

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **16 FEBRUARY 2016** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4**

REPORT OF: **Chief Executive**

SUBJECT: **COUNCIL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:

- (1) To consider the remaining options for closing Stage Two of the annual budget process; and
- (2) To recommend to Council a final balanced budget based on a combination of the previously adopted Stage one budget proposals and the closing Stage Two options from within the report.

DECISION:

- (1) That Council is recommended to approve a balanced budget for 2016/17 based on a combination of the previously adopted Stage One proposals and the new Stage Two of £3.571m as set out within Table 1 of the Council report; and
- (2) That Council calls on Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to allocate a proportion of the additional Intermediate Care Fund monies granted by Welsh Government to assist the Council, in its capacity as a commissioner of care, in meeting the increasing provider costs within the local residential and nursing and specialist provider independent care sector to both sustain the provider market and protect the secondary and acute health sector from increased demand.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:**

As within the substantive Stage One budget report which is attached to the report.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

As within the substantive Stage One budget report which is attached to the report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

17 February 2016

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **16 FEBRUARY 2016** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Organisational Change)**

SUBJECT: **COUNCIL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17**
AND INDICATIVE PROGRAMME TO 2019/20

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Cabinet is invited to recommend to Council on 16 February 2016:

- Approval of the allocations in Table 2 (paragraph 1.07) for Statutory/Regulatory and Retained Assets sections of the Council Fund Capital Programme 2016/17 – 2019/20
- Approval of the schemes included in Table 3 (paragraph 1.11) for the Investment section of the Council Fund Capital Programme 2016/17 – 2019/20
- Continued support for the existing process of allocating capital receipts to fund capital schemes generally only when the receipts have been actually received

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT: Consultation is required with all Members via Overview and Scrutiny. The initial proposals were taken to Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 December, 2015 with no specific comments or issues being highlighted.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: Implications for assets and financial implications as set out within the report. Other resource implications include officer time in developing the capital programme which is not considered to be a significant

change from previous years.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **16 FEBRUARY 2016** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Organisational Change)**

SUBJECT: **CAPITAL STRATEGY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT
PLAN 2016 - 2020**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Members approve the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan 2016 – 2020 so that it can be adopted as the principal document for managing the Council’s Capital property and Land resource assets.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** None required. Consultations undertaken include the Assets Programme Board and the Chief Officer Team, both supported the proposals and principles.

The strategy and covering report was shared with Corporate Resource Overview and Scrutiny Committee for comment, observations and general support.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: Implications for assets and financial implications as set out within the report. Other resource implications include Officer time in delivering the Strategy and associated capital programme which is not considered to be a significant change.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 17 February 2016

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(Proper Officer)

An Overview and Scrutiny meeting was held on 15 January when the Committee fully endorsed the proposals in the report.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The HRA is a ring fenced budget. This HRA budget and business plan demonstrates that the Council can achieve the WHQS by 2020, can meet service improvement plans and commitments and with prudential borrowing can commence a council house building programme in 2016.

Additional staff will be required to deliver an accelerated WHQS programme. The funding for these posts is provided for in the WHQS programme.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **16 FEBRUARY 2016** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 10**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Education and Youth)**

SUBJECT: **SCHOOL ORGANISATION - YSGOL MORNANT**
GWESPYR PICTON

- RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**
- (1) Cabinet is requested to consider the responses from the statutory consultation period for Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr Picton;
 - (2) Cabinet is requested to consider comments from the Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the evidence and analysis provided by officers within the report; and
 - (3) Cabinet is requested to determine the next steps for Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr Picton.

- DECISION:**
- (1) That Cabinet support the commitment from the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Maes Garmon and Ysgol Mornant to develop and consult on a federation proposal;
 - (2) That Cabinet authorises support for the schools in planning consultation, decision making and implementation of a federation proposal (with existing officers advising); and
 - (3) That Cabinet authorises officers to work with other local schools and community partners on how they can support the sustainability and resilience of Ysgol Mornant

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:**

If the Cabinet decision is to proceed, the Council will publish a Statutory notice providing a 28 day notice period for objections. If objections are received, the Council must publish an objection report providing a summary of the objections and their responses to them within 28 days of the end of the objection period.

