

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
17th FEBRUARY 2009

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Flintshire County Council held in County Hall, Mold held on Tuesday, 17th February 2009.

PRESENT: Councillor: Q.R.H. Dodd (Chairman)
Councillor: C. Legg (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: L.A. Aldridge, K. Armstrong-Braun, J.B. Attridge, S.R Baker, D. Barratt, G.H Bateman. R.C Bithell, C.S Carver, Mrs J.C Cattermoul, E.G Cooke, D.L Cox, R. Davies, Mrs A.J Davies-Cooke, Mrs R. Dolphin, Mrs C.A Ellis, E.F. Evans, J.E Falshaw, Ms V. Gay, F. Gilmore, R.J.T Guest, Miss A.M Halford, R.G Hampson, G. Hardcastle, P.G Heesom, M. Higham, Mrs C. Hinds, H.T Howorth, R. Hughes, Mrs N. Humphreys, H.D Hutchinson, G. James, Mrs C.M Jones, Mrs N.M Jones, Mrs S. Jones, R.P Macfarlane, D.I Mackie, Mrs D.L Mackie, Mrs N.M Matthews, D. Mcfarlane, Mrs A. Minshull, W. Mullin, E.W Owen, M.J. Peers, N. Phillips, M.A, Reece, H.G Roberts, I.B Roberts, L.A Sharps, A.P Shotton, N.R Steele-Mortimer, Mrs C.A Thomas, W.O Thomas, D.E Wisinger, A. Woolley, M.G Wright and Ms H. Yale.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: P.J Curtis, A.G Diskin, Mrs G.D Diskin, C.J Dolphin, B. Dunn, H.T Isherwood, R. Johnson, R.B Jones, Mrs H.G McGuill, T. Newhouse, P.R. Pemberton and D.T Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Environment, Director of Lifelong Learning, Head of Legal and Democratic Services Officer, Head of Finance, Democratic Services Manager and Principal Committee Officer.

96. PRAYERS

Councillor N. Phillips conducted prayers at the commencement of the meeting.

97. COUNCIL MINUTES

(a) **28th October, 2008**

(i) **Accuracy**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th October, 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(ii) Request for Information

Councillor J.B Attridge referred to minute number 55 (minute 45 – PostOffice Closures – North Wales) and advised that the information referred to therein had not been provided. The Chief Executive indicated that he would arrange for it to be supplied.

(b) 6th November, 2008

RESOLVED:

That subject to the inclusion of Councillor S.R Baker in the list of Members attended and Councillor H.D Hutchinson be properly recorded, the minutes of the meeting held on 6th November, 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

(c) 2nd December 2008

(i) Accuracy

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December, 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(ii) Issues Arising

Councillor R. Dolphin on behalf of Councillor C.J Dolphin who could not be present at this meeting referred to minute number 84 in relation to Community Safety and Policing and the comments given by Chief Superintendent Purdie whereby she would contact Members on issues raised by them on Policing matters and this had not been done. The Chief Executive indicated that he would pursue this.

(d) 17th December 2009

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th February, 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

98. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In relation to minute number 101 Councillor N. Phillips declared an interest in relation to “The Future of the Council Housing Stock”. However, this was not a prejudicial interest and he was entitled to remain in the meeting.

99. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

Details of the Chairman's and Vice Chairman's engagements were circulated to all Members.

100. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

(i) Planning Protocol Working Group

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that following consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Protocol Working Group, the meeting scheduled for Thursday 19th February, 2009 had been cancelled because of a clash with an Appointments Panel. It would be re-arranged for a future date.

(ii) Front Car Park, County Hall, Phase 1

The Chief Executive reported that work was due to commence to increase the number of spaces on the car park with a number of designated spaces reserved for Members of the Council. The work will take a few days to complete.

(iii) Appointments

The Chief Executive was pleased to report that Mr Andrew Farrow, currently the Strategic Manager of Planning with Cheshire County Council, had been appointed as the Head of Planning. Mr Tom Davies had been appointed Head of Development and Resources in the Directorate of Lifelong Learning and Mrs Helen Stapleton had been appointed Head of Human Resources and Organisational Developments. He was particularly pleased to announce the latter as she was an internal candidate and this demonstrated the Council's commitment to developing local talent as an employer. Members very much supported this view.

