

SPECIAL MEETING - FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
4th MARCH 2008

Minutes of the Special meeting of the Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 4th March 2008.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs A Minshull (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs D. Banks (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: L.A. Aldridge, J.B. Attridge, S.R. Baker, J.G. Beard, Colin Bithell, R.C. Bithell, D. Butler, J.C. Cattermoul, D.M.D Clayton, D.L. Cox, P.J. Curtis, R. Davies, A.G. Diskin, Mrs G.D. Diskin, Q.R.H. Dodd, R.C. Dodd, B. Dunn, C.A. Ellis, D. Evans, E.F. Evans, F. Gillmore, Mrs. R. Griffiths, R.G. Hampson, P.G. Heesom, M. Higham, H.T. Howorth, H.T. Isherwood, G.A. Jones, R.J. Jones, Mrs. S. Jones, C. Legg, R.P. McFarlane, E.E. Matthews, Nancy M. Matthews, H.J. McGuill, W. Mullin, J. Ovens, M.J. Peers, N. Phillips, T. Renshaw, K.W. Richardson, H.G. Roberts, I.B. Roberts, A.P. Shotton, I.R. Smith, N.R. Steele-Mortimer, P.J. Walkden, T. Walker, W.M. Warburton, D.R. Wilkes, G.D. Williams, D.E. Wisinger, A. Woolley and M.G. Wright.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: D. Barratt, C.J. Dolphin, H. Gambino, J.J. Griffiths, R.J.T. Guest, G. Hardcastle, N. Humphreys, H.D. Hutchinson, J.F. Jones, L.A. Sharps, C. Shone, W.O. Thomas and D.T.M. Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, County Finance Officer, County Legal and Democratic Services Officer, Acting Director of Community and Housing, Acting Director of Environment and Regeneration, Director of Adult Social Care, Democratic Services Manager and Principal Administration Officer.

259. PRAYERS

The meeting was opened with prayers said by Councillor N. Phillips.

260. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

261. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2008/09

The Council considered the joint report of the County Finance Officer and the Chief Executive, the purpose of which was to provide Members with the recommendations of the Executive in relation to the General Fund budget for 2008/09.

The Chief Executive opened the presentation by advising that at its meeting on 19th February 2008, the Executive considered a joint report from the County Finance Officer and the Chief Executive on the General Fund Revenue budget for 2008/09. That report stated that the 2008/09 budget had been developed within the context of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and that the Council had adopted a revised approach to budgeting for 2008/09 with progress having been made in the following areas:-

- A more corporate approach to budgeting.
- Greater transparency of approach.
- Integration of revenue and capital processes.
- Expenditure aligned with priorities whilst protecting front-line services.
- Results of prior and in-year budget monitoring included in the budget process

In addition the level of scrutiny undertaken in relation to the budget proposals had increased.

The Chief Executive reported that all Overview and Scrutiny Committees received a presentation from himself, the County Finance Officer and relevant Directors on the budget proposals. Those meetings were held between 13th January and 5th February 2008 and the summary of the respective Committees' observations and questions, together with comments from the officers, was included in Appendix 8 of the report which was submitted to the Executive on 19th February 2008 and was attached as Appendix A to this report.

The Council was informed that the report also identified that further work was necessary in order to agree a MTFS in areas, such as:-

- Revised organisational structure
- Direct links with the business planning process
- Identification of efficiencies
- Corporate approach to Procurement
- Fees and charges at, or moving towards, comparable market levels.

It was therefore planned that work within the coming months would enable a robust Medium Term Financial Plan to be designed for 2009/10 onwards.

The Chief Executive also confirmed that the budget proposals had been discussed with the Schools Budget Forum, the Flintshire Joint Trade Union Committee and Second Tier officers via TeamTalk. The Chief Executive indicated that he felt that this was an exceptional piece of work for a balanced budget to be presented in the way that it has in view of the limited timescales to complete this task.

The County Finance Officer then expanded upon the report by way of a powerpoint presentation and she reiterated the key points made in the report to the Executive. With regard to the final settlement the presentation identified the increase in the Standard Spending Assessment, and the Aggregate External Finance comparing the increase in Flintshire to that in Wales as a whole. She referred to the transfers into and out of settlement and identified the appropriate figures. The County Finance Officer also gave details of the proposed net budget for 2008/09 and explained that with regard to the Council Tax level, that there would be an increase of 3.39% in the Band D rate.

Council was also advised of other unencumbered funding, and the County Finance Officer identified the total funding for 2008/09 assumption and in certain areas where non-standard inflation applied to specific items together with the assumption adopted for pay and price inflation.

The County Finance Officer explained the budget build up and the total levels of expenditure in the various areas, referring in particular to pressures recommended for inclusion in the budget. She also referred to savings and efficiencies recommended for inclusion in the budget.

With regard to Education, she identified the budget assumptions and provided an analysis of the Net Revenue Expenditure compared to the Indicator Based Assessment (IBA). With regard to the General Fund, the County Finance Officer commented upon unencumbered reserves and advised about the base level and its percentage of spend. The presentation also detailed the budget proposals in this area.

