communicate with the workforce before Christmas. Progress was being made with the second phase of the restructuring of the organisation and reference was made to the accommodation strategy and to the Council exploring the concept of agile working with neighbouring North Wales Councils and with the support of British Telecom.

Members endorsed the views expressed on the exemplary work undertaken by the extended HRMIS team and were looking forward to receiving the management reports that would be available following the introduction of the HRMIS system.

## **RESOLVED**

That the progress of the People's Strategy Action Plan 2008/09 and the proposals to review and renew the People's Strategy for 2009 onwards be noted and endorsed.

### **167. STRATEGY FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN WALES UPDATE**

The Director of Community Services and the Executive Member for Social Services introduced a report the purpose of which was to provide an update on the local implementation of the Strategy for Older People in Wales including the development of the 50+ Advisory Group facilitating the involvement of older people in the planning and development of services in Flintshire. The report also highlighted the changes in Welsh Assembly Government funding for the implementation of the strategy during Phase 2 (2008-2013).

The Executive Member welcomed the report and noted the good work that had taken place in establishing the 50+ Advisory Group which met on a monthly basis to consider a range of local issues affecting older people. The budget available to local authorities for implementing the strategy would taper down from £2.4m in 2008/09 to £1m 2010/11 when it was planned that these resources would transfer into the Revenue Support Grant. For 2008/09 Flintshire's allocation was £103,741.

The Director of Community Services referred to the Welsh Assembly Government 10 year strategy which was now in its sixth year and was providing real value in how it affected the delivery of services for older people. The 50+ Advisory Group had been instrumental in the development of the tendering of documentation for the forum development worker and was involved in awarding the tender to the successful applicant Flintshire Neighbourhood Watch Association. The post holder had been recruited and was working across Flintshire to increase membership of the group and develop the opportunities for engagement and involvement of older people.

## **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the contents of the report and progress made in Flintshire be noted.
- (b) That the implications of the tapered funding for the implementation of Phase 2 of the strategy for older people as set out in paragraph 3.04 of the report and the implementation from 2010 onwards once funding was incorporated into the Revenue Support Grant, be noted.

### **168. GENDER EQUALITY SCHEME – ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008**

The Chief Executive and the Executive Member for Corporate Governance and Strategy introduced a report the purpose of which was to

present the first annual report on progress of the implementation of the Council's Gender Equality Scheme and action plan 2007-2010.

**RESOLVED**

That the Gender Equality Scheme Annual Report be approved.

**169. MAKING THE CONNECTIONS – NORTH WALES ADOPTION CONSORTIUM**

The Director of Community Services presented a report the purpose of which was to inform the Executive on progress of the work of the North Wales Adoption Consortium and to seek endorsement for this project.

The Director referred to new legislation that required an expanded range of services to be delivered. However, the number of Looked After Children adopted by the local authority as illustrated in the report was small. As a result some authorities would find it hard to meet the standards required and due to the complexity it was considered appropriate to work with other local authorities. There was a high level of activity involved in adoption work undertaken by the Family Placement Team which was intensive and specialist and their role was outlined in paragraph 2.02 of the report. The report also outlined the current North Wales adoption consortium arrangements with the Assistant Director (Children's Services) taking a lead role on the Operational Management Group.

**RESOLVED**

That endorsement be given to the new consortium arrangement on a North Wales basis.

**170. DISPOSAL OF PART OF THE SITE OF THE BELMONT SPECIAL SCHOOL, BUCKLEY TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRE**

The Director of Environment presented a report the purpose of which was to seek approval for the disposal of the two acre site shown on the plan attached to the report.

The Director referred to the report and that as part of the rationalisation of the County Council's Special School portfolio it was proposed to close the school in July/August 2009 when the land would be declared surplus to requirements and would be available for formal disposal. This site was zoned as "white land" in the Buckley settlement and was considered to be appropriate for residential development which would give the site a high unrestrictive value. The proposal would constitute disposing of the site at a restrictive value and the District Valuer had provided valuation figures which showed a large discrepancy between the unrestricted and the restrictive value of the site. The Director explained that following negotiations the developers had agreed to pay a figure of £700,000 for this site for the construction of a primary health care centre.

A number of Members sought clarification on a number of issues particularly to the future use of the remaining area of land which was not to be used for the health care centre, highway considerations and planning considerations.

