

EXECUTIVE
20 APRIL 2010

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 20 April, 2010.

PRESENT: Councillor A. Woolley (Chairman)

Councillors: C. A. Ellis, H. D. Hutchinson, N. M. Matthews, N. Phillips, L. A. Sharps and N. Steele-Mortimer

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors: K. Armstrong-Braun, A. Davies-Cooke, R. P. Macfarlane, D. I. Mackie, A. P. Shotton and C. A. Thomas

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Finance, Head of ICT and Customer Services, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development, Director of Environment, Director of Lifelong Learning, Head of Development and Resources, Community Services and Team Manager – Committee Services

APOLOGY:

Councillor H. Yale

321. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 30 March 2010 were confirmed as a correct record.

322. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A. Woolley declared a personal interest in agenda item numbers 17 and 18 as he was the Director of Zero Waste Alliance UK. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services clarified that this was not a prejudicial interest.

Councillor A. Woolley sought advice as to whether he should declare an interest in agenda item number 7 as he was the Chairman of the 50+ County Forum. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised that this was neither a personal nor a prejudicial interest.

323. FLINTSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY – THE ‘COUNTY VISION’

The Chief Executive presented the final version of the Flintshire Community Strategy and provided an update on the work plan.

The Community Strategy would provide a statement of intent and priorities for the Local Service Boards and support and complement the vision and priorities in other Strategic Partnership Plans. It would also be the foundation for the Community Strategy Action Plan and be used to influence

partnership working. In addition, it would be used as a lobbying tool for funding and influencing purposes.

The Chief Executive said that reference to ecology protection and the Clwydian Range AONB needed to be included in the Strategy.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Community Strategy as a County Vision for Flintshire be endorsed; and
- (b) That the identified key issues and solutions that will form the Community Strategy work plan be endorsed.

324. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHARTER

The Chief Executive introduced a report which sought approval to sign up to the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) Sustainable Development Charter which was due to be launched in May 2010.

The Local Government Act 2000 placed a duty on WAG to make Sustainable Development a core principle. This resulted in WAG developing a Sustainable Development Plan.

A recent review of the Sustainable Development Plan had resulted in WAG identifying its vision for a Sustainable Wales which was 'Enhancing the long term well being of People and Communities'. It was this vision that led to the development of The Sustainable Development Charter.

RESOLVED

That the Council commits to signing the Sustainable Development Charter in advance of the formal signing at the Hay on Earth Festival.

325. ALL WALES DIGITAL TV (DITV) – WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT (WAG) PILOT

The Chief Executive presented a progress report on the Welsh Assembly Government's (WAG) All Wales Digital TV Trial.

Each local authority had received a grant offer of £15,431 to develop and implement a Digital TV channel utilising a managed content contract with Looking Local, a subsidiary company of Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council.

Rhondda Cynnon Taff, Powys and Wrexham had already self funded their own Digital TV channels.

The funding was for one year only. Should the project continue beyond the pilot period, the authority would need to make provision for year on year funding from April 2011, which was envisaged to be no more than £15,000.

The Chief Executive added that during the pilot period, the viability of a shared North Wales channel could be investigated. Further information would be presented to Members before the end of the pilot period.

The Head of ICT and Customer Services added that at present, Digital TV was accessible by Sky and Virgin Media viewers only. However, later this year an interactive Freeview digi box would be available on the market which would be able to access DITV.

RESOLVED

That participation in the All Wales Digital TV Project and the acceptance of funding from WAG which will cover the full costs for one years Digital TV presence for the Council be endorsed.

326. STRATEGY FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN WALES – FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION IN FLINTSHIRE

The Executive Member for Social Services introduced a report of the Director of Community Services on the budget plan for the Older People's Strategy.

In 2010/11, grant funding for the Strategy would be tapered to £45,000 but remained as a ring fenced grant. Revised guidance on the use of the grant had not been received but indications were that the focus must be to enable Councils to continue to support all three key roles played by the Strategy Co-ordinator, Champion for Older People and Older People's Forums. The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) had approved a carry forward of £29,500 from 2009/10 which was accrued from a vacancy in the Older People's Strategy Co-ordinator post.