The County Finance Officer reported upon the importance of examining the budget outlook for 2009/10 and beyond. She reported upon the full year effects of the 2008/09 pressures, the low indicative settlement levels for 2009/10 and 2010/11 and the Making the Connections efficiency savings targets of £2.15m per annum. There was also the significance of the future of the Performance Incentive Grant and Supporting People Grant. The Council had a number of major issues which would require to be addressed including waste strategy, housing review, the leisure strategy, single status and equal pay. It was also necessary for local priorities and service pressures to be addressed and also the development of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The County Finance Officer then summarised the recommendations in the report. In moving the recommendation, the Executive Member for Finance expressed his thanks to the Chief Executive and the County Finance Officer for the excellence of their report and the timely manner in which it had

been produced. He indicated that this was particularly difficult because of the lateness of the receipt of the final settlement from the Welsh Assembly Government. He was pleased that the process was more corporate and transparent and expressed his thanks to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for their contribution. He was pleased that the increase in Council Tax was the lowest for 10 years. He felt that it was a stable budget and would provide funding for the Council's priorities.

In seconding the proposal, the Leader of the Council also expressed his thanks to the Chief Executive and the County Finance Officer and all those staff involved in the preparation of the budget. The level of team work he felt was excellent as was the corporate approach in dealing with the budget. The Leader also indicated that he was pleased to see an alignment of the revenue budget with the Capital Programme and he recognised that there had been concern over the education IBA issue during the 2007/08 budget process but he hoped that this had now been addressed through the additional funding for 2008/09. Savings had been achieved and he was pleased that a number of issues had been addressed with the reinstatement of the peripatetic skip service and the reinstatement of funding for youth services which would be very welcome throughout the County. He reiterated the point that it was the lowest Council Tax rise and that last years was the previous lowest. Despite this, services would still be delivered.

The Executive Member for Lifelong Learning also welcomed the budget and explained that it received the support of the Schools Budget Forum which had raised a number of issues, all of which had been addressed.

The Leader of the Main Opposition Group suggested that expenditure in Education Services did not compare favourably with others in Wales. The Member also referred to the development of a base budget review and he raised particular concerns regarding the proposals to deal with unearmarked reserves. He felt that this should not be delegated to the Executive but should be referred to the Full Council for determination.

He duly proposed an amendment to paragraph 14 of the recommendations. After some discussion, the Monitoring Officer explained that the effect of this amendment would be to increase the time taken to make decisions on financial matters, including urgent matters, where a specific budget allocation had not been made, or was insufficient, as the Executive would no longer have the powers to take such decisions. The Chief Executive reiterated that whilst the budget was planned on the basis of sound financial information there had to be an allowance to be reactive as circumstances changed throughout the year.

It was clarified that the amendment proposed by the Leader of the Main Opposition Group and duly seconded, was that the recommendations be accepted with the removal of "and delegated to the Executive" in paragraph 14. However, on being put to the vote this amendment was LOST.

A representative of the Liberal Democrats group spoke on the budget and welcomed certain aspects of that budget, particularly in relation to the consultation process. However, he indicated that he wished to make a further amendment to the proposed budget and expanded upon the reasons.

The further amendment submitted by the Liberal Democrat Group was as follows:

1. The budget requirement be set at £332,000 less than the calculated Standard Spending Assessment;
2. There be a 2.70% increase in the Council Tax at Band D
3. The proposed expenditure remains at £259,878m by utilising an additional £332,000 from the Contingency Reserve, and
4. That officers report back, before the 2009/10 budget is considered, on recurring efficiency options equivalent to £332,000 at 2008/09 prices so that all future on-going expenditure is funded from within the base budget"

This was duly proposed and seconded. Members of that Group expanded upon the key points and the reasons for that recommendation. The Chief Executive explained that this was a valid amendment. For any amendment in such circumstances, it was necessary for it to be legal, in that the calculations were clear and sustainable. The County Finance Officer gave the relevant figures and how the budget would be affected if the proposals by the Liberal Democrat Group were accepted. The Leader of the Council in responding to the amendment by the Liberal Democrat Group welcomed their input and the work that they had done in preparing the amendments was acknowledged. However, he referred to the recommendations in the report and felt that they were the most valid way forward and realistic in terms of achieving the budget. Other Members also responded to the points in the further amendment. This was then put to the meeting and was LOST.

The Leader of the Conservative Group thanked the Chief Executive and the County Finance Officer for the extraordinary amount of work they had undertaken in the preparation of the budget which he felt was a very professional job. He commented upon the significance of the forthcoming elections and how issues may be addressed after that time. The Member felt that it was important for work on base budget review to be undertaken and stressed he was not keen to interfere with front line services. He also welcomed the return of the peripatetic skip service, particularly for the rural areas and this was a most welcomed facility. A number of other Members commented on this point. The Executive Member for Finance would sum up the proposal which was put to the Council and was CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations of the Executive be approved.

