

EXECUTIVE
17TH FEBRUARY 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 17th February 2009.

PRESENT: Councillor L.A Sharps (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)

Councillors: C. Ellis, P.G. Heesom, M. Higham, H.D. Hutchinson, N. Matthews, N. Phillips and H. Yale.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors: L.A Aldridge, K. Armstrong-Braun, J.B. Attridge, F. Gillmore, Mrs C.M Jones, R. Jones, D. Mackie, and Mrs D Mackie.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Environment, Director of Lifelong Learning, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Finance and Head of Committee, Member and Electoral Services.

The Policy, Performance and Partnership Manager, The Head of Financial Planning and the Relationship Manager, Mr Alan Morris (Wales Audit Office), were also in attendance.

APOLOGY: Councillor A. Woolley

246. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

247. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

248. GENERAL FUND 2009/10

The Chief Executive and Head of Finance jointly presented a report to propose the General Fund Revenue budget for 2009/10 and the budget requirement, following consultation with all Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the School Budget Forum, to advise on the proposed school budget to be notified to the Welsh Assembly Government, and to formally determine the level and utilisation of reserves.

The Head of Finance referred to the report which had been despatched the previous Friday under a covering letter from herself and the Chief Executive. This letter had explained that the report had followed from the Executive initial despatch to enable the issues raised at the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, which had concluded on 30th January 2009, to be fully addressed within the report.

The Head of Finance and Chief Executive made a presentation to collectively propose the General Fund Revenue Budget following consultation with the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the School Budget Forum.

The Head of Finance referred to the proposed changes that had been made to the draft budget that had been presented to the Executive on 27th January 2009. The Band D Council Tax was to be increased by 3.3% when compared to 3.5% in the first draft budget. There was a reduction in the Council Tax yield of £0.099m. Confirmation of a 3.21% increase had been received from the Fire and Rescue Authority for the fire levy which compared to the previously reported 3.49%. There was also a reduction in non standard inflation of £0.018m. The Member Ward Grant Scheme had been reduced from £2,500 to £1,300 per Member reducing the overall costs from £0.175m to £0.091m. These had been the main changes and there were other technical changes in respect of the base level reserves and accounting treatment of £0.157m to add to reserves to a 2% proportion of turnover, and specific grant funding of £33.884m which compared to £28.8614m.

The impact of the changes was a budget requirement of £233.335m which was £0.377m above the calculated SSA. The proposed Band D Council Tax, excluding precepts would be £850.78 which represented an increase of 3.3% and £27.18 per annum. Based on the information available this increase was likely to be at the mid/lower extreme of Council Tax rises across Wales. Details of the total income proposed of £271.195m and the total expenditure proposed of £271.195m were highlighted in the presentation.

The Chief Executive referred to the budget approach and the priority for a prudent and balanced budget. He emphasised that the Council was going through a period of organisational redesign and was also experiencing the impact of the current economic climate. There were also existing service pressures to be taken into consideration which included the Out of County placements in Children's Services and Lifelong Learning together with waste disposal. There was also a planned ending of three Welsh Assembly Government specific grants totalling £0.224m. Contact had been made with the Assembly; it was unlikely that these grants would be reinstated.

The budget had aimed to protect public services and to provide continued support for schools expenditure. Estyn had been on site at the time of the budget considerations. The budget provided 15.5 FTE additional posts in areas which were considered to be service critical. Pressures and efficiencies had been identified via the mid year business reviews at service level.

The Head of Finance then referred to pressures and efficiencies. Total pressures proposed were £5.367m and were linked to the service plans and mid year reviews. Total efficiencies proposed were £3.803m with £2.803m already identified and a further £1.0m subject to an action plan which the Chief Executive would refer to later in the meeting.