101. THE FUTURE OF THE COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK

The joint report of the Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Head of Finance and Head of Legal and Democratic Services was presented by the Chief Executive, the purpose of which was to inform the Council of the outcome of the work of the Local Strategic Housing Review Board and the subsequent recommendations of the Executive on the future of the Council housing stock. It was the intention to recommend to the Council that it should resolve to ballot tenants on a full transfer model. He explained that this involved the inclusion of the whole Council housing stock in the transfer model. If the Council agreed it would then be necessary to inform the Welsh Assembly Government accordingly.

The Chief Executive advised that representatives of the Council's Regulators and the Welsh Assembly Government were present at the meeting. The Chief Executive then used PowerPoint to assist the presentation of the report.

The report detailed the background to its preparation and identified the key considerations. The Chief Executive expanded upon the background and advised that at its meeting held on 5th September, 2007 the County Council agreed that the retention model was not viable and it would place the Council in a position of severe financial risk if pursued. Subsequently the Council then requested further exploration locally and with the Welsh Assembly Government over the following key issues:-

- Protecting the interest of tenants post transfer to a social landlord.
- The viability and continuity of residual functions such as homelessness.
- The fitness for purpose of the management and maintenance functions.
- The future of the non traditional housing stock.

Subsequently the Welsh Assembly Government agreed an extension of time until the end of 2008. The Executive at its meeting on the 19th February, 2008 approved the formation of a Local Strategic Housing Review Board. The terms of reference of the Board were attached as an Appendix to the report now submitted. Those terms of reference were subsequently extended to include exploration of partial renovation/transfer models. The Board had met frequently from July 2008 to January 2009. The Deputy Minister for Housing (Jocelyn Davies AM) visited the Council on 2nd October, 2008 to review progress under the terms of the agreement and confirmed that to accommodate the Council's meeting cycle, she would accept the final decision being taken at a meeting of the Council in January 2009 but which had subsequently been extended to this meeting date.

Due to the decision of the Review Board to explore partial retentions/transfer models, consultants were commissioned through a competitive process to evaluate the range of models. The models were based on retention of the sheltered housing stock and/or stock retention in localities where the Council had a significant property holding. Tribal Consulting were commissioned to complete this evaluation and report it to successive Board meetings in January. In the event that any partial retention/transfer options appeared viable, the Deputy Minister had agreed that a further three month extension would be allowed for a fully costed and viable business plan to be prepared and submitted in support of the preferred options. The report fully detailed the role and the work undertaken by the Local Strategic Housing Review Board which received reports on all aspects of its terms of reference. A summary of the Board's considerations including the examination of partial retention/transfer was attached as Appendix B to the report now submitted. The Chief Executive explained that the full reports considered by the Board were available as a set for reference and inspection. He further reported that the Board had been provided, over a series of meetings, with a written report on

each listed part of the original terms of reference. However, it had been accepted that the Board had had limited time to discuss the report in depth but that it had sufficient information for it to advise the Executive on the principle issues under the fourfold terms of reference. The report fully detailed those issues upon which the Board had received detailed advice. In the presentation, the Chief Executive referred to certain key aspects:-

- Overview of Governance/Landlord models for a prospective landlord.
- Overview of the issues and protecting the rights of tenants (e.g. affordable rent levels).
- Continuing improvement of the housing management and maintenance functions.
- Exploration of funding and transfer issues.
- Exceptional solution required for non traditional housing stock in Flint.
- High rise non traditional
- Maisonettes.
- Summary of proceedings and reports enclosed with Council papers.

The Council was informed that the conclusive advice of Tribal Consulting, as the independent advisers, and that of the statutory and senior officers of the Council was that none of the partial retention transfer models were viable within the national Housing Revenue Account capital financing system. The Chief Executive went onto explain the key points on the outcomes of partial models:-

- Seven variable partial retention/transfer models evaluated.
- Council obligation to develop fully costed and demonstrable business plan in support of any favoured partial model.
- Ballot of all tenants required for a partial model.
- Affordability of models and how calculated understood.
- None of the seven models proven to be affordable within the Housing Capital Financing System.
- Affordability gap was significant in all seven models.
- None of the seven models were affordable if part financed by prudential borrowing.
- Technicalities and risks of deploying prudential (unsupported) borrowing.

