

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

1 MARCH 2017

Minutes of the meeting of Flintshire County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Mold on Wednesday, 1 March 2017

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Curtis (Chairman)

Councillors: Bernie Attridge, Glyn Banks, Haydn Bateman, Marion Bateman, Chris Bithell, Helen Brown, Derek Butler, David Cox, Paul Cunningham, Ron Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke, Alan Diskin, Glenys Diskin, Rosetta Dolphin, Ian Dunbar, Andy Dunbobbin, Brian Dunn, Carol Ellis, David Evans, Veronica Gay, Ron Hampson, George Hardcastle, Cindy Hinds, Ray Hughes, Dennis Hutchinson, Joe Johnson, Christine Jones, Richard Jones, Colin Legg, Brian Lloyd, Richard Lloyd, Mike Lowe, Dave Mackie, Nancy Matthews, Hilary McGuill, Sara Parker, Mike Peers, Vicky Perfect, Neville Phillips, Mike Reece, Gareth Roberts, Ian Roberts, David Roney, Tony Sharps, Aaron Shotton, Paul Shotton, Ian Smith, Nigel Steele-Mortimer, Owen Thomas, David Wisinger and Arnold Woolley

APOLOGIES: Councillors: Alex Aldridge, Clive Carver, Chris Dolphin, Robin Guest, Alison Halford, David Healey, Hilary Isherwood, Rita Johnson, Phil Lightfoot, Ann Minshull, Billy Mullin, Carolyn Thomas, David Williams, Sharon Williams and Matt Wright

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive; Chief Officer (Governance); Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise); Chief Officer (Planning & Environment); Chief Officer (Organisational Change); Corporate Finance Manager; Senior Manager, Human Resources & Organisational Development; Revenues Manager; Clwyd Pension Fund Manager; Democratic Services Manager; Team Manager - Committee Services and Committee Officer

88. PRESENTATIONS

The Chairman welcomed Melville Evans, Denise Naylor, Darren Brimble and Ian Edwards (Council employees), together with Michael Cunningham (Wates Residential) and congratulated them on the recognition of Custom House Court in the 'New Development' category of the Chartered Institute of Housing Welsh Housing Awards. This was the first development from the Council's ambitious Strategic Housing and Regeneration Partnership (SHARP) programme to build 500 council and affordable homes in five years across the county, using the Council-approved Flintshire Housing Standard comprising a high quality design and layout specification.

Councillor Aaron Shotton thanked all those involved from teams across the Council and the appointed partner, Wates Residential, with whom there was an excellent relationship. He had been proud to attend the Housing Awards ceremony where Flintshire was the only local authority new build to be recognised in the awards and said that this project was the start of the significant SHARP programme to regenerate communities across Flintshire.

Councillor Helen Brown extended her thanks to the team of officers and Tenant Federation representatives for their work on the Flintshire Housing Standard, and Councillor Paul Shotton welcomed the new use of the site from that of the former school.

As local Member, Councillor Brian Dunn said that positive feedback had been given by new tenants living in the new scheme and he praised the level of consultation throughout the process.

89. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Following advice given by the Chief Officer (Governance), the following declarations were made:

Agenda item 11 'Trade Union (Wales) Bill' - a personal interest was declared by Councillors Bernie Attridge, Peter Curtis, Derek Butler, Mike Lowe, Mike Reece, Ian Roberts, Aaron Shotton and Ian Smith as members of various Trade Unions. The Chief Executive and Chief Officer (Governance) also declared a personal interest.

Agenda item 15 'Pooling of Pensions Investments in Wales' - a personal interest was recorded for Councillors Chris Bithell, Paul Cunningham, Peter Curtis, Cindy Hinds, Nancy Matthews, Ian Roberts and Ian Smith.

On agenda item 8 (iii) 'Notice of Motion' submitted by Councillor Helen Brown, Councillor Dennis Hutchinson declared a personal and prejudicial interest as the owner of a mini-coach operation providing school transport in the county.

90. PETITIONS

None were received.

91. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None were received.

92. QUESTIONS

None were received.

93. QUESTIONS ON COMMITTEE MINUTES

None were received.