The Chief Executive referred to the concerns and issues raised by Overview and Scrutiny which included price inflation, the £1.0m efficiencies programme, reserves, corporate and democratic core costs charged to the HRA,

the improvement agreement (which was to be considered as a later agenda item) and the format and timing of paperwork. On inflation, pay increases of 2.3% were being included for non teacher and 2.36% for teaching staff. A 1.5% provision was being made for general price increases and the Chief Executive referred to the need to take account of a number of factors in arriving at this figure. These included the economic forecast in consultation with the WLGA and WAG, inflation rates, CPI and RPI rates together with recent movements in interest rates. Non standard rates of inflation had been provided for specific items.

The budget proposals included an efficiencies programme of £1.0m and this had been challenged at Overview and Scrutiny as a high risk. The Chief Executive referred to this as being a calculated risk and work was ongoing to develop an action plan with some areas already identified. These included the procurement strategy, further savings from the MASS project and new advertising contract, service reviews under the Phase II organisational redesign programme, workforce management and reduction in non-essential goods and supplies.

The Head of Finance then responded to the Overview and Scrutiny concerns on reserves. Base level reserves were being maintained at 2% of turnover at £5.3m. An in year review of all earmarked reserves held by the Council had resulted in £1.385m being returned and ring fenced to fund non-recurring pressures in 2009/10. The Contingency Reserve was being utilised as originally intended to meet predicted pressures which could not be costed such as looked after children, fluctuating interest rates and new pressures that could not be foreseen and the costs arising from organisational redesign.

There had been a movement in the Contingency Reserve within the current financial year. As at 1st April 2008 this was £2.724m which, with in year approvals at month 8 of £0.728m, a net overspend at month 8 of £0.763m, a return to reserve of £0.060m and organisational redesign costs proposed at month 8, which would be referred to in a later agenda item of £0.428m, would provide an estimated balance as at 31st March 2009 of £0.865m.

The Head of Finance referred to the comments on corporate and democratic core costs being charged to the HRA. This had previously been charged to the General Fund but the auditors, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, had advised on the change of Regulations and that it was now a statutory requirement that the HRA was charged and an appropriate share of such costs should commence in 2008/09. The charge for 2008/09 was £0.363m and for 2009/10 was £0.373m. These figures were subject to review and work was ongoing and any adjustments would be made if appropriate. The Chief Executive referred to the Improvement Agreement Grant (IAG). The IAG replaced the Performance Incentive Grant and provided a potential income of £1.497m. The 2009/10 payment was based on the submission of a new agreement by March 2009 and the 2010/11 payment would be based on 2009/10 performance.

The Head of Finance then referred to the comments on the format and timing of the paperwork for the budget considerations and she welcomed the feedback from Overview and Scrutiny which would enable Members in future years to receive more meaningful information. The covering letter that she and

the Chief Executive had attached to the report had indicated that if any individual Members, who had remaining questions on the detail contained in the report, would be provided with more information in advance of the Council meeting in order to inform the debate. Agreement had also been reached with Group Leaders that all such requests would be made through the relevant Group Leader. In the event of any group wishing to put forward alternative budget proposals it was essential that the proposed resolution was checked as being legal, implementable and costed with any funding sources identified prior to the meeting.

In conclusion, the Chief Executive referred to the future outlook. In Flintshire, there were major pieces of work ongoing and these included Single Status and he welcomed the County Council's support at its special meeting in December and negotiations with the Trade Unions were close to being finalised. The Housing Review was to be considered at the County Council later in the day and there were other issues over the North Wales Residual Waste Partnership, schools modernisation, leisure strategy and reduced budget flexibility. Nationally, he referred to the recent Ministerial statement on the difficult financial environment, the pre-budget report on a potential £500m reduction in public sector funding in Wales from 2011 and future settlements not matching pressures being made on services.

The proposed budget recommendations were outlined in section 7.00 of the report and would be considered by the County Council on 3rd March 2009.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their presentation and moved the recommendations of the report. On behalf of the Executive he thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members for their contributions.

The Executive Member for Housing Strategy and Planning seconded the proposal and endorsed the comments made in respect of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considerations.