The Chief Executive indicated the housing stock transfer was a considerable undertaking and the process both up to ballot and beyond must comply with the Welsh Assembly Government's guidelines. There were considerable financial implications whether tenants voted in favour or against and a need for specialist advisers and a requirement to devote existing staff resources throughout the process. Expanding upon these points, the Chief Executive explained that the Board was advised to restrict its judgment to the viability of any of the partial retention/transfer models to the ability of the Council to fund such a model from within the national Housing Revenue Account capital financing system. Based on its advice, and the evidence provided, the Board had been recommended to conclude that none of the partial retention/transfer models were wholly viable within the Housing Capital financing system. It would be the judgment of full Council to receive advice of its statutory officers whether a partial retention/transfer model was viable through a combination of housing and general fund capital financing. The full advice note given to the Board at its final meeting was attached as Appendix C to the report now submitted. The Board subsequently concurred with this advice.

Subsequently the Executive, at a special meeting held on the 3rd February 2009, received the advice of the Board and agreed to recommend to Council that it should resolve to ballot tenants on a full transfer model and inform the Welsh Assembly Government accordingly.

In his report the Chief Executive fully detailed the work involved in the preparation of the ballot in complying with the Welsh Assembly Government guidelines. He indicated this was a considerable undertaking as was the management of the ballot itself. Appendix D to the report showed an indicative timescale of the key actions leading up to the ballot. A realistic expectation would appear to be 12 months.

The Council was informed that in the event of a 'yes' vote in favour of transfer a further six months would be required for the Council and the prospective registered social landlord to complete the transfer process. In the event of the 'no' vote, the housing stock and the management, maintenance and other duties of the landlord would remain with the Council. He explained that the immediate priority was to inform the Welsh Assembly Government, the tenants, the Trade Unions and employees of the Council decision. This should be followed by the appointment of specialist and independent advisers.

The Council was informed that to facilitate this process it would be necessary to establish a Council governance and decision making structure, with delegated authority to deal with the issues partially considered by the Local Strategic Housing Review Board and to recruit and appoint advisers. It was explained that such a structure would be needed to deal with the volume of work required to satisfy the Assembly Government's guidelines and receive key reports from officers and specialist consultants.

The report detailed the consultants which would be required to be appointed together with a brief summary of their role. In addition to the specialist advisers it would be necessary to appoint a project team from within Council resources. The Chief Executive indicated that there may be a need to

supplement the project team with external resources or to employ temporary employees to “back fill” internal secondments to ensure that existing services were maintained throughout the period leading up to the ballot. A fully developed communications strategy would need to be developed by the Council whereby the Welsh Assembly Government, tenants, Trade Unions and employees and other interested parties were properly advised. The Chief Executive in his presentation indicated that there were obligations on the Council at this meeting:-

- To receive and assess the advice and the recommendation of the Executive which were based on the work of the Board.
- To make a decision on the option noting that in the absence of any other viable option the Council had no option but to ballot on a full transfer model (default position).
- To follow Welsh Assembly guidelines.

He then went on to expand on key actions going forward and these included:-

- Welsh Assembly Government guidelines on process and neutrality for a 2010 ballot of all tenants on a full transfer model.
- Project financial costs.
- Project appointments: independent and internal appointments.
- Project governance and communications.

He also identified a number of key future issues and these were identified as follows:-

- Business and service continuity in the interim period pending the ballot.
- Respecting tenants choice.
- Council under no obligation to ‘deliver’ a vote in one direction or another.
- Implications of a transfer for the workforce (e.g. residual functions and TUPE transfer) the finances of the Council (e.g. pensions) and the corporate body (e.g. corporate services).
- Implications of a transfer on the Local Construction Supply Sectors.

He expanded upon each of these points during the presentation. The financial implications were fully detailed in the report.

Councillor P.G Heesom moved the recommendation contained within the report and was seconded by Councillor A. Woolley. In speaking to his proposal Councillor P.G Heesom spoke of the considerable importance of the tenants

ballot. He referred to the considerable work undertaken by the Housing Review Board. He also indicated whatever the outcome of the ballot that this Council would still be the residual housing authority and therefore actions in this respect would have to be considered at the appropriate time. Councillor Heesom also felt that it was important that Assembly Members were fully aware of all the circumstances. He commented upon the considerable stock value of Council housing and the inequality relating to the rights of housing associations compared to the Council in relation to the financial aspect of any transfer. Members shared his view that there should be no bias from the Council in advice given to tenants in relation to the ballot.