At the County Council meeting on 26 January 2016 Councillor Glyn Banks handed in a petition opposing closure of Ysgol Mornant.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There is sufficient team capacity to prepare the detailed transition plans for students.

Should the current proposals be implemented, the Council will work with the current members of staff at Ysgol Mornant, including teaching and support staff, should they seek redeployment opportunities. Staff displaced by the proposal may have the opportunity to be employed in the local primary network.

The estimated net annual saving that could be achieved if the proposal to close Ysgol Mornant goes ahead is as follows:

Saving / Costs	Amount
Formula Funding Saving	£110,896
Transport Costs	£26,600 (current transport costs of £34,200) Transport saving of £7,600
Catering Saving	£6,000
Net Saving	£124,496
Backlog Maintenance Saving	£19,402 (over a 5 year cycle)

Actual transport costs can only be established once all families have chosen their preferred school.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillors: Bithell, Brown, Butler, Christine Jones, Kevin Jones and Shotton.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

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(Proper Officer)

The key resource implication beyond implementation and training costs is the cost which the Act has in part been developed to manage and that it the rising costs of need, which cannot easily be met with finite state funds. It is important that we embrace this financial reality and newly renew our focus on how the Act will support the positive development of new more sustainable ways of providing services and better enabling citizens and communities to help themselves, with professionals as enablers and partners.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 17 February 2016

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 16 FEBRUARY 2016 AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

REPORT OF: Member Engagement Manager

SUBJECT: REPORT BACK FROM THE ENVIRONMENT
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY'S CONSIDERATION OF
THE HOPE HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE
CALL IN

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That Cabinet notes that the resolution of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee that it was satisfied with the explanations given (option one) and that the decision regarding Hope HRC could be implemented immediately.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS Not applicable.

REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: None arising directly from this report back.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 17 February 2016

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **16 FEBRUARY 2016** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 15**

REPORT OF: **Corporate Finance Manager**

SUBJECT: **MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION - 2016/17 POLICY**

- RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**
- (1) That Members approve and recommend to the County Council on 16 February 2016 for Council fund (CF):-
 - Option 1 (Regulatory Method) be used for the calculation of the MRP in 2016/17 for all capital expenditure funded from supported borrowing; this represents a continuation of the approved and adopted policy for 2015/16.
 - Option 3 (Asset Life Method) be used for the calculation of the MRP in 2016/17 for all capital expenditure funded from unsupported (prudential) borrowing or credit arrangements; this represents a continuation of the approved and adopted policy for 2015/16; and

 - (2) That Members approve and recommend to County Council on 16 February 2016 for Housing Revenue Account (HRA):-
 - Option 2 (Capital Financing Requirement Method) be used for the calculation of the HRA's MRP in 2016/17 for all capital expenditure funded by debt; this represents a continuation of the approved and adopted policy for 2015/16.

DECISION:

As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION:

As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

No consultation is required or carried out.

The 2016/17 budgets provide for the MRP as follows:

- Council Fund capital expenditure funded by supported borrowing on the basis of Option 1 – Regulatory Method calculation
- Council Fund capital expenditure funded by unsupported (prudential) borrowing or credit arrangements on the basis of Option 3 – Asset Life Method calculation
- HRA capital expenditure funded by debt, on the basis of Option 2 – Capital Financing Requirement Method calculation

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.


DISPENSATIONS

None.

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **16 FEBRUARY 2016** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 16**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise)**

SUBJECT: **FLINTSHIRE APPRENTICESHIP ACADEMY**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Cabinet is asked to agree that the Council enters into a service level agreement with Future Works, a community interest company, who will employ and provide apprentices in Flintshire, branded as Future Works Flintshire, for an initial period of five years commencing in March 2016.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** Trade Unions are supportive of the scheme and plans to implement it.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: Cabinet has already agreed that a Project Manager would be appointed for the programme. Further analysis has identified that a preferred role would be for a "Placement Co-ordinator". This would be at a salary which is lower than a Project Manager leaving sufficient budget to also appoint an apprentice to support delivery and management of the scheme.