RESOLVED:

- a) That it be recommended to the County Council on 3rd March 2009:-
 - (i) That the 2009/10 General Fund Budget Requirement be set at £233,335.058 which is £376,905 above the calculated Standard Spending Assessment (4.02).
 - (ii) That there be a 3.3% increase in Council Tax at Band D and an assumed 99% Collection Rate (4.03).
 - (iii) The inclusion of Deprivation Grant of £0.255m and Improvement Agreement Grant of £1.497m in the budget (4.04).
 - (iv) That the budget will be adjusted to reflect the actual level of specific grant received (4.05).

- (v) That items of non-standard inflation are only allocated out to services when the actual increase in cost is known (4.08).
- (vi) The levels of inflation assumed in the budget (4.06 – 4.09).
- (vii) The inclusion of £5.367m (£5.729m in 2010/11 and £6.274m in 2011/12) of pressures in the base budget and that an additional £2.254m be funded from unearmarked reserves (4.10 and Appendix 3a-c and 4).
- (viii) That the practice adopted since 2004/05 continues that resources to fund new pressures be approved for the purposes set out. Any proposals to vary the use of the sums allocated are to be the subject of a further report to Executive.

Further that any sums for new pressures, where the detailed proposals of how the pressure will be addressed or the size of the pressures is not quantifiable at the present time, be held corporately until firmer details are known and that the Head of Finance be given delegated authority to determine such cases with Directors (4.10).

- (ix) The inclusion of efficiencies of £3.803m (£4.168m) in 2010/11 and £4.163m in 2011/12) in the base budget (4.11 and Appendix 5a-d).
- (x) That if it should become apparent that achievement of any of the savings (in full or in part) is proving to be not as anticipated that this is dealt with corporately, with the Corporate Management Team bringing alternatives to Executive for consideration (4.11).
- (xi) That the actual amount of reserves remaining at 31st March 2009 (currently estimated to be £0.865m) is not allocated at this stage but is retained and delegated to the Executive, to meet the implementation costs of the Modernisation Programme Phase II and new pressures which cannot be foreseen at this stage (6.14).

- b) That the Executive notes the effect of the budget proposals would be to increase the budget requirement by £6.916m over the level in 2008/09 and increase the Band D Council Tax rate by 3.3% on the level in 2008/09.

249. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2009/10

The Director of Community Services presented a joint report with the Head of Finance, the purpose of which was to consider the Housing Revenue Account for 2009/10 financial year including proposed rent, key areas of income and expenditure and the level of balance at the year end, following consultation with the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to make a recommendation to the Council.

The Director then made a presentation to the Executive and the introduction included references to all local authorities, which managed their own stock, must maintain a Housing Revenue Account (HRA). All expenditure on the management and maintenance of the Authority's stock had to be funded by the HRA and this could not contribute to or be funded by the General Fund. The Council could not legally budget for the closing balance to be a deficit at the year end and the recommended practice was to budget for a minimum 3% closing balance at year end. Details of the HRA proposed budget for 2009/10 in terms of income and expenditure were outlined.

The Director then referred to the key features of the budget and to the Welsh Assembly Government provisional guideline average rent increase of £3.14 per property per week on a 50 week basis. This was still to be determined by the Welsh Assembly Government and there would be a need to consider an additional recommendation to the Council to cover this. The proposal equated to an overall 5.22% increase and provided for total budget pressures of £0.588m. The proposed closing balance of 5.65% of expenditure was above the 3% guidelines.

The Director then referred to the key issues that had been identified by the Overview and Scrutiny considerations which included variances in expenditure in 2008/09 to 2009/10. These included an estate management, allocations and welfare, finance and support the CERA contribution to capital and supporting people contribution to the General Fund. Details of each of these variances were included in the report and the reasons for the variances were outlined. In conclusion, the Director referred to the recommendations of the report as set out in paragraph 4.01 and suggested an additional recommendation to apply the actual Welsh Assembly Government guideline rent increase when the final determinations were advised.

