

EXECUTIVE
18 OCTOBER 2011

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 18 October 2011

PRESENT: Councillor A. Woolley (Chairman)

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

APOLOGY: Councillor N. Phillips

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors: J. B. Attridge, F. Gillmore, R. Hampson, P. G. Heesom, D. L. Mackie and C. A. Thomas

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Environment, Director of Lifelong Learning, Head of ICT and Customer Services, Democracy and Governance Manager and Team Manager – Committee Services

The Executive Member for Social Services read out a statement in support of the second UK Anti Slavery Day which was supported by all Members.

112. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 5 and 20 September 2011 were confirmed as a correct record.

113. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A. Woolley declared a personal interest in Agenda Item Number 6: Voluntary Sector Funding – Update Report.

Councillor H. D. Hutchinson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item Number 15: Result of the call in of Executive Decision Record No. 2463 – Demand Responsive Transport Re-Tendering.

114. COMMUNITIES FIRST - THE FUTURE: CONSULTATION PAPER FROM THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

The Executive Member for Regeneration and Tourism introduced the report which advised Members on the progress with 'Communities First - The Future' and consultations with partners in Flintshire.

Information was provided on the role that the Council, as the existing Grant Recipient Body (GRB), had in shaping the future Communities First (CF) programme. Members were advised on the initial implications from the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) for the next phase of CF.

The current CF programme operated in five defined areas in Flintshire and was due to end on 31 March 2012. Areas of need and interest included in the next phase would operate within a 'cluster' supported by a local delivery team of CF staff covering a larger population than was currently the case which would enable Flintshire to continue to draw down valuable resources for vulnerable communities. The new programme would be managed through a high level Programme Board with CF staff managed at 'cluster level', delivering the programme for Flintshire.

The Director of Environment added that indications from the Welsh Government (WG) had been that single Local Authority bids were unlikely to succeed. Therefore a collaborative bid with Wrexham County Borough Council was recommended, subject to further consultation as the bid was developed.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the development of a bid be supported which addresses needs across Flintshire's most vulnerable areas, largely within the top 40% identified by WIMD as the most Disadvantaged in Wales (shown in Appendix A), and to include areas of opportunity as part of the solution;
- (b) That the development of a collaborative bid with Wrexham for at least 3 years funding be supported;
- (c) That the governance option for consultation shown in Appendix B be approved;
- (d) That a Members' Workshop take place, as part of the consultation process, to consider the issues set out in the report in more detail, and to consider the implications and opportunities for Flintshire in revising areas of interest and support structures in Communities First;
- (e) That a bid for Transitional Funding to September 2012 for all existing Communities First areas in the County to allow Flintshire County Council to explore the best options, and to progress more detailed plans for the next phase of delivery be supported; and
- (f) That a further report to Executive in January 2012 to consider the final proposals be agreed.

115. PROPOSED GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

The Director of Environment introduced the report which proposed that a Green Space Strategy be developed by the Council and approval was sought to commence work on the Strategy.

Following a question from the Executive Member for Environment, the Director of Environment said that a final Draft Framework Strategy would be submitted to Executive for approval in July 2012.

RESOLVED:

That the production of a Green Space Strategy, to follow the indicative timetable set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report, be agreed.

116. VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING – UPDATE REPORT

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report which detailed the status of the Core Funding Arrangements with voluntary organisations. An update was also provided on the funding position for voluntary organisations receiving:

- Relocation costs following the closure of Ty'r Binwydden
- Community Chest Grant Scheme
- Welsh Church Act Fund

The Chief Executive explained that Members were recommended to retain the status quo of the Core Funding Agreements with voluntary organisations including a one year extension of arrangements to 31 March 2013 which had been agreed as a sound approach by Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the current status of the Core Funding Agreements with voluntary organisations including the one year extension of existing agreements to 31 March 2013 be endorsed;
- (b) That the 2% efficiency on the Core Funding budget for 2011 to 2013 in line with the Voluntary Sector Funding Principles be noted; and
- (c) That the update of the funding position for voluntary organisations receiving either relocation costs following the closure of Ty'r Binwydden, Community Chest grant or the Welsh Church Act Fund be noted.

117. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2010/11

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report which sought approval of the 2010/11 draft Annual Performance Report for adoption by County Council.