- 1) That the budget be set at the calculated SSA and that there be a 3.39% increase in Council Tax at Band D and a 99% Collection Rate (5.05 of 30th January report).
- 2) The inclusion of Deprivation Grant of £0.255m and Performance Incentive Grant of £1.497m in the budget (5.06 of 30th January report).
- 3) That the budget will be adjusted to reflect the actual level of specific grant received (5.07 of the 30th January report).
- 4) The levels of inflation assumed in the budget (5.08 – 5.11 of the 30th January report)
- 5) The amounts included in the budget relating to transfers in and out of the Settlement (5.12 of the 30th January report).
- 6) The inclusion of £2.837m (£3.495m in 2009/10 and £4.288m in 2010/11) of pressures in the base budget and that an additional £1.901m be funded from unearmarked reserves (5.14 of the 30th January report and Appendix 4 a-f and 5 of this report).
- 7) The inclusion of efficiencies / savings of £5.654m (£5.785m in 2009/10 and £5.785m in 2010/11) in the base budget (5.15 of the 30th January report and Appendix 6 of this report).
- 8) That £1.112m be transferred from unearmarked to base level reserves (6.07 of the 30th January report).
- 9) That £1.000m be transferred to the capital programme (6.08 of the 30th January report).
- 10) That the 2008/9 General Fund Budget requirement be set at the Standard Spending Assessment of £226,418,956 (3.03 of this report).
- 11) That items of non standard inflation are only allocated out to services when the actual increase in cost is known (3.05 of this report).
- 12) 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 at the Centre until firmer details are known and that the County Finance Officer be given delegated authority to determine such cases with Directors (3.06 of this report).

- 13) 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 (3.07 of this report).
- 14) That the actual amount of reserves remaining at the 31st March 2008 (currently estimated to be £2.297m) is not allocated at this stage but is retained as a contingency, and delegated to the Executive, to meet pressures which are predicted but not able to be fully costed, or new pressures which cannot be foreseen at this stage (5.07 of this report).

262. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008/09 – 2011/12

The Council considered the report of the County Finance Officer, the purpose of which was to present the recommendations of the Executive in respect of the Capital Programme 2008/09 – 2011/12. The County Finance Officer and Chief Executive, as part of the presentation, explained the new approach to the Capital Programme as follows:

- 3-4 year rolling programme
- All calls on available resources assessed against available funding and categorised as externally influenced, service continuity or service improvement
- No assumptions in terms of provisions, all calls on available resources to be considered at the same time
- Uncommitted 2007/08 items brought back into consideration with other new pressures
- A more proactive review of potential capital receipts.

There was also full transparency on the process with an increased level of scrutiny. Recommendations of the Executive were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. It was also noted that at its meeting held on 21st February 2008 the Corporate Management and Overview Scrutiny Committee was consulted on those recommendations. A number of comments were made and questions asked and these, together with the responses given, were included as Appendix 2 to the report.

It was noted that there were no requests for amendments to the proposed programme for 2008/09 or the indicative values for 2009/10 to 2011/12.

During the presentation, the County Finance Officer advised on the resources available together with the proposals and indicative priorities. It was noted that proposals included the following:

- £19m over four years to address schools' repair and maintenance backlog
- Over £3m per annum for disabled facilities/renovation grants
- £0.750m for waste recycling
- £1.2m for works to leisure and dual use centres
- £0.350m for play areas
- £0.500m for environmental enhancements

The County Finance Officer also referred to the capital aspect of the Housing Revenue Account and the resources available and explained that a detailed programme was being prepared and a further report was necessary. The Council was informed of a continuous approach whereby:

- New schemes to be considered as they emerged
- Indicative allocations would be firmed up as further capital receipts accrued
- Prudential borrowing risks and benefits would be explored
- Decommissioned assets in Education now classed as corporate receipts
- Capital receipts targets essential to achieve – Asset Management Planning would assist in reviewing and revising
- Need to profile schemes to match timing of capital receipts (cashflow management)
- Need to profile schemes to match demands on in-house design teams (Capacity Management)
- Full updates be included in capital programme monitoring report

The total proposed and indicative allocations are in excess of £110m over four years including £101m on front line services

In moving the report the Executive Member for Finance again expressed his thanks to the Chief Executive and the County Finance Officer for their work in preparing this report and the different approach taken which was most welcome. He also thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for their active contribution to this.

In seconding the proposal the Leader of the Council again welcomed the different approach and felt that the Four Year Capital Programme was beneficial and that the level of expenditure in key areas would be of benefit to the residents of the County in all areas. He identified specific schemes as part of his comments. There was a general acceptance of the Programme

from Members with a welcome of the approach undertaken. A Member requested a report on the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme which was accepted together with a request for a breakdown of the capital expenditure on the leisure facilities.

Following questions by Members the Chief Executive confirmed that capital receipts from Education assets would be reviewed on a case by case basis to allow for flexibility. He also explained fully the expenditure relative to special schools. After some discussion the proposal was put to the Council and was unanimously supported.