Councillor A.P Shotton as the Leader of the main opposition group concurred with the sentiments of the Chief Executive regarding the high level of discussion this item had generated in the Council. He reiterated the view that Members were aware of the unfairness of the process relating to the principle of stock transfer. Councillor Shotton also referred to discussions at a meeting held in September 2007 when he and others expressed a view that there would inevitably be a ballot at some stage. He stressed it was important to provide as much information as possible so that the tenants were properly advised. In making his comments, Councillor Shotton recognised the right of the Coalition Groups to pursue the option of a partial transfer. In the wider sense he felt that the Council had examined every possible option in some detail. It was now the opportunity for the tenants to exercise their democratic right to vote on the possibility of stock transfer and it was for the Council to ensure that they were properly informed.

Councillor K. Armstrong-Braun expressed his concern at the transfer of the stock and had enquired if all related land within the housing areas such as playgrounds, unused development land and recreational areas was also transferred as part of that process. He also expressed a view that if the stock was transferred that Councillors may not have the same opportunity to look after the tenants. He enquired about the situation in Anglesey whereby it appeared that the Council did not need to transfer the stock. Councillor K. Armstrong-Braun also enquired regarding the level of funding the Council would receive if the tenants opted not to transfer. He very much supported the tenants right to vote but felt that they would have less rights in the long term if they were transferred to a housing association. The Chief Executive clarified that all land held under the Housing Revenue Account would be transferred over. He also advised that Councillors could still act as advocates on behalf of tenants and that the situation in Anglesey was that a viable case for retention had been made. The Chief Executive also explained the circumstances relating to the funding and confirmed that the Council would not receive the same level as the Housing Associations. The Leader of the Council in seconding the motion advised he had nothing further to add as all the comments had been properly made.

Councillor S. Jones commented upon the difficulty of making such an important decision and shared views expressed by other Members as she was concerned that the housing associations would not deliver an appropriate level of service. However, she stressed it was essential for tenants to be made aware of all the key issues.

Councillor H.G Roberts was also concerned and expressed a personal view relating to the maintenance of the Council's housing stock. Councillor P.G Heesom duly summed up commenting again on the rights of tenants and that they were properly advised.

A recorded vote was requested and on being put to the Council the requisite 10 Members stood. On being put to the vote the recommendation was carried by 58 votes to nil with no abstentions. The voting being as follows:-

For the Recommendation:

Councillor Q.R.H Dodd, C. Legg, A. Aldridge, K. Armstrong-Braun, J.B Attridge, S.R Baker, D. Barratt, G.H Bateman, R.C Bithell, C.S Carver, Mrs J.C Cattermoul, E.G Cooke, D.L Cox, R. Davies, Mrs A.J Davies-Cooke, Mrs R. Dolphin, Mrs C.A Ellis, E.F. Evans, J.E Falshaw, Ms V. Gay, F. Gilmore, R.J.T Guest, Miss A.M Halford, R.G Hampson, G. Hardcastle, P.G Heesom, M. Higham, Mrs C. Hinds, H.T Howorth, R. Hughes, Mrs N. Humphreys, H.D Hutchinson, G. James, Mrs C.M Jones, Mrs N.M Jones, R.B Jones, Mrs S. Jones, R.P Macfarlane, D.I Mackie, Mrs D.L Mackie, Mrs N.M Matthews, D. Mcfarlane, W. Mullin, E.W Owen, M.J. Peers, N. Phillips, M.A, Reece, H.G Roberts, I.B Roberts, L.A Sharps, A.P Shotton, N.R Steele-Mortimer, Mrs C.A Thomas, W.O Thomas, D.E Wisinger, A. Woolley, M.G Wright and Ms H. Yale.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the work completed by the Local Strategic Housing Review Board according to its original and extended Terms of Reference and its concluding report to the Executive be noted.
- (2) That the recommendations of the Executive that none of the partial retention/transfer models evaluated is viable within the national Housing Revenue Account capital finance system, be accepted.
- (3) That in accordance with the agreement with the Welsh Assembly Government and the recommendation of the Executive that the decision to proceed to ballot its tenants on a full transfer model be agreed.
- (4) That the appropriate communications are organised with the Welsh Assembly Government, tenants, Trade Union, employees and other interested parties.
- (5) That an appropriate project governance and decision making structure is appointed to oversee the ballot process including a project board based on the Local Strategic Housing Board model.
- (6) That specialist consultants are appointed subject to the approval of a dedicated budget provision for this purpose.