The Executive Member for Housing Strategy and Planning referred to the budget statement for consideration by the County Council but there were a number of issues that were causing him concern. In particular, he made reference to corporate and democratic core costs in a sum of £0.363m (2008/09) and £0.373m (2009/10) and noted that these were subject of a future review and adjustments would be made if appropriate.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the proposed HRA budget for 2009/10 be approved and recommended to the County Council later in the day;
- (b) The level of rent for 2009/10 as set out in paragraphs 3.01 and 3.03 be approved;
- (c) That the level of projected balances at 31st March 2010 of 5.65% of total expenditure be approved; and
- (d) That the actual rent increase to be applied for 2009/10 be a common percentage figure based on the final Welsh Assembly Government

2009/10 guideline rent increase for Flintshire which was still to be determined and advised.

**250. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY STATEMENT
INCORPORATING THE PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL FINANCE &
ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2009/10**

The Head of Finance presented a report, the purpose of which was to seek approval to recommend that the Council approve the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement (policy statement) including key indicators, limits and an Annual Investment Strategy for 2009/10.

The Head of Finance referred to the Council's adoption of the CIPFA treasury management in the Public Sector Code of Practice 2001 from 1st April 2002. A requirement of the code, which had been incorporated into the Council's financial procedure rules, was for the Executive to receive an annual plan prior to 31st March each year. In addition, and in accordance with the prudential code for capital finance, the Council was required to determine certain key indicators and limits for 2009/10 before 31st March 2009. The Welsh Assembly Government also required that the Council approved an annual investment strategy. The aim of the policy statement was to achieve objectives in all market and economic environment. The financial crisis and in particular the investments of £3.7m in Landsbanki, and Icelandic bank, had resulted in a reassessment of the balance between investment risk and return and the day to day procedural practicalities. As a result of this banking crisis in Iceland a number of changes from the 2008/09 policy statement had been made. The County Council at its meeting on 28th October, 2008 had increased the individual counterparty limit from £5m to £7m and the limit of investments made with the UK Government's DMO had been temporarily increased from 20% to 100%. These changes had been incorporated into the 2009/10 Treasury Management Policy Statement. The report also outlined additional risk control procedures which had been incorporated into the 2009/10 Treasury Management Policy Statement.

RESOLVED

That the Treasury Management Policy Statement for 2009/10 be approved and be recommended to the County Council.

251. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF RISKS AND CHALLENGES REVIEW

The Chief Executive presented a report, the purpose of which was to receive and approve the revised and improved format of the Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges and the updated set of Risks and Challenges included within the Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges.

A copy of the County Council's assessment was tabled and it was emphasised that this was a working dynamic document which would be subject to review and change. A copy of a template for a particular risk was also tabled and this provided information on the risk title, its description, the primary and secondary lead officers together with the quarterly risk review.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the revised and improved format of the Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges (SARC) be received and approved; and
- (b) That the updated set of Risks and Challenges included within the Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges be approved.

252. DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL SERVICE BOARD MID YEAR REVIEW

The Chief Executive presented a report, the purpose of which was to seek endorsement of the work of the Local Service Board (LSB) in producing a Community Strategy for Flintshire.

The Chief Executive explained that this was the latest stage of the production of a Community Strategy and was a summary report behind which a considerable amount of work had been undertaken. The first meeting of the LSB Strategy Group held in August 2008 had agreed its terms of reference would be based around four key principle areas which were set out in paragraph 2.09 of the report and a strong partnership existed within Flintshire. Section 3.01 of the report provided details of the LSB process of developing a vision that provided a statement of ambition for Flintshire. This vision would form the Community Strategy and would be based around five themes and associated sub themes. In conclusion, he referred to the recommendations one of which was the carbon reduction project as part of a local delivery agreement which was a common theme across all partners. This represented practical work being undertaken in conjunction with the Energy Manager.