RESOLVED:

That the Council accepts the recommendations of the Executive:-

- 1) That the schemes detailed in the Report be included in the Capital Programme 2008/09 to 2011/12. 2008/09 General Fund (Section 4.01, Appendix 1)
- 2) That the General Fund 2009/10 to 2011/12 indicative allocations were noted (Section 4.01).
- 3) That for special schools the full project cost of £9.7m be included in the Capital Programme with £0.594m being met in 2007/08 and the remaining £1.170m being committed over the two years 2008/09 and 2009/10 (Section 5.03 to 5.05).
- 4) That the policy on education capital receipts is amended so that capital receipts for schools or other education properties which are decommissioned are now treated as corporate resources for financing of the overall Capital Programme (Section 4.06)
- 5) That the Acting Executive of Community and Housing reports to the Executive with the detailed Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme once the exercise has been completed (Section 6.02)

263. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2008/09

The Council considered the report of the County Finance Officer, the purpose of which was to present to Council the recommendation of the Executive in relation to prudential indicators and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2008/09. The report detailed the background to its preparation and identified the key considerations.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the recommendations of the Executive as identified in the report dated 18th February 2008, be approved.

- i) The prudential indicators as detailed in Section 3 of the report:-
- Capital expenditure (section 3.05)
 - Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream (section 3.06)
 - Capital financing requirement (section 3.07)
 - Net borrowing and the capital financing requirement (section 3.09)
 - Authorised limit for external debt (sections 3.10 and 3.12)
 - Operational boundary for external debt (section 3.11)
 - Incremental impact of capital investment decisions on the Council Tax (section 3.13)
 - Incremental impact of capital investment decisions on housing rents (section 3.13)
 - Adoption of the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services (section 3.14)
 - The upper limit on interest rate exposures – fixed and variable rate interest (section 3.14)
 - Maturity structure of borrowing (section 3.14)
 - Prudential limits for sums invested for periods longer than 364 days (section 3.14)
- ii) That delegated authority be granted for the County Finance Officer to effect movements between the separately agreed limits within the authorised limit for external debt and the operational boundary for external debt (sections 3.10 and 3.11)

264. COUNCIL TAX 2008/09

The Council considered the report to the County Finance Officer the purpose of which was for the Council to agree the statutory and other necessary resolutions for the purpose of collecting Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates for 2008/09. The County Finance Officer explained that earlier in the meeting consideration was given to the General Fund Budget. The recommendation of the Executive was that the General Fund Budget Requirement for 2008/09 be set at £226,418,956. It was noted that the Council Tax resolution included elements relating to Flintshire, North Wales Police Authority and Town and Community Councils within the area and that the resolutions as detailed in Appendix A were split into a number of sections. These resolutions would result in the Council Tax being levied across all areas of the County as set out in Appendix A and further analysed in Appendix B by amount of percentage increase.

RESOLVED:

1. That it be noted that at its meeting on 11th December 2007 the Council calculated interim amounts, subsequently modified as follows, for the year 2008/09 in accordance with the regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

60,340 being the amount calculated in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Wales Regulations 1995 as its Council Tax base for the year, broken down into the following Town/Community areas :-

Argoed	2,480.75
Bagillt	1,462.24
Broughton & Bretton	2,358.95
Brynford	459.28
Buckley	5,936.00
Caerwys	611.43
Cilcain	737.04
Connahs Quay	5,973.28
Flint	4,440.41
Gwernaffield	1,003.78
Gwernymynydd	558.22
Halkyn	1,352.34
Hawarden	6,004.07
Higher Kinnerton	785.68
Holywell	3,178.15
Hope	1,789.59
Leeswood	820.86
Llanasa	1,871.85
Llanfynydd	832.21
Mold	4,090.52
Mostyn	703.22
Nannerch	267.21
Nercwys	299.50
Northop	1,463.85
Northop Hall	706.87
Penyffordd	1,605.11
Queensferry	697.99
Saltney	1,722.33
Sealand	1,108.27
Shotton	2,128.55
Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgor	413.35
Treuddyn	716.79
Whitford	1,115.36
Ysceifiog	644.95
TOTAL BAND "D" PROPERTIES	60,340.00

Being the amounts calculated in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwelling in those parts of its area to which special items relate.

2. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2008/09 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
- | | | |
|-----|--|--------------|
| (a) | Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a)-(d) (including Community Council precepts totaling £1,976,992). | £371,923,276 |
| (b) | Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for items set out in Section 32(3)(a) and 32(3)(c). | £143,527,328 |
| (c) | Amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above calculated in accordance with Section 32(4) as the budget requirement for the year. | £228,395,948 |
| (d) | Aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its Council Fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates, Revenue Support Grant or Additional Grant. | £176,722,666 |
| (e) | The amount at 2(c) above less the amount at 2(d) above, all divided by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated in accordance with Section 33(1) as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year. | £856.37 |
| (f) | Aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1). | £1,976,992 |
| (g) | Amount at 2(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(f) above by the amount at 1(a) above calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which no special items relate. | £823.60 |
| (h) | The amounts given by adding to the amount at 2(g) above the amounts of special items relating to dwellings in those part of the Council's area mentioned below, divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated in accordance with Section 34(3) as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which special items relate. | £0.00 |

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CHARGES (BAND D) 2008/09
(Including Community/Town Councils)**