94. NOTICE OF MOTION

(1) Notice of Motion received from Councillor Andy Dunbobbin

'Making the next Census count for our Armed Forces community. Draft Motion in support of '*Count Them In*'. This council notes:

- (i) The obligations it owes to the Armed Forces community within Flintshire County Council as enshrined in the Armed Forces Covenant; that the Armed Forces community should not face disadvantage in the provision of services and that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most.
- (ii) The absence of definitive and comprehensive statistics on the size or demographics of the Armed Forces community within Flintshire County Council. This includes serving Regular and Reserve personnel, veterans, and their families.
- (iii) That the availability of such data would greatly assist the Council, local partner agencies, the voluntary sector, and national Government in the planning and provision of services to address the unique needs of the Armed Forces community within Flintshire County Council.

In light of the above, this Council moves to support and promote The Royal British Legion's call to include a new topic in the 2021 Census that concerns military service and membership of the Armed Forces community. We further call upon the UK Parliament, which will approve the final Census questionnaire through legislation in 2019, to ensure that the 2021 Census includes questions concerning our Armed Forces community.'

This was seconded by Councillor Bernie Attridge.

The importance of the Motion was acknowledged by Councillor Aaron Shotton who spoke about the Council's established support for the Armed Forces community through the Covenant and the annual Armed Forces Day event. The highest proportion of Armed Forces veterans in North Wales resided in Flintshire and the approach set out in the 'Count Me In' national campaign would help to provide accurate data on other members of the Armed Forces communities who could benefit from the work of the Covenant. Councillor Shotton acknowledged that the sharing of information in the Census was subject to personal choice and went on to refer to national discussions on the need to identify Armed Forces communities to enable targeted support.

Councillor Hilary McGuill agreed with the need for accurate data recording to target support for those in the military and for those leaving service. However, she currently had reservations if the identification and locations of such individuals on the Census were mandatory due to concerns about the security of this information. She stated her intention to abstain from the vote unless it was clarified that responses to the Census were optional.

Speaking in support of the Motion, Councillor Nigel Steele-Mortimer paid tribute to the work of the Royal British Legion. Councillor David Evans spoke about the range support available to individuals leaving the Armed Forces, suggesting that a future item on this could be useful.

The Chairman felt that culture change was the most significant challenge in leaving the Armed Forces, particularly for those leaving long-term service. He indicated his support for the Motion and the Council's initiatives in supporting Armed Forces personnel and their families.

On being put to the vote, the Notice of Motion was carried.

(2) Notice of Motion received from Councillor David Roney

‘In recognising the fantastic Council house building programme where Flintshire County Council will be building 200 homes over 5 years, I ask that this Council installs solar panels to all of the houses currently being constructed and all future constructions to make these homes even better, and set an example to the building trade. I also ask that this Council request the present and future Westminster Governments to increase the feed-in tariff to encourage more use of this clean and renewable source of energy.’

In support of this, Councillor Roney referred to a lack of progress on renewable energy highlighted at ministerial level. He said that the initial costs in installing solar panels to new homes would provide clean energy and would pay for themselves over time.

As Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Helen Brown said that the benefits of renewable energy had long been recognised by the Council, as demonstrated by significant investment in a range of initiatives. The approach adopted by the Council in prioritising solar panel installation in rural areas and bungalows was to achieve optimum benefits and had generated significant revenue to invest in additional schemes as well as providing savings to tenants. Future domestic energy programmes would be dependent on Welsh Government funding. The Flintshire Housing Standard for new build homes had been developed with key partners with a specific focus on quality of design, whole lifetime use and minimising energy usage and CO2 emissions. The cost of installing solar panels at each of the 200 new Council homes within the programme would create an additional cost pressure of £0.5m.

Councillor Aaron Shotton supported the Motion and proposed a minor amendment to the second sentence to read ‘I ask that this Council calls upon Cabinet to install solar panels...’ to reflect that this was a Cabinet decision. A commitment had been made to review the Flintshire Housing Standard to identify further improvements as the programme proceeded, and it was therefore timely for Cabinet to receive a report to evaluate progress to date and consider the potential for solar panels on future new build developments. This was seconded by Councillor Attridge.