In response to questions raised the Director of Environment emphasised that the planning process was entirely different to the decision being requested by the Executive to confirm the disposal. The County Legal and Democratic Services Officer advised that Members who were also members of the Planning and Development Control Committee should separate the two issues and not to come to a pre-determined view on the planning merits prior to the Planning Committee. The Chief Executive confirmed that two thirds of the Belmont site was to be used for the primary health care centre and the future use of the remaining third would be a matter for the County Council to determine its future use. On the general points raised Members were reminded of the Local Health Board Strategy to deliver primary health care centres at a number of sites and he emphasised that community leadership was being shown by the County Council to resolve the long standing issue for a location for a health care centre in Buckley.

The Leader of the Council moved the recommendations which were duly seconded and on being put to the vote were agreed but Councillors Carol Ellis, P.G Heesom, N.R Steele-Mortimer and Helen Yale abstained.

### **RESOLVED**

That approval be given to the disposal of the site to H.P.C Wales at a “less than best” consideration with the conditions set out in paragraph 3.09 of the report.

#### **171. DISPOSAL OF LAND FRONTING GLANRAFON ROAD, MOLD TO APOLLO CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRE**

The Director of Environment presented a report the purpose of which was to seek approval for the disposal of the property.

### **RESOLVED**

That approval be given to the disposal of the site to Apollo Capital Projects at a “less than best” consideration with the conditions set out in paragraph 3.09 of the report.

(Councillor P.G Heesom abstained on the vote.)

#### **172. RESPONSE TO PROVISIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT 2009/10**

The Chief Executive and County Finance Officer presented a joint report the purpose of which was to provide professional advice on the

provisional Local Government settlement 2009/10 and to invite the Executive to agree the contents of the Council's response to the Welsh Assembly Government consultation.

The County Finance Officer reminded Members that the provisional settlement had been received on 15<sup>th</sup> October and the position at the all Wales level and for Flintshire had been reported to the Executive on 29<sup>th</sup> October. The closing date for responses to the Welsh Assembly Government was 18<sup>th</sup> November. The Assembly had been advised that the Authority's response was to be considered at this Executive meeting and would follow in final form by 20<sup>th</sup> November and this extension of time had been agreed. A draft response to the provisional settlement was attached as an appendix to the report.

The Chief Executive referred to paragraph 3.01 of the report which provided professional commentary on the provisional settlement. Flintshire's revenue settlement at 2.7% increase was lower than the average settlement across Wales of 2.9%. At the all Wales and Flintshire levels the settlement was below both the retail price index and consumer price index. It was not transparent that the revenue settlement failed to set out the provision for pay and price increases and it was suggested that the Assembly should be requested to provide this information and include the detail as a matter of routine in future years. There was also concern on the economic downturn and the secondary impact that this would have on the income of the Council such as capital receipts and reduced planning fees.

The Executive Member for Housing Strategy and Planning endorsed the Chief Executive's views on the economic downturn and the impact this would have on the Council in terms of income and the additional pressures that could arise on social services and housing.

The Leader also endorsed the views expressed but referred to the bullet point on the commentary of the provisional settlement that "with prudence and good management, the Council can balance the budget at this level of settlement and largely protect operations" and consider that the Council should be able to "wholly protect operations" and the Council response should reflect this.

In response to the Members comments the Chief Executive said that the Welsh Assembly Government would also be asked to reinstate the 1% efficiency deduction to be made at source (equivalent to £38m for Welsh Local Government) due to the exceptional circumstances of the economy.

## **RESOLVED**

That a Council response incorporate the bullet points as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report with an amendment to the fifth bullet point to illustrate the position more clearly.

**173. COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2009-10**

The County Finance Officer presented a report the purpose of which was to approve the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2009-10.

**RESOLVED**

That the Tax Base of 60,328 chargeable Band 'D' equivalent properties as shown in Appendix A to the report for 2009-10 be approved.

**174. LOCAL TAXATION POLICIES 2009/10**

The County Finance Officer presented a report the purpose of which was for Members to approve various policies for the administration of council tax and business rates for the financial year 2009-10. The policies required by statute to be approved each year were Council Tax discounts on second and long term empty homes, Council Tax discretionary discounts, discretionary rate relief for charities and discretionary rate relief for small businesses. The report also contained for information the payment dates for precepting/levying bodies and payment dates for Council Tax and Business Rates.