Argoed	£842.76
Bagillt	£844.12
Broughton & Bretton	£857.51
Brynford	£854.31
Buckley	£864.99
Caerwys	£859.78
Cilcain	£847.66
Connahs Quay	£866.86
Flint	£858.51
Gwernaffield	£838.54
Gwernymynydd	£848.68
Halkyn	£849.48
Hawarden	£855.08
Higher Kinnerton	£838.87
Holywell	£861.36
Hope	£836.45
Leeswood	£864.57
Llanasa	£854.59
Llanfynydd	£853.64
Mold	£862.32
Mostyn	£857.44
Nannerch	£853.54
Nercwys	£863.67
Northop	£835.60
Northop Hall	£848.50
Penyffordd	£846.65
Queensferry	£863.72
Saltney	£862.60
Sealand	£860.14
Shotton	£869.06
Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgor	£859.89
Treuddyn	£852.90
Whitford	£847.54
Ysceifiog	£842.64

- (i) The amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2(h) above by the number which in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D calculated in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

Area	VALUATION BANDS								
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	I £
Argoed	561.84	655.48	749.12	842.76	1,030.04	1,217.32	1,404.60	1,685.52	1,966.44
Bagillt	562.75	656.54	750.33	844.12	1,031.70	1,219.28	1,406.87	1,688.24	1,969.61
Broughton & Bretton	571.68	666.95	762.23	857.51	1,048.07	1,238.62	1,429.19	1,715.02	2,000.85
Brynford	569.54	664.47	759.39	854.31	1,044.15	1,234.00	1,423.85	1,708.62	1,993.39
Buckley	576.66	672.77	768.88	864.99	1,057.21	1,249.43	1,441.65	1,729.98	2,018.31
Caerwys	573.19	668.72	764.25	859.78	1,050.84	1,241.90	1,432.97	1,719.56	2,006.15
Cilcain	565.11	659.29	753.48	847.66	1,036.03	1,224.39	1,412.77	1,695.32	1,977.87
Connahs Quay	577.91	674.23	770.54	866.86	1,059.49	1,252.13	1,444.77	1,733.72	2,022.67
Flint	572.34	667.73	763.12	858.51	1,049.29	1,240.07	1,430.85	1,717.02	2,003.19
Gwernaffield	559.03	652.20	745.37	838.54	1,024.88	1,211.22	1,397.57	1,677.08	1,956.59
Gwernymynydd	565.79	660.09	754.38	848.68	1,037.27	1,225.87	1,414.47	1,697.36	1,980.25
Halkyn	566.32	660.71	755.09	849.48	1,038.25	1,227.02	1,415.80	1,698.96	1,982.12
Hawarden	570.06	665.06	760.07	855.08	1,045.10	1,235.11	1,425.14	1,710.16	1,995.18
Higher Kinnerton	559.25	652.46	745.66	838.87	1,025.28	1,211.70	1,398.12	1,677.74	1,957.36
Holywell	574.24	669.95	765.65	861.36	1,052.77	1,244.18	1,435.60	1,722.72	2,009.84
Hope	557.64	650.57	743.51	836.45	1,022.33	1,208.20	1,394.09	1,672.90	1,951.71
Leeswood	576.38	672.45	768.51	864.57	1,056.69	1,248.82	1,440.95	1,729.14	2,017.33
Llanasa	569.73	664.68	759.64	854.59	1,044.50	1,234.40	1,424.32	1,709.18	1,994.04
Llanfynydd	569.10	663.94	758.79	853.64	1,043.34	1,233.03	1,422.74	1,707.28	1,991.82
Mold	574.88	670.70	766.51	862.32	1,053.94	1,245.57	1,437.20	1,724.64	2,012.08
Mostyn	571.63	666.90	762.17	857.44	1,047.98	1,238.52	1,429.07	1,714.88	2,000.69
Nannerch	569.03	663.87	758.70	853.54	1,043.21	1,232.89	1,422.57	1,707.08	1,991.59
Nercwys	575.78	671.75	767.71	863.67	1,055.59	1,247.52	1,439.45	1,727.34	2,015.23
Northop	557.07	649.91	742.76	835.60	1,021.29	1,206.97	1,392.67	1,671.20	1,949.73
Northop Hall	565.67	659.95	754.22	848.50	1,037.05	1,225.61	1,414.17	1,697.00	1,979.83
Penyffordd	564.44	658.51	752.58	846.65	1,034.79	1,222.93	1,411.09	1,693.30	1,975.51
Queensferry	575.82	671.78	767.75	863.72	1,055.66	1,247.59	1,439.54	1,727.44	2,015.34
Saltney	575.07	670.91	766.76	862.60	1,054.29	1,245.97	1,437.67	1,725.20	2,012.73
Sealand	573.43	669.00	764.57	860.14	1,051.28	1,242.42	1,433.57	1,720.28	2,006.99
Shotton	579.38	675.94	772.50	869.06	1,062.18	1,255.30	1,448.44	1,738.12	2,027.80
Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgor	573.26	668.81	764.35	859.89	1,050.97	1,242.06	1,433.15	1,719.78	2,006.41
Treuddyn	568.60	663.37	758.13	852.90	1,042.43	1,231.96	1,421.50	1,705.80	1,990.10
Whitford	565.03	659.20	753.37	847.54	1,035.88	1,224.22	1,412.57	1,695.08	1,977.59
Ysceifiog	561.76	655.39	749.01	842.64	1,029.89	1,217.14	1,404.40	1,685.28	1,966.16