The Executive Member for Housing Strategy and Planning commented on the reference in the report to section 4 (1) of the Local Government Act 2000 which required the County Council to prepare a Community Strategy and expressed reservations of the intentions of the legislation and the lack of local member involvement. The Chief Executive replied that there would be wide consultation on the draft vision and that the Leadership had been involved thus far.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the proposed vision, themes and sub themes for the Flintshire Community Strategy be supported and endorsed;
- (b) That the carbon reduction project be supported and endorsed as the first part of a local delivery agreement.

253. PEOPLE STRATEGY 2006 – 2009 UPDATE ON PROGRESS

The Chief Executive presented a report, the purpose of which was to report on progress achieved in the implementation of the People Strategy during the last quarter of 2008 and since the previous report to the Executive on 18th November 2008 and to seek endorsement of the strategy and its future direction.

He referred to paragraph 3.09 of the report which made reference to the recruitment of a permanent post of Head of Human Resources and referred to the panel meeting which had been held the previous week. He would be reporting to the County Council later in the day that Helen Stapleton, as an internal candidate, had been appointed to the post of Head of Human Resources and he thanked Members for their involvement in the Appointment Panel meetings.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the progress of the People Strategy Action Plan 2008/2009 in delivering the People Strategy 2006 – 2009, be noted and endorsed;
- (b) That the foundations for effective management of the workforce of Flintshire County as set out in the People Strategy 2006 – 2009 would all be in place by the end of the life of the strategy in the Summer, be noted;
- (c) That the consultation for the new strategy would take place over the next months with the stated aim of moving on to the next level of aspiration for people management within the Council in accordance with the timetable for the production of the new People Strategy which was set out in paragraph 4.03, be noted.

254. DELIVERING THE NEW NHS FOR WALES CONSULTATION PAPER II

The Executive Member for Social Services introduced a report, the purpose of which was to present a draft Flintshire County Council response to the consultation on the restructuring of the NHS in Wales for agreement by the Executive before it was submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government. She thanked the Social and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Members who had attended a workshop the result of which had been used to develop a draft response. The Executive Member expressed a number of concerns on the consultation document proposals particularly in relation to the fact that there would only be one health board for North Wales at which there would only be one Director and one elected Member for the six North Wales local authorities. It was therefore proposed that the response to the WAG should be that two health boards for North Wales would better serve the needs of citizens which would also enable links to be maintained with hospital services from England. It was also considered that the proposed name Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board had no real significance and should be renamed North Wales Health Board.

The Director of Community Services also referred to two additional NHS consultations in respect of Community Health Councils and the National Health Service which would be discussed at the Social and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the near future. It was her view that these three documents should have all been considered at the same time as the North Wales NHS consultation.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the draft response from Flintshire County Council be approved for submission to the Welsh Assembly Government by the 25th February 2009 deadline; and
- (b) That liaison take place with other local authorities in North Wales to facilitate a consistent and robust response on issues of key concern in particular, the reduced role of elected Members in the new arrangements and partnership work.

255. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2008/09 (MONTH 8)

The Head of Finance presented a report, the purpose of which was to provide an update on the Council's financial position for 2008/09 in respect of the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account. Members were asked to note the projected net overspend of £0.763m on the General Fund and the projected overspend of £0.903m on the Housing Revenue Account. The estimated contingency reserve available at 31st March 2009 was £0.865m.

The Head of Finance outlined the significant new variances, the 2008/09 variances ring fenced for 2009/10 budget, corporate projects and requests for carry forward.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the overall report be noted;
- (b) That the recommendation identified in paragraph 2.25 be approved;
- (c) That the requests for carry forward identified in paragraphs 2.26 – 2.28 be approved;
- (d) That the contributions to/from the contingency reserve for the items detailed in paragraph 4.01 – 4.05, be approved;
- (e) That the General Fund contingency sum available as at 31st March 2009, be noted; and
- (f) That the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account be noted.

256. MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION 2009/10

The Head of Finance presented a report, the purpose of which was to present proposals for the setting of a prudent minimum revenue provision for the repayment of debt in 2009/10 as required under the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.

The report in section 3.00 set out the options for prudent provision and the conditions for using the options.

RESOLVED

That it be recommended to the County Council on 3rd March, 2009:-

- (a) Option 1 (Regulatory Method) be used for the calculation of the minimum revenue provision in 2009/10 for all supported borrowing; this represented a continuation of the approved and adopted policy for 2008/09;
- (b) Option 3 (Asset Life Method) be used for the calculation of the minimum revenue provision in 2009/10 for all unsupported (prudential) borrowing; this also represented a continuation of the approved and adopted policy for 2008/09.

257. REGULATORY PLAN

The Chief Executive presented a report, the purpose of which was to report the proposed joint regulatory plan of the Wales Audit Office (WAO) and Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PWC) for 2009 for noting, endorsement and co-operation. The Chief Executive also welcomed the Relationship Manager (Wales Audit Office), Mr Alan Morris, to the meeting.

The Chief Executive referred to the background to the report and the plan included activity on the audit of financial accounts, performance audit and performance inspection. The extracts of the plan in respect of performance audit and performance inspection were set out in paragraph 3.08 of the report.

The Chief Executive referred to the level of fees charged by the regulatory bodies and to the proposed fees for performance audit and inspection work which showed a reduction of 6.3% which after taking into account inflation represented an approximate 10% reduction in real terms. This was a target that had been met.

The Relationship Manager reported that the plan included a number of core non discretionary and risk based areas of work and it was hoped that this would add value to the Council.

RESOLVED

That the proposed Regulatory Plan of the Wales Audit Office and Pricewaterhouse Coopers for 2009 be received for noting, endorsement and co-operation.

258. IMPROVEMENT AGREEMENT – PROGRESS

The Chief Executive presented a report, the purpose of which was to agree the detailed contents (actions and targets) of the Draft Improvement Agreement for submission to the Welsh Assembly Government by the due deadline.

RESOLVED

That the detailed contents (actions and targets) of the Improvement Agreement be agreed for submission to the Welsh Assembly Government by the due deadline.

259. SUPPORTING PEOPLE OPERATIONAL PLAN 2009 – 2010

The Director of Community Services presented a report, the purpose of which was to seek approval for the Supporting People Operational Plan 2009/10. She referred to a previous report to the Executive in November 2008 which had provided an update on the Supporting People Programme. Members had since had the opportunity to consider the plan at a workshop held on 23rd January 2009. A copy of the full Supporting Operational People Plan was on deposit in the Members library.

Appendix 1 to the report outlined the achievements and developments together with implementation issues for 2008/10. Appendix 2 to the report provided proposals for future developments.

The Director referred to paragraph 5.03 of the report which provided a summary of the impact on Social Services for Adults (SSA) budget in 2009/10 and the reduction in Supporting People funding. This included a reduction in SSA SP allocation of £657k with a net reduction in SSA budget of £164k.

The Executive Member for Social Services in moving the recommendations of the report referred to the need for a Supporting People Champion and in this regard the Executive Member for Estate Management asked for the Social and Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee to be asked to make a nomination for a Supporting People Champion. In response to a question, the Executive Member for Social Services reported that an update on the operational plan would be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Executive.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the achievements to date within the work plan be noted and the Supporting People Operational Plan for 2009/10 be noted; and
- (b) That the Social and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to make a nomination for a Supporting People Champion.

260. DEESIDE NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA STUDY UPDATE

The Director of Community Services presented a report to inform the Executive of the present status of the proposed Deeside Neighbourhood Renewal Area Study.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the ongoing activity in relation to the proposed Neighbourhood Renewal Area Study be supported;
- (b) That the Executive consider further reports in due course.

261. CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY

The Executive Member for Leisure and Public Protection introduced a report, the purpose of which was to make Members aware of the Contaminated Land Strategy and to seek approval and the publication of the revised strategy.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the revised Contaminated Land Strategy be accepted and approved; and
- (b) That the report be referred to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

262. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – COMMUNITY (PERIPATETIC) SKIP SERVICE

The Executive Member for Waste Strategy and Management introduced a report, the purpose of which was to inform Members of the outcome of the delivery of a 12 month trial of a manned peripatetic skip service to the rural community of Flintshire.

The Executive Member referred to the background to the report and the service that had been provided in areas to the West of Flintshire where previously there had been a lack of civic amenity household waste sites. Since the introduction of the service other schemes had been introduced including eight civic amenity sites, a bulky collection service together with a further introduction of bring site facilities. In addition, representations had been received from the Environment Agency which had raised concerns on the way in which the skip service was provided. As a result the service had been withdrawn. This had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee who had agreed with the recommendations but because of some concerns from Members of the affected rural areas a pilot scheme had been introduced in 2008. Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the results of this pilot and had now agreed with the recommendation that the service be discontinued. Letters would be sent to the Town and Community Councils in the affected areas to bring their attention to the bring site facilities that were available.

The Executive Member for Housing Strategy and Planning as one of the Local Members that had asked for the service to be continued also referred to the other options that were now available and both he and the Executive Member for Education and Youth supported the recommendations.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the trial service does not become a permanent service provision and that the further promotion of existing services as listed in the main body of the report be supported; and
- (b) That a proposal to increase the number of bring site facilities in the rural community be supported.

263. COUNTY COUNCIL DIARY OF MEETINGS 2009/10

The draft diary of meetings for 2009/10 as set out in the schedule attached to the report was noted.

RESOLVED

That the schedule of meetings be approved for adoption by the County Council.

264. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS

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

The actions taken were as set out below:-

- Chief Executive - Welsh Church Acts Fund – approval of the allocation of grants made from the Welsh Church Acts Fund between July 2008 and January 2009.
- Environment - Proposed puffin pedestrian crossing at Broughton Hall Road, Broughton – to advise on unresolved objection received for the installation of a puffin crossing.
- Environment - Increase to the cemetery fees 2009/10 as part of the budget set in process.

265. 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 to allow the consideration of exempt information by virtue of paragraph 14 of Part I of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as Amended).

266. ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT (VOLUNTARY SECTOR)

The Chief Executive presented a report to recommend enhancement to the core grants made to two local voluntary bodies, Flintshire Citizens Advice Bureau and Flintshire Local Voluntary Council as part of the 2009/10 General Fund budget set in process.

The Chief Executive referred to the background to the report and to the funding agreements for both the Flintshire Citizens Advice Bureau and the Flintshire Local Voluntary Council which were due for renewal of 1st April 2009. Both organisations had submitted business cases to the Council in support of applications for enhance core funding to meet critical pressures. Officers of the Council had met with both organisations to evaluate their business cases.

(Councillor P.G Heesom declared an interest in this item as a FVLC Board Member).

RESOLVED

- (a) That the uplift in the FCAB and FLVC core grants of up to £80,000, £36,825 respectively to be funded from the Corporate Voluntary Sector Grants budget, be supported;
- (b) That the uplifting grant for the FCAB be subject to a review of possible efficiencies to cover the grant figure within £80,000 maximum figure, be approved;
- (c) That an evaluation of access to FCAB services be requested for all parts of the County and a specific evaluation of accessibility for the community of Flint; and
- (d) That approval be given to both FCAB and FLVC to enter into full grant agreements with the Council.

267. DURATION OF MEETING

The commenced at 9.30 am and ended at 11.15 am.

268. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were two members of the press present.

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Chairman

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

EXECUTIVE	DATE: 17th February 2009
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
P.G Heesom	The additional financial support (voluntary sector)	266