The current Strategy Co-ordinator post was vacant. It was proposed to reduce that post from 37 hours per week to 22.5 hours per week.

RESOLVED

That the allocation of the Older People's Strategy budget be approved as:

- £35,000 to Flintshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (FNWA) to maintain the Forum Development contract at its present level
- £27,000 for an Older People's Strategy Co-ordinator at a reduced level of 3 days per week
- £12,500 to fund projects that promote the strategy

327. FUTURE JOBS FUND

The Executive Member for Environment, Regeneration and Tourism introduced a report of the Director of Environment and the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development on the ongoing provision in Flintshire to support young people into employment through the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) 'Future Jobs Fund' (FJF). The opportunities

for the Council to provide job placements through Groundwork during 2010/11 were explained.

The initiative was launched in May 2009 as a response to rising unemployment among the 18-24 age group. The aim of the FJF was to create 150,000 jobs for young people between October 2009 and April 2011. This would provide a six month job opportunity to gain work experience that would assist them in gaining future employment for those young people who had been unemployed for 6-9 months.

Groundwork Wrexham and Flintshire agreed that both Wrexham County Borough Council and Flintshire County Council would be named partners as part of the submission to run the FJF programme in North East Wales between October 2009 and March 2010. The submission was successful with a commitment to place 36 young people in posts in Wrexham during this period. It had been confirmed that a further bid would be submitted as part of Groundwork UK bid, to continue the FJF programme and provide a further 36 job opportunities in Flintshire.

The Director of Environment added that the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) had submitted a bid for 20 job opportunities per local authority area. The bid suggested these could form part of a package of work for a 'Green Team' comprising a mix of 'door-stepping' and other activities such as information on waste collection, recycling, energy and water efficiency, flood prevention and community safety. If this bid was successful, that would result in the employment of 56 people in Flintshire.

RESOLVED

- (a) That Groundwork Wrexham and Flintshire act as Managing Agent for the FJF scheme in Flintshire; and
- (b) That officers be authorised to identify opportunities for FJF placements across the authority, with any proposals to be subject to a further report to Executive.

328. PEOPLE STRATEGY 2009 – 2012 UPDATE

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development introduced a progress report on the implementation of the revised People Strategy for 2009-2012.

Detailed information was provided on the progress made with Single Status, the Midland Trent system, the new Management Development Programme and future priorities. The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development explained that during the next three months, the focus would be on supporting the organisation to manage major organisational change effectively.

The Chief Executive explained that Single Status was on target for phase one to be completed by the end of June 2010. The new Management

Development Programme had been developed in partnership with Deeside College and he commented on the successful wider partnership arrangements with the College. He added that on staff communication; 11 workforce conferences were delivered at the end of 2009 with a combined attendance of over 1500 employees. Feedback from the sessions had been very positive.

RESOLVED

That the progress made in relation to the delivery of the People Strategy be noted.

329. IMPROVEMENT TARGET ACTION PLANS

The Chief Executive presented a progress report on the action plans for the Improvement Targets set by the Council.

Progress had been made on all the Improvement Targets action plans to the standard endorsed by Overview and Scrutiny.

Examples of two action plans which demonstrated assurance, accountability and challenge were appended to the report which were the benchmark standard which the authority was seeking to achieve for all action plans. A programme of intervention would be introduced to support the targets where performance was of most concern.

RESOLVED

That progress made on Improvement Target action plans be noted and the benchmark standard of the two illustrative action plans appended to the report be endorsed.

330. NORTH WALES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD (NWRPB) – PROJECT BOARDS

The Chief Executive introduced a joint report which was a joint one with the Head of ICT and Customer Services on the establishment of four Programme Boards to achieve greater collaboration across North Wales. Endorsement was sought on the terms of reference and proposed membership of the Boards.

The main purpose of the programme boards was to develop a “political mandate” and raise the level of ambition for joint working across North Wales to achieve cashable savings, service improvements and delivery of change. The terms of reference of the programme boards was appended to the report.

As the programme boards developed their work programmes and identified their key priorities, further reports would be submitted to the Executive.

The Head of ICT and Customer Services said it would be two to three years before the benefits were realised and emphasised the importance of increasing the pace of the project.