3. That it be noted that for the year 2008/09 the North Wales Police Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below -

Valuation Bands									
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	I £
Precept	124.12	144.81	165.49	186.18	227.55	268.93	310.30	372.36	434.42

4. Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(i) and 3 above, the Council in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2008/09 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Area	VALUATION BANDS								
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	I £
Argoed	685.96	800.29	914.61	1,028.94	1,257.59	1,486.25	1,714.90	2,057.88	2,400.86
Bagillt	686.87	801.35	915.82	1,030.30	1,259.25	1,488.21	1,717.17	2,060.60	2,404.03
Broughton & Bretton	695.80	811.76	927.72	1,043.69	1,275.62	1,507.55	1,739.49	2,087.38	2,435.27
Brynford	693.66	809.28	924.88	1,040.49	1,271.70	1,502.93	1,734.15	2,080.98	2,427.81
Buckley	700.78	817.58	934.37	1,051.17	1,284.76	1,518.36	1,751.95	2,102.34	2,452.73
Caerwys	697.31	813.53	929.74	1,045.96	1,278.39	1,510.83	1,743.27	2,091.92	2,440.57
Cilcain	689.23	804.10	918.97	1,033.84	1,263.58	1,493.32	1,723.07	2,067.68	2,412.29
Connahs Quay	702.03	819.04	936.03	1,053.04	1,287.04	1,521.06	1,755.07	2,106.08	2,457.09
Flint	696.46	812.54	928.61	1,044.69	1,276.84	1,509.00	1,741.15	2,089.38	2,437.61
Gwernaffield	683.15	797.01	910.86	1,024.72	1,252.43	1,480.15	1,707.87	2,049.44	2,391.01
Gwernymynydd	689.91	804.90	919.87	1,034.86	1,264.82	1,494.80	1,724.77	2,069.72	2,414.67
Halkyn	690.44	805.52	920.58	1,035.66	1,265.80	1,495.95	1,726.10	2,071.32	2,416.54
Hawarden	694.18	809.87	925.56	1,041.26	1,272.65	1,504.04	1,735.44	2,082.52	2,429.60
Higher Kinnerton	683.37	797.27	911.15	1,025.05	1,252.83	1,480.63	1,708.42	2,050.10	2,391.78
Holywell	698.36	814.76	931.14	1,047.54	1,280.32	1,513.11	1,745.90	2,095.08	2,444.26
Hope	681.76	795.38	909.00	1,022.63	1,249.88	1,477.13	1,704.39	2,045.26	2,386.13
Leeswood	700.50	817.26	934.00	1,050.75	1,284.24	1,517.75	1,751.25	2,101.50	2,451.75
Llanasa	693.85	809.49	925.13	1,040.77	1,272.05	1,503.33	1,734.62	2,081.54	2,428.46
Llanfynydd	693.22	808.75	924.28	1,039.82	1,270.89	1,501.96	1,733.04	2,079.64	2,426.24
Mold	699.00	815.51	932.00	1,048.50	1,281.49	1,514.50	1,747.50	2,097.00	2,446.50
Mostyn	695.75	811.71	927.66	1,043.62	1,275.53	1,507.45	1,739.37	2,087.24	2,435.11
Nannerch	693.15	808.68	924.19	1,039.72	1,270.76	1,501.82	1,732.87	2,079.44	2,426.01
Nercwys	699.90	816.56	933.20	1,049.85	1,283.14	1,516.45	1,749.75	2,099.70	2,449.65
Northop	681.19	794.72	908.25	1,021.78	1,248.84	1,475.90	1,702.97	2,043.56	2,384.15
Northop Hall	689.79	804.76	919.71	1,034.68	1,264.60	1,494.54	1,724.47	2,069.36	2,414.25
Penyffordd	688.56	803.32	918.07	1,032.83	1,262.34	1,491.86	1,721.39	2,065.66	2,409.93
Queensferry	699.94	816.59	933.24	1,049.90	1,283.21	1,516.52	1,749.84	2,099.80	2,449.76
Saltney	699.19	815.72	932.25	1,048.78	1,281.84	1,514.90	1,747.97	2,097.56	2,447.15
Sealand	697.55	813.81	930.06	1,046.32	1,278.83	1,511.35	1,743.87	2,092.64	2,441.41

Shotton	703.50	820.75	937.99	1,055.24	1,289.73	1,524.23	1,758.74	2,110.48	2,462.22
Area	VALUATION BANDS								
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	I £
Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgor	697.38	813.62	929.84	1,046.07	1,278.52	1,510.99	1,743.45	2,092.14	2,440.83
Treuddyn	692.72	808.18	923.62	1,039.08	1,269.98	1,500.89	1,731.80	2,078.16	2,424.52
Whitford	689.15	804.01	918.86	1,033.72	1,263.43	1,493.15	1,722.87	2,067.44	2,412.01
Ysceifiog	685.88	800.20	914.50	1,028.82	1,257.44	1,486.07	1,714.70	2,057.64	2,400.58