Councillor Roney indicated his agreement with this amendment.

Councillor Owen Thomas said that not all tenants were receiving the benefits from their solar panels. The Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise) offered to share information and explained that solar panels offered environmental benefits as well as fuel cost savings to tenants, particularly those who were at home for longer periods during the day. On the latter, evidence across Wales indicated that many residents with solar panels were opting to keep their heating on for longer periods which meant that they did not achieve the full cost saving. However, it was difficult to compare cost benefits due to fluctuating fuel prices and the Council may need to do more work with tenants on understanding this.

Councillor Mike Peers sought clarification on whether the full Motion was subject to Cabinet decisions. He had concerns that the suggested revised wording could be viewed as an obligation set by the Council and proposed a different amendment for the second sentence to read 'I ask that this Cabinet considers installing solar panels...' to take into consideration all elements including the Flintshire Housing Standard, installation costs, payback period and feed-in tariff.

When asked, Councillor Aaron Shotton repeated his amendment which would enable Cabinet to receive and consider a report on changes to the Flintshire Housing Standard. Councillor Peers suggested that this would be more clearly reflected with the inclusion of the wording 'Cabinet considers'.

In response, the Chief Officer (Governance) suggested as appropriate wording 'I ask that this Council calls upon Cabinet to consider installing solar panels...' to incorporate the points raised and the intent of the Motion.

Councillor Roney did not accept this revised wording as he felt it detracted from his Motion. He indicated his agreement with the amendment put forward by Councillor Aaron Shotton.

Councillor Peers moved the Chief Officer's suggested wording as an amendment and this was seconded by Councillor Gareth Roberts.

In support of the amendment moved by Councillor Peers, Councillor Richard Jones stressed the importance of considering all the issues involved to ensure the right outcomes from solar panels. For similar reasons, Councillor Glyn Banks also supported the amendment citing the positioning of properties as a key factor.

In speaking to the same amendment, Councillor Aaron Shotton agreed with the principles of the Motion which added to the Council's extensive record on energy projects. He explained the intention of his own amendment to enable a Cabinet full review of the matter and advised that the second part of the Motion was a decision of the Council.

It was confirmed by the Chief Officer (Governance) that the installation of solar panels on new homes was a Cabinet decision and that a balanced report would be considered taking into account all factors.

Councillor Derek Butler supported the principle of the Motion which would be given full consideration by Cabinet. Councillor Nancy Matthews said that Councillor Banks' comment on the aspect of new housing should form part of the Motion.

On being put to the vote, the amendment put forward by Councillor Peers was carried and became the substantive Motion.

Prior to the start of the next item, Councillor Dennis Hutchinson left the room and returned following the debate.

(3) Notice of Motion received from Councillor Helen Brown

'We Flintshire County Council call upon the National Assembly for Wales and Parliament to ensure legislation is put in place to ensure every child's safety is put first when travelling to and from school.

We want peace of mind that our children are safe when travelling to and from school. We want designated school buses with appropriate funding so that entitled children can travel safely to and from school, each with a seat belt, with no child forced to travel on overcrowded public buses. Children's safety must come first.

Our children have the right to feel safe. Public buses can become overcrowded and children do not always feel safe. Public buses are for public use not for dedicated school use. Local Councils cannot currently run appropriate safe dedicated services for children along commercially operated public bus routes.

We ask for this Council to work with both Governments to bring about the necessary changes to the current legislation and provision.'

In providing background information, Councillor Brown paid tribute to the bravery of Lynne Chick for her safety campaign in memory of her daughter Louise Oldfield who had died in a bus accident. She urged Members' support in seeking a change in legislation and provision of funding for designated school buses, commenting that discussions were being held on commercial bus drivers being subject to the same checks as operators contracted by local authorities. The Motion was duly seconded.

As Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Bernie Attridge welcomed the opportunity to address anomalies in the current statutory position on school transport and to seek consistency on checks, training and expectations on safeguarding issues which already applied to registered taxi drivers. In supporting the Motion, he acknowledged the objectives of the campaign led by Lynne Chick in prioritising the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

Councillor Owen Thomas supported the Motion which he felt should also incorporate safe routes to school and the safety of bus drivers. Councillor Attridge said that these were separate issues and should not form part of the Motion.