The County Finance Officer responded to questions from Members. Firstly, she confirmed that for those customers who had difficulty in paying their council tax a discretionary 12 month instalments scheme was available to reduce the customers' monthly outgoings and spread the charges over two additional months. Council P.G Heesom asked the press who were present to give this some media coverage. In response to a question on the current economic climate and the effects this was having on small businesses, the County Finance Officer referred to the Welsh Assembly's small business rate relief scheme which contained provision to award discretionary top-up relief to small businesses. This scheme had been changed approximately two years previously and more businesses benefited from this than under the previous rural rate relief scheme. The importance of the Council's customers contacting the County Council at the earliest opportunity and before they experienced financial difficulties was encouraged.

**RESOLVED**

That the current local taxation policies be continued for 2009/10 as referred to in the recommendations of the report.

**175. UPDATE ON MOLD EXTRA CARE SCHEME**

The Director of Community Services and the Executive Member for Social Services introduced a report which provided an update on the Second Extra Care Scheme for Flintshire in Jasmine Crescent, Mold.

The Director of Community Services emphasised that this was a unique scheme which provided access specifically for people with dementia unlike other similar schemes. She also asked the Executive to note the



proposal at paragraph 2.4.3 of the report was in response to the concerns of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and which had sought alternatives to general needs housing on the same site as the Extra Care Scheme.

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the sale of land and the development of what would be a unique scheme offering the benefits of extra care to people in the centre of Flintshire and importantly extending the service to people living with dementia, be supported.
- (b) That the complex nature of this project including land from separate Flintshire County Council accounts, positive joint working with the Housing Association and a range of unique and diverse specialists care and support facilities be noted and supported.
- (c) That the relocation of tenants from Jasmine Court and bungalows was progressing and will take sometime to complete, be noted.

### **176. SUPPORTING PEOPLE UPDATE**

The Director of Community Services presented a report which provided an update on the Supporting People Programme in Flintshire.

The Director referred to the structure of the supporting people team which had been reviewed and an integrated team having been developed and a supporting people team manager recruited. Members were asked to support the recommendation that a Members seminar on Supporting People Programme be arranged.

The Executive Member for Social Services referred to the internal audit of the way Supporting People Grant was being utilised by the Housing Service and Social Services for Adults and the resulting report had identified areas requiring action which was set out in paragraph 2.08. Member involvement was to be welcomed on the Supporting People Group and if possible a representative from both the Social and Health and Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committees was recommended.

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the progress made in developing Flintshire's Supporting People Programme to achieve the recommendations made by Welsh Assembly Government and internal audit, be noted.
- (b) That the new team structure outlined in paragraph 3.02 of the report be noted.
- (c) That a Member seminar on the Supporting People Programme be supported.

- (d) That a further report be received in due course regarding the cost implications of the review of eligibility criteria.

**177. PROCEDURE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF LEA GOVERNORS TO SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

The Director of Lifelong Learning and the Executive Member for Education and Youth introduced a report the purpose of which was for the Executive to consider revising the current procedures for the appointment and removal of LEA Governors to School Governing Bodies. He also referred to a supplement to the report which had been tabled at the commencement of the meeting which proposed an amendment to Section 3.04 of the report and an addition to the recommendation.

The Executive Member referred to the present procedure which was based upon the view that local Members were best placed to recommend those who had skills and experience appropriate to the position of School Governor and this needs to be strengthened and supported. He referred to occasional difficulties that were experienced when a nomination was disputed and to a Governing Body asking for the removal of an LEA Governor. It was therefore considered an opportune time to review the procedure for the appointment of LEA Governors and paragraph 3.04 of the report as amended outlined the approach that was recommended. This included the establishment of an LEA Governor Panel of five members who would have the responsibility for ratifying the nominations of the LEA Ward Members.

The Director of Lifelong Learning endorsed the views expressed by the Executive Member and the approach being recommended followed good practice and the continuation of Flintshire's approach that the Local Member was best placed to serve the Governing Body. However, there was need for clear mechanism to deal with any disputes as they arose.