5. That the County Finance Officer be authorised to make payments under section 38(9) Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 and the Local Authorities (Precepts) (Wales) Regulations 1995 from the Council Fund by equal instalments on the 15th day of each month from April 2007 (adjusted to the next working day as necessary) to March 2008 in respect of the precept levied by North Wales Police Authority in the sum of £11,234,101

6. Authorisations - Council Tax

a) That the holders of the posts of County Finance Officer, Assistant Director of Finance (Funds and Customer Accounts), Head of Customer Accounts, Customer Accounts Managers, Customer Accounts Team Leaders, Customer Accounts Officers within Finance for the time being be authorised under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972 to issue legal proceedings and to appear on behalf of the County Council at the hearing of any legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court by way of an application for the issue of a Liability Order in respect of unpaid Council Taxes and penalties under Part VI of the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992; by way of an application for the issue of a warrant of commitment to prison under Part VI of the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992; to require financial information to make an Attachment of Earnings Order; to levy the appropriate amount by distress and sale of goods; and to exercise all other enforcement powers of the County Council under the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcements) Regulations 1992 and any subsequent amendments of such Regulations.

b) That the County Finance Officer or Assistant Director of Finance (Funds and Customer Accounts) be authorised to engage the services of bailiffs for the service of summonses and warrants of commitment, obtaining financial information, the levying of distress warrants and the sale of goods and any appropriate action for the recovery of outstanding Council Taxes and penalties under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and any Regulations made thereunder.

7. Authorisations - National Non-Domestic Rates
- a) That the holders of the posts of County Finance Officer, Assistant Director of Finance (Funds and Customer Accounts), Head of Customer Accounts, Customer Accounts Managers, Customer Accounts Team Leaders, Customer Accounts Officers within Finance for the time being be authorised under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972, to institute legal proceedings and to appear on behalf of the Council at the hearing of any legal proceedings in the Magistrates Courts by way of application for the issue of a liability order in respect of unpaid rates; by way of an application for the issue of a warrant of commitment; and to exercise all other powers of enforcement of the County Council under the Non-Domestic (Collection and Enforcement) (Local Lists) Regulations 1989 and any amendment thereto.
 - b) That the County Finance Office or Assistant Director of Finance, (Funds and Customer Accounts) be authorised to engage the services of bailiffs to serve such summonses, distress warrants, liability orders or warrants of commitment, to levy distress and to sell goods as may be necessary to recover outstanding rates.
8. That notices of the making of the said Council Taxes signed by the Chief Executive be given by advertisement in the local press under Section 38(2) of the Local Government.

**265. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting as the following item was considered to be exempt by virtue of paragraphs 12 and 15 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

266. SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Following consideration of the report of the Chief Executive at the Special Meeting of the Council of 19th February 2008 the Council considered the further report of the Chief Executive on the options for location and management of Children's Services. As the supplementary report was only requested at that Special Meeting, Members had been advised that the report would not be available until the day of the meeting. The Chief Executive explained that it was available first thing in the morning but because of printing difficulties it had not been circulated to some members until

immediately before the meeting. In the circumstances it was agreed that Members adjourn for twenty minutes to read the report.

The Chief Executive presented the report and advised that the Council at its meeting held on 19th February approved his proposals and specific recommendations for the consolidation of the senior management structure of the Council. At that meeting the Council deferred a final decision on the location of and management arrangements for Children's Services pending a further report. He explained that this further report provided a more detailed analysis of the recommendations made which was to locate Children's Services in the new Directorate of Community Services. By way of background the report made at the Special Meeting of the Council on 19th February recommended the location of Children's Services in the new Directorate of Community Services. Children's Services was currently relocated in the Directorate of Education, Children's Services and Recreation, it was first located there in 2001 having been transferred from the former Directorate of Social Services. The Head of Children's Services had dual reporting lines to the Director of Education, Children's Services and Recreation, for line management and forms of accountability and to the Director of Adult Social Care for statutory reporting as a Strategy Officer for Social Services respectively. In his previous report the Chief Executive made a detailed statement on this issue and it was reproduced as part of the current report. Also included in the report was a summary of the principal consultation responses received on the question of the location and management of Children's Services in the consultations on the proposals for structural change. The report detailed the responses from the following Directorates:-

- Adult Social Care Directorate Management Team
- Education and Children's Services Directorate Management Team
- Children's Services Management Team

With regard to Estyn, they had no favoured option or view expressed other than suggested that the published inspection reports from across Wales were viewed. As Estyn were not responsible for inspecting Children's Services this analysis was inconclusive. Pricewaterhouse Coopers as the Statutory Auditors had no favoured option nor did the Wales Audit Office as Statutory Auditors. The report also detailed the responses from Welsh Assembly Government including CCIW as the Statutory Regulator for Social Services in Wales together with the response from the Welsh Local Government Association.