In response to a query by Councillor Richard Jones, the Chief Officer (Governance) clarified that the wording in the Motion, particularly in the final sentence, implied that the aim to work with both Governments would include pursuing the necessary funding to support any changes.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was unanimously supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Notice of Motion on supporting the national 'Count Them In' campaign be supported;

- (b) That the amended Notice of Motion to call upon Cabinet to consider installing solar panels be supported; and
- (c) That the Notice of Motion on funding for designated school transport be supported.

95. COUNCIL TAX SETTING FOR 2017-18

The Revenues Manager presented the report to formally set the Council Tax for 2017-18 within the required timescale. The Council Tax resolution included the County Council's precept of £70,122,877 in addition to precepts collected on behalf of the Police & Crime Commissioner (P&CC) for North Wales and Town/Community Councils. The Council Tax charges/levels detailed in the report had been approved as part of the final budget proposals on 14 February 2017, with the proposed 3% increase in the County Council precept equating to £1,103.55 per year on Band 'D' properties. As agreed in March 2016, the Council Tax premium scheme would also apply, where applicable, to help bring empty homes back into use.

Councillor Mike Peers felt that the Council should be recompensed by the P&CC for resources used in collecting that annual precept amount. The Revenues Manager advised that the Council had a statutory duty to collect the three elements of Council Tax and that legislation did not permit a charge to be levied to do so. He noted the typographical error in the breakdown of resolutions/decisions appended to the report which should have referred to 2017-18.

The recommendations in the report were formally moved by Councillor Aaron Shotton and duly seconded.

On the P&CC precept, Councillor Carol Ellis said there was disappointment amongst some residents at the level of service received from the Police and the lack of Police presence; an issue which had been raised by Buckley Town Council. The Chief Executive suggested that Members may wish to invite the P&CC and the Chief Constable of North Wales Police to a meeting of the Council early in the new term to discuss any concerns.

This suggestion was welcomed by Councillor Tony Sharps who spoke in support of the comments by Councillors Peers and Ellis. In response to a query, the Revenues Manager advised that the new framework policy approved by Council introduced from 2017/18 included a requirement for all charitable, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations to make a 20% contribution towards their business rate liability. Councillor Sharps felt that this was unfair to those small organisations, particularly in rural areas, and should be reviewed. The Revenues Manager clarified that the adopted framework allowed for the application of discretionary rate relief by small businesses, however this was only partly funded by the Welsh Government. The Council's website also provided details of the hardship rate relief scheme.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the 2017-18 Council Tax be set as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (b) That the continuation of the policy of not providing a discount in the level of Council Tax charges for second homes and long-term empty homes be endorsed. Also where exceptions do not apply, to also charge from 2017-18 the Council Tax Premium rate of 50% above the standard rate of Council Tax for second homes and long-term empty dwellings; and
- (c) That approval be given for designated officers to issue legal proceedings and appear on behalf of the Council in the Magistrates' Court for unpaid taxes.

96. REGIONAL WORKING AND THE WHITE PAPER 'REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT: RESILIENT AND RENEWED'

The Chief Executive introduced a report on the White Paper published by Welsh Government (WG) which was a statement of intent for the future of local government in Wales to replace the earlier Local Government (Wales) Bill of the previous WG. He gave a presentation covering the following areas:

- background
- over-riding points
- White Paper contents
- critique of the White Paper
- reminder of what we said in response to the last Bill
- Part 2: Regional Working
- Part 3: Voluntary Mergers
- Part 4: Local Leadership
- Part 5: Leading Localities
- Part 6: Community Councils
- Part 7: Elections and Voting
- other proposals

The Chief Executive commended the positive working relationship with the current Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government. On the White Paper, he shared concerns on the questionable mix of issues, the lack of detail and absence of funding necessary to support resilience and sustainability in local government. Members' views would be collated within the draft response and shared prior to submission by the deadline of 11 April 2017.

