

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **22 JANUARY 2013** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4**

REPORT OF: **Head of Finance**

SUBJECT: **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2013/14 & CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013/14**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Members are asked to approve and recommend to Council :

- i. The proposed HRA for 2013/14 as set out in Appendix 1, incorporating the proposals in Appendix 2 and the Service Improvements and Efficiencies in Appendix 3
- ii. The level of rent for 2013/14 as set out in paragraph 3.01, subject to receipt of the final HRAS Item 8 determinations from Welsh Government
- iii. The proposed revised approach and timing for setting annual service charges as set out in paragraph 3.16
- iv. The level of projected balances at 31st March 2014 at 3.20% of total expenditure
- v. The proposed HRA Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 4
- vi. Write to Minister for Housing expressing the Council's wish that the rent convergence policy for tenants should be postponed again during 2013/14 due to the difficult economic circumstances

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: Consultation with all tenants over any rent increase must take place and must be at least 28 days before any rent increase is due to come into effect. Consultation with tenants on the draft budget and proposed rent increase will be undertaken at the tenants' conference on 15th January 2013. The Housing Scrutiny committee will consider the budget proposals at their meeting on 22nd January 2013.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: Early discussions on potential rent increases took place with tenants at the tenants conference on 15 January 2013.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: The Council has a statutory duty to review the income and expenditure of the HRA, and to set a budget for the forthcoming financial year which avoids a deficit closing balance position. This report sets out how this can be achieved for the Council in 2013/14. The key financial assumptions on which this is proposed are set out in Appendix 2. The proposed budget estimates a closing balance of 3.20% to total expenditure.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 23 January 2013

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **22 JANUARY 2013** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5**

REPORT OF: **Head of Finance, Chief Executive**

SUBJECT: **ADOPTION OF COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME -
APRIL 2013**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:

To note the making of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations (“the Prescribed Requirement Regulations”) by the Welsh Assembly on 19 December 2012

To note the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken by the Council on the introduction of the Council Tax Support Scheme

To welcome the written statement by the Minister for Local Government and Communities on 17th January 2013, which sets out the intention to increase the maximum level of support from the current 90 per cent to 100 per cent.

Cabinet to recommend the scheme as set out in Appendix 1 to full Council, subject to the inclusion of any change in prescribed limits set by Welsh Government and the consequential detail

Cabinet support the proposed Discretionary Elements as set out in Appendix 2 and recommend these to full Council.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: Yes.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:

The Welsh Government undertook consultation on Providing Support for Council Tax between February and April 2012. A technical consultation was carried out between 21 September and 19 October on the draft Default Scheme Regulations. No specific consultation has been carried out nationally on the Prescribed Requirement Regulations. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and was submitted to the Minister for Local Government and Communities for consideration alongside the draft regulations.

Local consultation has taken place between 17th December 2012 and 14th January 2013. A summary of the consultation results is contained at Appendix 3.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Council needs to manage the cost of Council Tax Support within its budget. The amount of government support is limited to £8,772,518 and is provided on a fixed basis rather than the demand-led basis of support to council tax benefit. The Council needs to recognise also that as well as receiving a reduced amount of government support, it is anticipated that there will be an increase in non-collection rates as a result of the increased burden on claimants.

The Council has a duty to recover all outstanding Council Tax balances so that debts owed to the Council are kept to a minimum. With this in mind, the recent introduction of a Corporate Debt Policy should help to minimise the impact of non collection. The policy will ensure fairness for all in that every debtor will have an obligation to repay their debt owed so that future services do not suffer.

Critically, the policy will also ensure the Council and partner organisations will treat all debtors fairly and, where possible we will promote free debt advice services.

Where appropriate, payment agreements will be put in place to assist debtors in adverse financial circumstances. Where a customer makes contact to discuss payment difficulties their circumstances will be considered fairly and objectively with a view to agreeing a reasonable payment arrangement, minimising recovery action and avoiding potential additional costs.

The decision to agree a repayment timetable will be influenced by the willingness of the customer to take advantage of the debt advice. Proportionate measures will be deployed to develop a culture of payment and early intervention while encouraging those in need of help to get in touch with the Council at an early stage.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 23 January 2013

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **22 JANUARY 2013** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6**

REPORT OF: **Director of Lifelong Learning**

SUBJECT: **CONSTRUCTION PROCUREMENT NORTH WALES:
PROCUREMENT STRATEGY**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: It is recommended that the project be approved to proceed to implementation stage to set up a framework for projects over £4.35m and improve current construction procurement practices below this level across the region.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: Stakeholder engagement remains key to delivering positive outcomes including value for money and community benefits.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: Stakeholder Engagement has been a key part of the project work so far. Key stakeholders in this process have been the construction industry, officers in all six North Wales authorities and Welsh Government (DfES, Value Wales, and Constructing Excellence Wales). A Prior Information Notice in the OJEU (Official Journal European Union) was published in October 2012 with a link to an online questionnaire that asked a series of questions to help inform the Procurement Strategy document. A contractor briefing event was also held on 12th November to feedback to the Construction industry the results from the questionnaire and to inform the industry about the process and drivers for the project and also answer and respond to key questions. Over 120 contractors attended the event and of the 49 feedback forms returned 98% stated

that the event was excellent or good. The feedback report can be seen in the appendices of the Procurement Strategy, which is available in the Members' Library.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

A key factor to the future success of the framework and maximising delivery on community, educational and economic benefits will be a properly resourced contract management team. It has been agreed that a report setting out the framework management will be discussed by Chief Executive Officers North Wales Forum Meeting in January 2013. This will be hosted by Denbighshire County Council, and will result in a cost of approximately £75k pa. Between the 6 authorities this is in the region of £13k per authority per annum for at least four years.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

23 January 2013

SIGNED

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **22 JANUARY 2013** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 7**

REPORT OF: **Chief Executive**

SUBJECT: **FLINTSHIRE FUTURES UPDATE**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That Cabinet note the level of Flintshire Futures efficiencies included in the current Medium Term Financial Plan which will be updated and reported in the final 2012/13 budget report.