102. PETITIONS

The Chairman received petitions submitted by:

Councillor Mrs C. Hinds.
Councillor S.R Baker
Councillor M. Reece

103. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2009/10

The joint report of the Head of Finance and Director of Community Services was presented by Director of Community Services with support from the Head of Finance. The purpose of the report was to determine the Housing Revenue Account for 2009/10 including rent and heating charges. The Council was informed that earlier in the day the Executive had met and had approved a recommendation for acceptance by Council. The Council was informed that the final proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget report for the 2009/10 financial year included proposed rent and heating charge increases, key areas of income expenditure and the level of balances of the year. A detailed report had been submitted with the papers for the Executive and Members had been asked to bring them to this meeting.

The Director of Community Services used PowerPoint to assist in the presentation of the report. In opening the presentation, the Director explained that all local authorities which managed their own stock must maintain a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and that all expenditure on the management and maintenance of the authority stock must be funded by this account. The Council was informed that the HRA could not contribute to or be funded by the General Fund and the Council could not legally budget for the closing balance to be a deficit at the year end. The Director of Community Services explained that the recommended practice was to budget for a minimum closing balance at year end of 3% of expenditure.

The Council was informed that this matter had been reported to the Executive on 27th January, 2009, subsequently to the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5th February, 2009 and again to the Executive earlier on the day of this meeting. The report detailed the proposed HRA budget for 2009/10 and identified the areas of income. The Welsh Assembly Government included for all social landlords (Councils and Housing Associations) to charge similar rents for similar properties in the near future. This was known as rent convergence. To this end the Welsh Assembly Government advised that all local authorities know what their annual rent increase should be and that this was known as "Guideline Rent Increase". The Council was informed that local authorities could decide their own increase but if they levied an increase below guideline level the Assembly Government would assume that they had levied the full increase and calculate subsidy accordingly assuming a level of income the authority would not be able to achieve.

The Director of Community Services further explained that if an increase over the guideline level was applied it may lead to a reduction of the Housing

Benefit Subsidy claimed by way of a Rent Rebate Subsidy Limitation deduction. That deduction must be charged to the HRA. If authorities were in negative subsidy the Welsh Assembly Government would require a greater return from that account. In the presentation, it was identified what the provisional increase that the Welsh Assembly Government had advised for rents. It was proposed that the increase was set at the guideline level however the final determination had yet to be received. The report detailed the average rent together with anticipated void rent loss together with charges for the proposed garage rent and communal heating system charges. The report expanded upon the following key areas:-

- Proposed rent increase.
- Expenditure.
- Housing subsidy.
- Building maintenance trading account.
- Estate management.
- Allocations and Welfare.
- Housing subsidy and major repairs allowance.
- Repairs and maintenance.
- Revenue supporting capital.
- Finance and support.
- Assumptions.
- Budget Pressures.
- Budget Savings.
- Balances.

Councillor P.G Heesom proposed and was seconded by Councillor A. Woolley the acceptance of recommendations contained within the report. Moving the report Councillor Heesom commented upon certain concerns relating to Corporate and Democratic Core costs and that ideally these funds should be directed to frontline service delivery. He suggested that this was basically a housekeeping budget and the Council had little option but to approve the rent increase because there was a statutory requirement for the Council to do so. Councillor A.P Shotton in speaking to the motion concurred with certain sentiments expressed by Councillor P.G Heesom particularly in relation to the unfairness of the subsidy procedures. He asked that the Council's representatives on the Welsh Local Government Association pass on Members concerns on this issue. He also referred to Corporate and Democratic Core Costs of £373,000 and felt that this should be used towards improving properties for the benefit of tenants. He felt that consideration should be given to it being met from the General Fund. Councillor J.B Attridge in supporting the views raised by Councillor Shotton on this point indicated that he had raised similar concerns at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and received support from Members. Although he had received some information on this it was not complete in his view. Councillor A.P Shotton subsequently proposed an amendment and was seconded by Councillor J.B Attridge that there should be a deferment of consideration of the HRA Budget to reconsider the treatment of corporate and democratic core costs. In responding, Councillor P.G Heesom reminded the Council of the statutory deadline in relation to determining this budget for rent levels to be determined. He gave an assurance that this matter

raised in the amendment would be subject to considerable investigation. This view was supported by Councillor A. Woolley. The Head of Finance reported upon the technicalities of the transfer of this fund and the statutory requirement to give the tenants one month's notice of a rent increase and so it was important that the HRA budget was agreed today. The Chief Executive supported the view of the Head of Finance and indicated that the issue would be examined. The Chairman put the motion for deferment to the Council and on being put to the vote it was lost.