The Chief Executive explained that the Annual Performance Report was a statutory function which had to be published by 31 October each year as required by the Local Government (Wales) Measure (2009) (the Measure). Prior to publication the Annual Performance Report would be submitted to County Council on 26 October 2011 for approval.

The requirements of the Measure were met through the Council (Plan) Governance Framework and the Improvement Plan 2011/12 which set out the vision and priorities for the Council. The second statutory requirement of the Improvement Plan was met by the Annual Performance Report, which reviewed progress on commitments made in the previous year.

The Policy, Performance and Partnerships Manager explained the process of data collection and validation of data for the 22 local Authorities which took place prior to the final report being produced.

Members felt the document was confusing to read and not always consistent. The Chief Executive explained that it was a complex document which was made as readable as possible whilst meeting the statutory requirements for content inclusion. He responded to all comments and said that performance indicators needed to be kept in perspective; they provided information to prompt discussions on indicators that were considered important. A full discussion on individual performance indicators could take place at the County Council meeting on 26 October 2011. On consistency, the Policy, Performance and Partnerships Manager explained that this was based on how Flintshire collected their data year on year; and Flintshire had improved in 56% of the indicators.

Finally, the Chief Executive welcomed any comments on the readability of the information and how Members would like it to be reported at Council to the body of Members.

RESOLVED:

That the 2010/11 draft Annual Performance Report be submitted to County Council for approval.

Councillors H. Brown and C. A. Ellis abstained.

118. LOCAL GOVERNMENT DATA UNIT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE BULLETIN 2010/11

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the annual national Performance Bulletin published by the Local Government Data Unit and the Council's response.

The Chief Executive explained that in considering the contents of the Bulletin, the Council had provided a response which gave an overview of the national performance picture and the areas where Flintshire's performance was highlighted. A copy of the response was appended to the report.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the Local Government Data Unit's Performance Bulletin and the Council's response be noted.

119. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/12 (MONTH 4)

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report which provided the latest capital programme information for 2011/12.

The Head of Finance explained that the table in the report set out how the programme had changed during 2011/12. The previously reported programme total of £27.291M had increased to £41.635M, a net increase of £14.344M, details of which were provided in the report.

Detailed cumulative information on each programme area was provided in Appendix A to the report and a summary of movements during the period was provided in Appendix B.

Recorded capital expenditure across the whole programme was £4.145M at Month 4, representing 9.96% of the revised budget total of £41.635M. Details were also provided of the cumulative expenditure against the cumulative profiled budget total. The profiled budget total stood at £4.499M; recorded expenditure represented 92.13% of the profiled budget total, a net variance (underspend) of £0.354M.

Any comments on the new format of reporting the Capital Programme were welcomed.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and approved.

120. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2011/12 (MONTH 4)

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management presented the most up to date revenue budget monitoring information (Month 4) for the Council Fund and the Housing Revenue Account in 2011/12.

The Head of Finance explained that the projected year end position as estimated at Month 4 was:

- Council Fund – net underspend of £0.344M
- Housing Revenue Account – net overspend of £0.046M

The significant in-year projected variances to date were detailed in the appendices to the report. The net underspend of £0.344M was made up of £0.186M overspend on services offset by a contribution of £0.530M from Corporate Services.

The budget for 2011/12 included base budget provision of £0.337M in respect of increased employers pension contributions and £0.150M relating to the review of relief staff. These amounts were being held centrally pending

further detailed work. A further one-off contingency of £2.159M was also included in the 2011/12 budget relating to one-off exit costs associated with service modernisation. A full assessment of the one-off contingency was being finalised and would be reported in future monitoring reports.

The overall projected overspend of £0.046M on the HRA represented a decrease of £0.107M on the position at Month 3. The HRA had a closing balance at Period 4 of £1.074M which at 4.2% of total expenditure satisfied the prudent approach of ensuring a minimum level of 3%.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That the projected Council Fund Contingency Sum available as at 31 March 2012 be noted; and
- (c) That the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account be noted.

121. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REPORT 2011/12

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the Treasury Management Mid Year Report for 2011/12 for recommendation to County Council.