**RESOLVED**

That an LEA Governing Panel be appointed with five members (two Independent, 1 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Conservative) nominated by the respective Group Leaders, to ratify nominations to vacancies for LEA School Governors, to consider disputes concerning nominations and to consider requests to remove LEA Governors and that the outcome of disputes and requests for removal be reported to the next meeting of the Executive for consideration.

**178. FOURTH, FIFTH AND SIXTH ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE FLINTSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

The County Legal and Democratic Services Officer presented a report the purpose of which was for the County Council to note and approve the fourth, fifth and sixth annual reports of the Flintshire Local Access Forum which had been prepared in accordance with Regulations 16 of the Countryside Access (Local Access Forum) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

## **RESOLVED**

That the fourth, fifth and sixth annual reports of the Flintshire Local Access Forum, for the years 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08 be noted and approved by the County Council and be submitted to the Countryside Council for Wales for their records.

### **179. PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS – MOLD ROAD, GREEN LANE, BROADWAY AND MOLD WAY, EWLOE**

The Director of Environment presented a report the purpose of which was to advise Members of unresolved objections received following the public advertisement for the installation of waiting restrictions on the B5127 Mold Road, Ewloe adjacent to Ewloe Green School and to recommend that some of the objections be overruled.

The Director referred to the background to the report and that it was not intended to bring similar reports to the Executive in the future as the report contained a recommendation for such objections to be considered under delegated authority. However, as a commitment had been given in this particular case that the matter would be reported to the Executive this was being undertaken.

## **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the objections received as outlined in report be overruled and the implementation of the waiting restrictions as advertised be approved.
- (b) That the slight reduction in length on Green Lane be accommodated in a main Order.
- (c) That delegated authority be given to the Head of Highways and Transportation, in conjunction with the Executive Member for Environment following consultation with the appropriate Local Member(s), to consider objections/representations received following the advertisement of intention to make Orders under Highway Legislation and to confirm the making of the proposed Order or otherwise including making amendments were appropriate.

### **180. A541 HENDRE – 30/40 MPH SPEED LIMIT**

The Director of Environment referred to the statement made by the Chairman at the commencement of the meeting that this item was to be deferred to enable proper consideration to be given to correspondence which had not been included as appendices to the report.

## **RESOLVED**

That the consideration of the report be deferred.

**181. PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PERSON FOR THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SERVICE**

The Director of Lifelong Learning presented a report the purpose of which was to seek approval of Members for the appointment of an administrative assistant to support school improvement officers involved in statutory support work on delivering initiatives linked to the Foundation Phase, the administration of the Better for Schools Fund and transition work at key stage 2/3. The Director referred to the recent Estyn report on the school improvement service which had identified the limited capacity within the service as an important barrier and a risk that the Authority would not be able to sustain the current rate of progress.

The Executive Member for Education and Youth supported the recommendations of the report and referred to the financial implications and that the costs of this post would be funded by utilising the administration elements of the Better Schools Fund.

**RESOLVED:**

That approval be given to appoint a full time temporary fixed term (3 years) administrative support officer.

**182. DEESIDE LEISURE CENTRE**

The Director of Lifelong Learning and the Executive Member for Leisure and Public Protection introduced a report which was to update Executive on progress with the further report on the Deeside Leisure Centre.

The Director of Lifelong Learning explained to Members why the Deeside Leisure Centre was being considered ahead of any other proposals arising out of the Leisure Strategy Review; it was a key facility both locally, regionally and nationally and had the only ice rink for a wide catchment area. There was a higher level of usage which was increasing year by year but the buildings were in need of investment.

Pan Leisure Consulting Limited had been commissioned by the Council to prepare a report on the redevelopment and refurbishment potential on the centre and this had recently been received and considered by the Executive Member, Chief Executive and Senior Officers at a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November. The report at paragraph 3.03 made reference to the Pan Leisure report recommendations for redeveloping the site to provide a facilities mix and a range of facilities. The report had outlined the additional market needs, environmental issues, property and transport links and advised on the next steps. Further work and meetings were required and a further detailed project report would be submitted to the Executive in December.

In response to a question the Chief Executive emphasised the need to dovetail this report with the Leisure Strategy Report and emphasised the regional significance of the Deeside Leisure Centre which had necessitated this being considered ahead of other leisure centres which were also in need of investment. There would be a significant capital investment on this site

which could fund or partly fund the improvements. The development would incorporate other Council and public services in an integrated facility.