That Cabinet note the Flintshire Futures governance arrangements and the Terms of Reference for the main Programme Board.

That Cabinet approve the capacity proposals agreed and recommended by the Board.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: None

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: None


FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Funding of the approved capacity bids can be fully met from the balance in the previous year's change budget brought forward and the allocation for change and improvement in the 2012/13 budget which was allocated following the 2011/12 outturn. A summary of the costs and efficiencies is attached at Appendix 2.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 23 January 2013

SIGNED

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **22 JANUARY 2013** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8**

REPORT OF: **Chief Executive**

SUBJECT: **FLINTSHIRE COMMUNITY COVENANT**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Cabinet Members are requested to recommend :

- I. the adoption of a Community Covenant for Flintshire; the draft is appended which includes comments already received from various Members and Cabinet Members are invited to finalise the Covenant for recommendation to County Council on the 29th January;
- II. recommend the signatories as proposed; and
- III. recommend the launch of the Community Covenant
- IV. responsibility for the Community Covenant and Armed Forces issues to sit within the portfolio of the Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the Report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: As outlined within the report and Community Covenant with partner agencies.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: None.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None directly associated with this report. However, once a Community Covenant is signed and implemented; access to various funding streams is increased.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 23 January 2013

SIGNED

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **22 JANUARY 2013** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 9**

REPORT OF: **Director of Community Services**

SUBJECT: **GYPSY AND TRAVELLERS NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Cabinet receives the findings of the GTAA and endorses the approach to develop a Gypsy – Traveller Strategy for Flintshire.

The Cabinet expects that all other counties in the region consider fully the outcomes of the GTAA and contribute towards a regional strategy to meet need.

The Council clarify with Welsh Government its expectations over a regional approach and the resource availability to meet it, with all Councils meeting their localised needs as identified.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: Consultation with the Gypsy-Traveller community was carried out prior to the commencement of the GTAA. No further consultation has been carried out since the completion of the study. It is however intended that full consultation with the Gypsy-Traveller and settled communities will be undertaken as part of developing Flintshire's emerging Gypsy-Traveller strategy.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: Representatives of the Gypsy-Traveller community were involved in the selection of the consultants used to carry out the interviews. Across the study area a total of 93 responses were received from adult

Gypsies and Travellers and a further 43 from a survey of young Gypsies and Travellers.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The GTAA indicates growth for additional caravan pitches. Should the Council decide to expand its current provision the potential cost has not yet been fully quantified. However Welsh Government grant assistance can be applied for to assist in meeting these costs.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

23 January 2013

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **22 JANUARY 2013** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 10**

REPORT OF: **Director of Community Services**

SUBJECT: **NATIONAL PENSIONERS CONVENTION DIGNITY
CODE**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That Cabinet formally adopt the National Pensioners Convention Dignity Code as further evidence of the Council's commitment to pensioners.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: None arising from this report


CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: None arising from this report

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None arising from this report

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 23 January 2013

SIGNED  **(Proper Officer)**

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **22 JANUARY 2013** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 11**

REPORT OF: **Head of Finance**

SUBJECT: **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2012/13 (MONTH 7)**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Members are recommended to :-

- a) Note the overall report and the management actions being taken to address the projected overspend
- b) Note the Council Fund contingency sum as at 31st March 2013 (paragraph 5.02)
- c) Approve the carry forward requests included in the report (paragraphs 3.06 to 3.09)
- d) Note the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account (paragraph 6.03)

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: None

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: The financial implications are as set out in Sections 3.00 - 6.00 of the report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 23 January 2013

SIGNED

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **22 JANUARY 2013** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 12**

REPORT OF: **Director of Lifelong Learning**

SUBJECT: **PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF SHOTTON
INFANTS AND TALIESIN JUNIOR SCHOOLS**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That members note the outcome of the consultations and approve the publication of the statutory notice in the local press and at the affected schools

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: No further consultations are required, but a statutory period of notice and the opportunity to lodge formal (written) objections will be given in accordance with the legal requirements.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: All consultations that are required with relevant groups have been carried out

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: The proposed new school building is to be funded by a combination of grant funding from the Welsh Government – Tranche three of the School Buildings Improvement Grant (SBIG) (70%) and Flintshire County Council (30%)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 23 January 2013

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **22 JANUARY 2013** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 14**

REPORT OF: **Director of Environment**

SUBJECT: **FLINTSHIRE BUSINESS WEEK**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Members are asked to note the content of the report

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: None

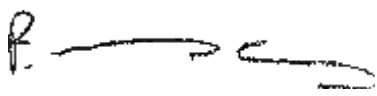
CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: All costs for FBW12 are fully covered by sponsorship

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 23 January 2013

SIGNED  **(Proper Officer)**

RECORD NO.

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 22 JANUARY 2013 AGENDA ITEM NO. 15

REPORT OF: Member Engagement Manager

SUBJECT: RESPONSE FROM ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO THE CALL IN OF A
CABINET DECISION

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That the Cabinet has regard to the above in further considering the proposed policy on Civil Parking enforcement

DECISION: That the comments from the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee be considered and incorporated into the scheduled report in February 2013.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: None.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: None.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None arising directly from this report

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 23 January 2013

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

