

ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
8 DECEMBER 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 8th December, 2015

PRESENT: Councillor David Roney (Chairman)

Councillors: Clive Carver, Chris Dolphin, Ian Dunbar, Andy Dunbobbin, Robin Guest, Dave Mackie, Mike Reece, Paul Shotton, Carolyn Thomas and Nigel Steele-Mortimer

APOLOGIES: Councillor Ron Hampson

SUBSTITUTIONS: Councillor: Richard Jones (for Brian Dunn) and David Wisinger (for Glenys Diskin)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Christine Jones

CONTRIBUTORS: Councillor Aaron Shotton, Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Bernie Attridge, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Chris Bithell, Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Kevin Jones, Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure, Councillor Billy Mullin, Cabinet Member for Corporate Management, Chief Officer (Organisational Change (1)) Chief Officer (Organisational Change (2)), Corporate Finance Manager and Principal Librarian

IN ATTENDANCE: Member Engagement Manager and Scrutiny Support Officer

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

No declarations of interest were made.

36. COUNCIL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2016/2017

The Chairman welcomed the contributors to the meeting.

The Chief Officer (Organisational Change (1)) and Chief Officer (Organisational Change (2)) gave a detailed presentation which covered the following areas:-

- Purpose of today's meeting
- Corporate overview
- Service business plan proposals
- National timetable
- Local timetable

The comments and questions which were raised by Members of the Committee on the presentations, together with the responses given, are detailed in Appendix 1 (attached).

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

37. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

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

(The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 11.43 am)

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Chairman

2016/17 Budget Consultation.**Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 8th December 2015**

Member Comment/Question	Response
Clarification is needed: is the reduction 50% over five years or a 105 reduction in each of five years, which would amount to around 59%?	The intention is to make a 50% reduction on the current budget over a period of five years. This is greater than the corporate challenge to portfolios to make a 30% reduction.
Could we be assured that the work to replace the current libraries at Hawarden, Mancot and Queensferry with the new Deeside Leisure Centre facility will not be at the expense of the library within the Connah's Quay Connects Office.	The Connah's Quay facility is one of the hub libraries identified within the Council's Libraries strategy (the others are Mold, Deeside, Flint, Buckley and Holywell)
The papers for this meeting contain nothing new, but new information has been provided within the presentation	All of the information provided today has been provided previously, at the workshops or in committee meetings. Additional information can be provided to assist Members' understanding of the issues.
The cost reduction at Connah's quay swimming pool through reducing opening hours and lifeguard cover is a cause for concern	In the new arrangements, the pool will be open to the public for a reduced number of hours. The 'club users' such as Nofio Clwyd will be providing their own lifeguards. Flintshire will only supply lifeguards for public and school sessions. We can provide further details of the cost reductions in the 'mop up' session on 18 th December.
Will the mobile and housebound library services be continued?	Yes the services will be continued. The current vehicle will be replaced and routes are being examined to be more effective
There is nowhere to park the mobile library in Hawarden	

Could libraries be provided digitally	The libraries are already part of a network of provision, which includes online services.
There is £105K still available for play area match funding, and community and town councils have been written to. We need more details	These can be provided and a meeting with Community and town council Chairs and clerks could be offered. It was confirmed that any money which was not spent would be available to the Cabinet for redistribution.
Savings on leisure facilities: how do you work out the £544k?	We are not looking at arbitrary targets, we are looking at alternative models: not like Plas Madoc. For each project, the savings will be within a range which can provide assurance.
Could we have clarification as to the statutory nature of the library service?	The provision of a 'complete and effective' library service is statutory. The Welsh Public Library Standards are a performance/quality measure. It is understood that the Welsh Government are now revising the standards as local authorities are rationalising their library provision in the face of budget constraints. The Library standards have previously been reported to Lifelong learning O&SC. It was suggested that they could be reported on to the OC O&SC.
Reference has been made to town and community council sharing provision with adjoining authorities. The problems encountered with supporting the theatre following local government reorganisation should be borne in mind.	
We need to have a breakdown of all the figures provided, such as the £544k for CAT	More detailed figures will be provided.
We have been provided with new information today	Members had been told earlier on that there was no new information at the meeting
There is nothing new at all at this meeting. We have been over all of this before.	
Detailed information on CAT is being withheld because of commercial interests	Information has been provided to the committee as a part 2 item at a previous

	meeting. The information provided today relates to the 2016/17 budget. Other projects will be reported to the committee as they ready
What is our strategy for our empty buildings? What will happen to Holywell library when that service moves into the Leisure Centre?	We have some interest in the library building. If alternative uses for redundant buildings can't be found, we will demolish them.
What does 'structural change' mean for campus management?	A reorganisation of roles and responsibilities will mean that we need fewer staff.
How will school meal numbers be increased?	There are indications that we could increase take up to 43% through a higher level of engagement with parents.
CCTV Screen monitoring	We are reviewing staffing level and usage.
Comment on property maintenance	We can be more circumspect. Being in the upper quartile for this costs money. We could be mid-range, and there will be fewer properties to maintain
More detail on debt recovery within school meals – how is this enforced?	Some parents do not pay for school meals unless chased. Collection is through schools.
On CAT, FLVC are not acknowledging or responding to correspondence	FLVC are acting as our agents for CAT. If they are not responding, we need to know so that we can pursue this.