Councillor Aaron Shotton described the provisions within the White Paper as far-reaching. In acknowledging the need for different ways of working and appropriate regional collaboration, he gave a reminder of the Council's significant progress and stated the importance of achieving the right balance between regional working and localism. Whilst he supported a uniform approach to election voting systems, he spoke against the idea of future regionalisation of housing. To enable an informed debate including newly elected Members, he felt that the Council should seek an extension to the consultation deadline.

Councillor Owen Thomas commented on the importance of progress on the Northern Powerhouse and BT broadband programme to strengthen the local economy. The Chief Executive gave a brief update on the positive development of the regional growth strategy for North Wales and the proposed North East Wales metro system.

Councillor Mike Peers supported the suggested extension to the consultation deadline. On the provisions of the White Paper, he called for more details behind the Joint Planning Boards and referred to the environmental impact from the movement of vehicles between counties to deliver joint working on waste. He pointed out that additional resources were necessary to address Consultation Question 6 and sought rationale behind the aim to seek 'a more diverse range' of councillors, also commenting that surgeries should be replaced by more modern means of communication. He added that more funding from WG would help to reduce 'unnecessary burdens' and that the lack of focus on cross-border collaborative working did not recognise Flintshire's position. In response to comments, the Chief Executive gave clarification on the four terms used for the current economic partnerships shown on the map which showed areas under WG control. He also pointed out that funding for the North Wales growth strategy was reliant on cross-border working.

Councillor Arnold Woolley spoke in support of the critique of the White Paper and the proposed deadline extension. He felt that WG had not given any indication of the best method of governance locally, regionally and nationally and that more clarity was needed on the delivery of cost savings. He expressed concerns about the negative effect of continued collaboration on localism and on the role of elected Members in representing constituents, adding that any limitations on Scrutiny would undermine that process.

Councillor Chris Bithell also shared the concerns about the impact of further collaboration in specific areas and the role of Scrutiny if this was to be done on a regional basis. He supported a uniform approach to election voting but felt strongly that the proposals should be reconsidered and funding provided to achieve the right outcomes.

Councillor Richard Jones said that whilst the transfer of local decisions to a regional level could produce savings, this would not improve or strengthen services. He spoke about the challenges in comprehending financial aspects of pooled collaborative projects and the ineffectiveness of a single regional Scrutiny committee.

Councillor Nancy Matthews supported the proposed extended deadline and a uniform election voting system whilst Councillor Gareth Roberts raised concerns about the implications of any imposed collaboration.

Councillor Derek Butler referred to significant progress made in establishing Flintshire's position in the cross-border region. He commended the critique of the White Paper given by the Chief Executive and supported the deferral of the consultation deadline until after the Election.

Councillor Tony Sharps gave examples of the effectiveness of previous partnerships involving the Council and urged WG to reconsider its proposals in order to protect localism.

The Chief Executive thanked Members for their support and agreed to share the draft response with Group Leaders for comment.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council shares a draft response to the White Paper with Group Leaders before making a formal response; and
- (b) That the Council notes the current arrangements for regional working in North Wales.

97. TRADE UNION (WALES) BILL

The Chief Executive introduced a report on the Trade Union (Wales) Bill which sought to dis-apply certain provisions of the Trade Union Act 2016 in Wales. An initial response by Cabinet in support of the Bill had been provided to the Equalities, Local Government & Communities Committee of the National Assembly for Wales. A response by full Council was now invited in view of the Notice of Motion considered in March 2016.

In summarising the reasons for maintaining current arrangements, the Chief Executive spoke about the effective working relationship between the Council and recognised Trade Unions, with the Facilities Agreement providing clarification on roles.

Councillor Aaron Shotton urged Members to endorse the Cabinet response which followed up on the Notice of Motion and showed support for the Bill. This was duly seconded.

In supporting the recommendations, Councillor Paul Shotton paid tribute to the positive joint working between officers and Trade Union officials.

RESOLVED:

That the Council supports the Trade Union (Wales) Bill, on the recommendation of Cabinet and recognising established Council policy as set out in the Notice of Motion.

98. PAY POLICY STATEMENT

The Senior Manager, Human Resources & Organisational Development presented the annual report which sought approval of the Council's Pay Policy Statement to enable its publication by 1 April 2017. Whilst the contents met legal requirements, additional information had also been included as good practice and to make the document more meaningful; these related to bonus payments and performance related pay, salary sacrifice schemes and the approach to talent management.