Communities First may also be able to support the costs of the placement co-ordinator providing a more effective use of resources.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

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to charge a premium would not be incorporated into the Tax Base for the calculation of Revenue Support Grant.

The introduction of a council tax premium might also require a review of staffing levels in the Revenues service in 2017-18 to administer and collect the council tax premium, safeguarding collection levels. This can be achieved using existing HR policies and re-deployment opportunities from within the existing workforce.

To address the housing shortage in Flintshire and address the budget gap in 2017-18 as a result of reducing levels of central government grants, the efficiency proposals in the Community and Enterprise portfolio have made an assumption of the introduction of a premium and potential income of circa £0.50m.

Taking into account the 12 month lead-in time before a premium can be charged, coupled with external economic factors and the way in which owners of empty property might respond to these changes, it is difficult to accurately predict the level of income that the premium might bring or indeed the impact of these changes on housing availability.

In addition to this, local authority Taxation Practitioners across Wales are still in the process of understanding the more complex details of these new Regulations, especially with the way in which the exceptions will work from 2017-18.

In view of this, at the time of drafting the report, it is very difficult to accurately estimate the net number of properties that might be liable for the premium from April 2017, especially those that might qualify as an exception from the premium.

Early indications across the region though are that most Council will opt to introduce a 50% premium in the first year of

implementation with the aim of reviewing the level of premium from 2018-19, having full regard to the impact of housing availability.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor Butler.


DISPENSATIONS

None.

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(Proper Officer)

Charities, Voluntary and 'Not for Profit'
organisations.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillors Brown, Bithell and Butler.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

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(Proper Officer)

concern as it may result in the authority incurring additional expenditure in the delivery of crisis intervention services and in the fulfilment of its social care and homelessness statutory duties.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

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Consultation with bus operators.

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2016 who recommended to Cabinet that the core routes were approved and that the routes detailed in appendix 3 to the report should cease.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The changes to subsidised bus services will deliver the three year financial savings identified in the Portfolio Business Planning proposals.

Savings achieved in Year 1 (2015/16) - £50k

Savings achieved in Year 2 (2016/17) - £250k

Savings achieved in Year 3 (2017/18) - £350k

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

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out those on higher and lower grades).

Phase 2 will enable further savings to be made and these will be costed out. At present there is over capacity in some admin teams and vacancies in others. A business case will be prepared with the scope for Phase 2 is finalised.

There are internal project management costs of £5,000 which can be recouped from the savings generated in 2016/17.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **16 FEBRUARY 2016** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 23**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Social Services)**

SUBJECT: **CHILDREN'S SERVICES RESTRUCTURE**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Cabinet endorse the new Children's Services operating structure.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** Comprehensive consultation has been undertaken with staff. This includes a service event where staff had the opportunity to work in groups to inform the principles of the structure and the proposed operating structure. A formal staff consultation process then followed. In summary the structural changes are supported by staff and a small number of specific issues/concerns raised can be managed within the proposals.

Consultation has taken place with the Leader, Cabinet Members, the Chief Executive Officer, Unison and Unite.

A report on progress in responding to the CSSIW recommendations from their inspection of Children's Services will be presented to the Social and Health Care Overview and Scrutiny committee on 3 March 2016. The report will provide information about progress in responding to CSSIW's recommendation to progress the review of Children's Services structure.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: The proposed structure has been designed to be delivered within the profiled staffing budget for the service.

This budget profile incorporates agreed efficiencies of £132k for the service in 2016/17. Recruitment to posts within the proposed structure can be made without compulsory redundancies. The £132k will largely be made up of management posts.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 17 February 2016

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(Proper Officer)