The Head of Finance explained that treasury management updates had been provided to the Audit Committee at each quarterly meeting during 2011/12 including this Mid Year update. The Audit Committee had also received information on the steps which were being taken to manage risk in the current economic climate.

RESOLVED:

That the Treasury Management Mid Year Report for 2011/12 be approved and recommended to County Council for approval.

122. COMMUNITY HOUSE REVIEW

The Executive Member for Housing explained the work of the Community House Task and Finish Group and approval was sought for the introduction of a policy for the management of current and future Community Houses.

The review consisted of four task group meetings, two site visits and two workshops and the Executive Member thanked those involved for the work undertaken on the review.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the process taken by the Task and Finish Group in developing the proposed process and draft Community House Policy be supported;
- (b) That the Community House Policy be adopted; and
- (c) That delegated powers be given to the Head of Housing, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder for decisions required relating to applications for new Community Houses, and if the need arises the closure of an existing Community House.

123. THE COMMUNICABLE DISEASE OUTBREAK PLAN FOR WALES

The Executive Member for Leisure Services and Public Protection introduced the Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales for which approval was sought.

RESOLVED:

That the adoption by Flintshire of the Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales be approved for adoption.

124. SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2013/14

The Executive Member for Education introduced the report which sought approval to commence the statutory annual consultation on admission arrangements to apply from September 2013.

The timetable for the admission stages was detailed in the appendix to the report and the Executive Member emphasised that the dates would be strictly adhered to.

The Director of Lifelong Learning explained that there were no changes proposed to the current admissions policy or oversubscription criteria.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed admission arrangements for September 2013 be used as the basis for the annual statutory consultation; and
- (b) That a report on the outcome of the consultation be presented to the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Executive prior to being considered by the County Council in order that the arrangements are determined by 15 April 2012.

125. RESULT OF THE CALL IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD NO. 2463 – DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORT RE-TENDERING

The Executive Member for Environment provided details on the result of the call in meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

which was held on Thursday 6 October 2011 to consider two call ins of the decision relating to Demand Responsive Transport Re-Tendering.

Having listened to the reasons put forward by the initiators of the call ins, the Executive Member said he had agreed to halt the re-tendering process for a full review of the issues to take place before being reported back to Executive in December 2011.

RESOLVED:

That the reference back be acknowledged and that Record of Decision No. 2463 be not implemented in view of the Executive Member's offer to commission a more comprehensive review for consideration at the December 2011 meeting of Executive.

126. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED DECISIONS

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

The actions taken were as set out below:-

Finance	Minor Amendment to the Structure of Corporate Finance Finance Write off Requests
Community Services	Creation of a Housing Options/Housing Benefit Liaison Officer (temporary two year contract)
Environment	Scheme for the Recovery of Building Regulation Costs and Associated Matters

127. 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 remainder of the meeting for the following items by virtue of exempt information under the following paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended):

Agenda item number 18

Paragraphs 12, 13 and 15
Design and Print Review

Agenda item number 19

Paragraphs 13, 14 and 17
Acquisition of 2 Residential Premises for Demolition

128. DESIGN AND PRINT REVIEW

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report which provided details on the outcome of the review of the Design and Print Unit for recommendations to be agreed for its future operation.

The Head of ICT and Customer Services provided a full background to the review including the recommendations from the Consultant who had been engaged to look at the Design and Print Unit, its performance and business plans and the future viability of the Unit in its current form.

RESOLVED:

That Option 1 be approved, to cease lithographic printing, to restructure the existing Design and Print service to focus on the provision of a high quality internal service for the Council and to cease provision of external services on a trading basis. This offered the most affordable option for the future operation of the Design and Print Service.

129. ACQUISITION OF 2 RESIDENTIAL PREMISES FOR DEMOLITION

The Executive Member for Housing recommended withdrawal of the report. The Chief Executive agreed with the proposal and provided full details to Members on the reasons.

RESOLVED:

That the report be withdrawn.

130. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 9.30 a.m. and ended at 11.15a.m.

131. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There was 1 member 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: 18 OCTOBER 2011
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
Councillor A Woolley	Voluntary Sector Funding – Update Report	116
Councillor H. D. Hutchinson	Result of the call in of Executive Decision Record No. 2463 – Demand Responsive Transport Re-Tendering	125