The Chief Executive said that the Statement summarised the organisation's approach to current pay and remuneration arrangements and he reported on legislative changes which now required more public bodies to publish their arrangements.

Councillor Richard Jones referred to the criteria for awarding annual increments in the case of Chief Officers, and felt this should only apply where all appraisals had been completed within their respective teams. As a further incentive, he said that a partial increment could be given until such time when a Chief Officer had completed a satisfactory appraisal. The Chief Executive spoke about a clear expectation for Chief Officers to oversee the completion of appraisals in their teams as a key part of their own appraisals. He said that the suggestions could be given consideration at a later stage and spoke about the work undertaken on appraisals to improve both quality and completion rates.

In response to a query by Councillor Gareth Roberts on the 'IR35' rule, it was explained that this only applied to a minority of individuals currently engaged with the Council and that work was underway to deal with this.

Councillor Mike Peers stated the importance of appraisals in helping to drive performance. On the performance related pay section of the Statement, he said it should be clarified that the appraisal system linking to pay only applied to Chief Officers.

RESOLVED:

That the annual Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18 be approved and adopted.

99. ANNUAL REVIEW OF CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Chief Officer (Governance) presented the updated Code of Corporate Governance which formed part of the Council's Constitution. Following a review by the Corporate Governance Working Group, the document had been endorsed by the Audit Committee and Constitution Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the updated Code of Corporate Governance be endorsed for adoption as part of the Council's Constitution.

100. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Chief Officer (Governance) presented a report which sought approval for himself and the Democratic Services Manager to make administrative changes to the Constitution, such as updating job titles following structural changes. No changes would be made to the scope of delegations and all structural changes would continue to be subject to Cabinet approval.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, where any future changes are solely to officer designations arising out of restructuring, the Chief Officer (Governance) and the Democratic

Services Manager be authorised to have those changes made to the Constitution; and

- (b) That Members be kept informed and updated about any future changes to officer designations arising out of restructuring.

101. POOLING OF PENSIONS INVESTMENTS IN WALES

The Chief Executive presented the report on the Inter Authority Agreement setting out appropriate governance arrangements for the pooling of pensions investments with the other seven Wales Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS), with responsibilities to be delegated to a Joint Governance Committee.

Due to the pace of the issue, the recommendations of a verbal report had been supported by the Constitution Committee to seek endorsement at Council. The Chief Executive expressed appreciation for the work of the Clwyd Pension Fund Manager and Pensions Finance Manager, along with the decision by Carmarthenshire Council to take on the role as host authority for the Wales Investment Pool.

As Chair of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee, Councillor Alan Diskin confirmed that the recommendations had been supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the content of the draft Inter Authority Agreement attached at Appendix B to the report be noted and authority delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Clwyd Pensions Committee and the Monitoring Officer to:
- agree any further minor amendments to the IAA; and
 - approve and sign the final version of the IAA.
- (b) To establish a joint committee (hereinafter referred to as the Joint Governance Committee) on the basis of the terms of reference attached to the report within the proposed Constitution amendments;
- (c) That the exercise of certain functions be delegated to the Joint Governance Committee as detailed within the proposed Constitution amendments;
- (d) That the functions reserved to Council be noted, and all matters delegated to the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee apart from the termination or significant amendment of the Inter Authority Agreement;
- (e) That the appointment of the Chair of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee to the Joint Governance Committee as the Flintshire County Council representative and the Vice-Chair of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee as his/her nominated Deputy, be approved;

- (f) That delegation be provided to the nominated representative and his/her Deputy to act within the terms of reference of the Joint Governance Committee to enable the exercise of any delegated function;
- (g) That Carmarthenshire County Council (Dyfed Pension Fund) acts as the host authority with the responsibilities set out in the Inter Authority Agreement; and
- (h) That the amendments to the Constitution as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved.

102. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As this was the final meeting of County Council before the Elections, the Chairman took the opportunity to extend his good wishes to all Members.

103. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There was one member of the press and two members of the public present.

(The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 4.45 pm)

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Chairman