The Executive Member for Social Services said she had attended the first Social Services Programme Board on 7 April which was a successful meeting.

RESOLVED

That the establishment of the four Programme Boards, their terms of reference and membership nominations be noted and endorsed.

331. BUDGET REALIGNMENT – OLDER PEOPLES SERVICES

The Executive Member for Social Services introduced a report on the proposed realignment within services to Older People that reflected the shift away from residential care services to supporting people to live longer in their own homes in the community.

To reflect the changing profile of service demand, it was appropriate that the Older People Services (Purchasing) budget for 2010/11 was realigned to meet this changing need.

It was proposed to make a virement of £500,000 from the Independent Sector Residential/Nursing budget to the Independent Sector Domiciliary Care budget to be effective from 1 April 2010. The property income budget for 2009/10 was £379,478 and was currently within the Development and Resources service area. A budget virement would be made to move this budget from this area to within Older People Services (Purchasing) from 1 April 2010.

The Head of Finance supported the recommendations in the report and said it would facilitate accurate budget monitoring and control.

RESOLVED

That the realignment of the Older Peoples Services (Purchasing) budget through the virement between Independent Sector Residential and Independent Sector Domiciliary Care be approved.

332. SUPPORT WORKER POST, VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Executive Member for Social Services presented a report which sought approval to recruit a permanent Support Worker post as detailed within the Supporting People Strategy 2008-2010.

Funding for this post had been allocated from the Supporting People Grant for three years. Longer term Supporting People funding would depend on continued evidence of need and demonstrable outcomes.

RESOLVED

That the recruitment of the new post be approved.

333. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS

An information report on the actions taken under delegated powers was submitted.

The actions taken were as set out below:-

Environment

- Extension to seconded position of one Customer Services Officer to assist with the implementation of the Food Waste Pilot Scheme
- Annual Trade Refuse Charges Review for Commercial Premises for the year 2010/2011
- Change to position of Administration Assistant Officer to Administration Officer based at Queensferry Depot

334. FOOD WASTE COLLECTION PARTNERSHIP – OVERVIEW OF AFFORDABILITY ENVELOPE

The Executive Member for Waste Management, Strategy and Function presented a report of the Director of Environment and the Chief Executive on the work which had been undertaken by the Food Waste Collection Partnership.

The Waste about Waste Strategy was launched in 2002 this had seen the county deliver diversion in 2008/09 of 42% under the Landfill Allowance Scheme (LAS), from a starting point of 7% in 2001. In order to maintain progress and continue to meet the new targets, further areas for development were required and were detailed in the report.

The Director of Environment explained that the scheme would result in an approximate saving of 50% on the Do Nothing scenario.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

335. 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 as the following item was considered to be exempt by virtue of paragraph 14 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

336. FOOD WASTE COLLECTION PARTNERSHIP – AFFORDABILITY ENVELOPE AND INTER AUTHORITY AGREEMENT

The Executive Member for Waste Management, Strategy and Function presented a report of the Director of Environment and the Chief Executive which provided a summary of the financial background information in relation to the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Food Waste Collection Partnership.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Affordability Envelope for the procurement of food waste treatment capacity in Flintshire within the range £7.8M (base case affordability threshold cost) and £8.6M (upper limit affordability threshold cost) be approved;
- (b) That authority be given to the Director of Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Waste Management and Strategy, to continue with the procurement process, through to the Final Business Case;
- (c) That the draft Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) be approved and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be given delegated powers to make amendments to the draft in consultation with the Director of Environment and the Executive Member for Waste Management and Strategy; and
- (d) Further update reports be received at appropriate points in the procurement process, before considering the Final Business Case and appointment of Preferred Bidder.

337. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 9.30a.m. and ended at 10.30a.m.

338. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were 2 members of the press in attendance.

.....
Chairman

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

EXECUTIVE	DATE: 20 APRIL 2010
------------------	----------------------------

MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
Councillor A. Woolley	17 – Food Waste Collection Partnership – Overview of Affordability Envelope	334
	18 – Food Waste Collection Partnership – Affordability Envelope and Inter Authority Agreement	336