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the report be received.
- (b) That a further detailed project report for the December Executive meeting be commissioned.
- (c) That the principle that the redevelopment of facilities at Deeside Leisure Centre was a key priority in the Council's Capital Programme be re-endorsed.

### **183. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS**

An information report of the Chief Executive the purpose of the report was to inform Members of the actions taken under delegated powers, was introduced by the Leader.

The actions taken were as set out below:-

- Lifelong Learning - Declaration of an area of land to the rear of Park Lane, Holywell surplus to recreational requirements and to be referred to the valuation and estates section for disposal.
- Environment - 10 year lease of 24 Ryeland Street, Shotton on an internal repairing basis for use as a day care facility and three residential units for the benefits of Social Services.
- 10 year lease of playground adjacent to Crown Inn, Pantymwyn.

### **184. AD WASTE LIMITED**

The County Legal and Democratic Services Officer referred to the meeting of the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous day relating to the call-in of the Executive decision made on the 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2008 meeting. The decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was to accept but not to endorse the explanation of the decision made by the Executive. As a consequence the Executive decision could be implemented.

The Chief Executive said that subject to the Executive confirming its previous decision, it would be necessary for a joint press release to be issued between the County Council and AD Waste.

## **RESOLVED**

That the recommendation be agreed.

### **185. NORTH WALES TREATMENT PROJECT**

The County Legal and Democratic Services Officer referred to the consideration of the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous day concerning the call-in of the Executive decision made at its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2008. The decision of the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee was that it was satisfied with the explanation given with regard to the decision made by the Executive. Accordingly, the decision could now be implemented.

## **RESOLVED**

That the recommendation be agreed.

### **186. HOUSING STRATEGY REVIEW BOARD**

The Chief Executive referred to the meeting of the Local Housing Strategy Review Board that had met on 14<sup>th</sup> November and an update for Members and sought a delegated authority to commission consultants to undertake further work.

At the Housing Strategy Review Board it had been reported that the option of a partial transfer alongside a full transfer was being explored. Additional consultancy support on a partial transfer model was required to enable the Board to complete its work for a final report in January. Should this independent consultancy demonstrate that one of the partial transfer models was viable then further work would be required with the guidance of the Assembly to assure the Council of the viability of the model and to complete a final business case in accordance with the Assembly's Housing Transfer Guideline and the requirements of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard. Should the consultancy demonstrate that the partial transfer options were not feasible the Council would be recommended to move to ballot for full transfer and begin the process with the Assembly.

The Welsh Assembly Government had been asked to allow the Council a further extension of time to complete a business case for a partial transfer option but only should:-

1. one of the options, with external validation, prove to be viable;
2. the statutory officers of the Council concur that the partial transfer option is viable and will meet the requirements of WHQS without compromising the finances of the Council; and
3. a business plan is capable of completion within 3 months of the Council meeting (to be held in January 2009).

This request was made on the strict basis that the Council fully accepts that should the partial transfer options prove, with external validation, to be

unfeasible, the Council will have no option but to formally accept at its January meeting that we move to ballot.

This request was made by all political groups, the Tenants' Federation and the Trades Unions, through their representatives on the Local Housing Strategy Review Board. It was believed that is a reasonable request for the Council to be able to reach a final decision.

The Chief Executive was pleased to report that the Deputy Minister, Jocelyn Davies AM had agreed to the further extension of time.

A special meeting of the County Council would be arranged in January 2009 and in the meantime he sought delegated authority to be given to him to immediately commission consultants to determine whether one or more partial transfer options were viable and undertake any necessary modelling exercise and for a full report to be made to the County Council in January 2009.

The Executive Member for Housing Strategy and Planning thanked the Chief Executive for this information. This was a positive step forward and the Minister had shown an understanding of Flintshire's position. In response to a question on the cost of the consultation process the Chief Executive indicated that this would be in the region of £25,000 as a guide. The Leader moved the recommendations of the Chief Executive which were duly seconded and these were agreed with Councillors C. Ellis, N. Matthews and N. Phillips abstaining.

**187. DURATION OF MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and ended at 11.45 am.

**188. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE**

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

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Chairman

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

<b>EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>DATE: 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
NO DECLARATIONS WERE MADE		