The Chief Executive reported as the proposer of the Structural Change he had met with with the Education, Children's Services and Recreation Directorate Management Team since the previous meeting of the Council. Nothing further had been added to the views expressed by the team during that consultation and no case had been made for the retention of Children's Services within the Directorate. The Chief Executive explained that the principal reported evidence on the extent of integration and performance of

Children's Services with the mainstream Education Service and the current structure was detailed in the report, as follows with the key points being expanded in each case:-

- Joint review of Social Services SSIW 2003
- Report on arrangement and ability to deliver services National Teaching and Advisory Service (NTAS 2006) commissioned by the Council
- Integrating Service Provision for Children and Young People in Wales Association of Directors of Education in Wales October 2006
- Review of Children's Services SSIW March 2007
- Report on the Quality of School Improvement in Flintshire, Estyn and Wales Audit Office, May 2007
- Draft Performance Evaluation 2007/08 CCIW (ongoing and not yet finalised)

The Council was informed of the factors which required consideration in establishing the most advantageous location in the revised management structure of the management and improvement of Children's Services were;-

- The outcomes of the consultation on the structure changes.
- The extent of operational integration and the potential for service improvement.
- The capacity to commission services from third party providers.
- The protection and fulfilment of the statutory role of Director of Social Services and the Council receiving assurance on its performance from statutory regulators.
- The stability of the host Directorate and the priorities which will be given to Children's Services.
- The immediate demands of managing Children's Services in a period of structural transition and in the temporary absence of the Director of Life Long Learning.

The report also detailed an analysis for the option of location of Children's Services using the factors detailed in 3.04 of the report.

Regardless of choice, the Chief Executive explained that location in the structure itself was not a solution to the limitations of the integration of Children's Services and the need to further improve strategic and operational performance. He explained that the following actions were proposed to

protect the development of Children's Services through corporate governance and corporate management;-

- The collective ownership of and responsibility for strategies for Children's Services by the new Corporate Management Team
- The review, improvement and continued management of protocols of joint working amongst designated operational managers.
- The directors of Community Services (as statutory director for delivery of Children's Services) and Lifelong Learning (as statutory lead for corporate integration of all services to children and young people) to meet at designated intervals to review and report on performance and risk management.
- The continuation of the Children's Services Forum as a forum for policy development and information exchange.
- High corporate commitment to supporting the Children's and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) and ensuring that its priorities influence the corporate priorities as set out in the Council Plan and the operational priorities of respective service/business plans within the Council (CYPP priorities attached).
- High corporate commitment to full participation in the Local Safeguarding Board
- Periodic review of the performance, risk management and the continued development of Children's Services for reporting to elected members and external regulators.
- The formation of a Scrutiny Committee dedicated to Children's Services – strategy development and outcomes, operational performance and risk management, partnership management and performance (post-election)
- The appointment of a cabinet member with a specific Children's Services & Young People's portfolio (post-election) and
- Periodic training and awareness sessions for elected members on corporate parenting as a corporate body with multi-disciplinary responsibilities for children and young people.

The Chief Executive also advised of the temporary line management responsibilities for Children's Services of the current Director of Social Care. In moving the recommendation, the Leader of the Council thanked the Chief Executive for the thoroughness of the report which he felt clearly provided an evidential case. However in doing so he did acknowledge a genuine concern of Members who had raised issues regarding the proposed arrangements. He shared the view of the Chief Executive that the integration of services was key, how they operated was the main factor rather than where they were

actually located. In supporting the recommendation the Leader also referred to section 3.06 of the report and whilst endorsing it felt that it would be subject to further work with a report back and this was acknowledged by the Chief Executive. Responding to points raised by a Member regarding the sensitivity issue and the role of Scrutiny the Chief Executive explained that Scrutiny would have a key role to play and would be required to be particularly effective.

After some discussion the proposal was put to the meeting and was CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That Children's Services are located in the new Directorate of Community Services on the evidential case provided in this report.
- 2) That the strategic action proposed in 3.06 of the report to protect and develop Children's Services through corporate governance and corporate management be endorsed for further work.
- 3) That the progress of integration of Children's Services be reviewed in 2010 in conjunction with the statutory regulators.

267. INTERIM MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

(1) **COMMUNITY AND HOUSING**

The Chief Executive reported that it was not the intention to renew the contract of the Interim Head of Housing but that arrangements had been made with the Chartered Institute of Housing to cover this area and Mr John McHale would be taking up duties for specific tasks.

(2) **CORPORATE STRATEGY**

The Chief Executive reported that as part of the revised structural arrangements the post of Director of Corporate Strategy had been made redundant. He advised that this had been undertaken amicably with the current Director who would be returning to work shortly to complete a three months notice and would be involved on a special project (the Street Scene Programme).

(3) **EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND RECREATION**

The Chief Executive reported upon the personal circumstances of the current Acting Director of Children's Services and Recreation. He reported upon his intentions for the immediate arrangements but he would report back to Council in due course.

268. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. and ended at 4.00 p.m.

269. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the public and no members of the press in attendance.

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Chairman

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

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	DATE:	4TH MARCH 2008
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
NO DECLARATIONS WERE MADE		