The Head of Finance clarified points raised by Councillor K. Armstrong-Braun regarding the difference in rules between England and Wales. Councillor C.S Carver enquired why the Head of Housing was not present at the meeting in view of the item under discussion. The Director of Community Services responded that it was for the Director to present such reports and that in any case the Head of Housing had another commitment. Councillor S.R Baker sought clarification of the recommendation and it was confirmed that there was an additional section which had been presented in the Executive earlier in the day.

Councillor R.C Bithell was also concerned regarding the level of rent increase which he indicated was in excess of inflation. Arising from this point, the Head of Finance commented upon advice received from Pricewaterhouse Coopers relating to Corporate and Democratic Core Costs and that because of a change in regulations, the HRA was now to be charged, such costs which had previously been borne in full by the General Fund. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Council were waiting for the final rent level guidance from WAG.

Councillor I.B Roberts expressed his concern at the time properties were void and the subsequent loss of income which could have a significant bearing on the budget. He was also concerned about the charges for communal heating systems which he indicated were subject to regular breakdown and in this respect felt that communal charges should be reviewed. Councillor A.P Shotton proposed and was seconded by Councillor J.B Attridge that the £373,000 for corporate democratic costs remained in the general fund budget until such time as it could be clarified that it was previously chargeable to the Housing Revenue Account. This further amendment was put to the meeting and was lost.

With regard to the point raised by Councillor I.B Roberts on void properties, the Director of Community Services reported upon an action plan being developed following discussion with the Overview and Scrutiny to address this issue. Communal heating systems were currently being examined with a view to update.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the proposed HRA budget for 2009/10 be approved.
- (2) That the proposed 2009/10 rent levels be approved.

- (3) That level of projected balances at 31st March 2010 of 5.65% of total expenditure be approved.
- (4) That the actual Welsh Assembly Government guideline rent increase when notified by WAG to the final determinations, be agreed.

104. FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RULES

The Council considered the report of the Head of Finance, the purpose of which was to provide Members of the proposed updated Financial Procedure Rules, following the second annual review. The copy of the rules had been placed in Members Services room for Members to access as required. The report detailed the background to its preparation and the Council was informed that at its meeting held on 19th January 2009 the Audit Committee considered the proposed financial procedure rules and recommended they be submitted for acceptance to the Council at this meeting. Councillor I.B Roberts as Chair of the Audit Committee proposed the acceptance of the recommendation and was duly seconded.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed updated financial procedure rules be approved.

105. NOTICES OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion had been received from Councillors A.P Shotton, J.B Attridge, R.G Hampson, R.C Bithell, R.P Macfarlane and I.B Roberts.

1. Agendas & Reports

“That this Council resolves that until such a time as the Constitution Committee considers the matter of Members access to Committee agendas and reports, then the current despatch and distribution arrangements will remain in place. The status quo arrangements will remain until County Council considers any recommendations that may arise from the Constitution Committee”.

In speaking to the Motion Councillor A.P Shotton indicated that this had originally been intended to be considered at a scheduled meeting of the County Council on the 25th January 2009. However, this had been cancelled and in the circumstances with the passage of time to a certain extent the situation had been addressed. Following discussion with the Chief Executive agreement had been reached and nothing further would take place on this issue until it had been considered by the Constitution Committee. The Chief Executive confirmed that he had spoken privately to Councillor Shotton and felt that it was reasonable to defer the

implementation of the procedure until the matter had been properly addressed by the meeting of the Constitution Committee.

The Notice of Motion was therefore withdrawn.

The following Notice of Motion had been received from Councillors A.P Shotton, J.B Attridge, R.G Hampson, R.C Bithell, R.P Macfarlane and I.B Roberts.

2. Town Centre Regeneration

“It is resolved that this Council will bring forward detailed plans to invest in our Town Centres and therefore provide much needed regeneration. The Council will allocate the half a million environment improvement fund created by the previous Labour Council in order to improve and help regenerate our Town Centres”.

Councillor L.A Sharps as the Executive Member for Environment identified the schemes that had been undertaken from the expenditure referred to in the Motion. Councillor A.P Shotton in speaking to the Motion referred to the background for this funding and when it had been agreed by the previous administration. In view of the explanation received from the Executive Member, Councillor A.P Shotton withdrew the Motion.

The Notice was therefore withdrawn.

106. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 4.30pm.

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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: 17th FEBRUARY 2009
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
NO DECLARATIONS WERE MADE		