

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**27 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Minutes of the meeting of Flintshire County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Mold on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**PRESENT: Councillor Brian Lloyd (Chairman)**

Councillors: Mike Allport, Bernie Attridge, Glyn Banks, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Sian Braun, Helen Brown, Clive Carver, Geoff Collett, Bob Connah, David Cox, Paul Cunningham, Jean Davies, Rob Davies, Ron Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke, Chris Dolphin, Rosetta Dolphin, Ian Dunbar, Andy Dunbobbin, Mared Eastwood, Carol Ellis, David Evans, Veronica Gay, George Hardcastle, David Healey, Gladys Healey, Patrick Heesom, Cindy Hinds, Andrew Holgate, Dave Hughes, Kevin Hughes, Ray Hughes, Dennis Hutchinson, Joe Johnson, Paul Johnson, Rita Johnson, Christine Jones, Richard Jones, Tudor Jones, Colin Legg, Mike Lowe, Dave Mackie, Hilary McGuill, Billy Mullin, Ted Palmer, Mike Peers, Michelle Perfect, Vicky Perfect, Neville Phillips, Tony Sharps, Aaron Shotton, Paul Shotton, Ralph Small, Ian Smith, Carolyn Thomas, Owen Thomas, Martin White, David Williams, David Wisinger and Arnold Woolley

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors: Janet Axworthy, Haydn Bateman, Marion Bateman, Derek Butler, Richard Lloyd, Mike Reece and Ian Roberts.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer; Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise); Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation); Chief Officer (Organisational Change 2); Interim Chief Officer (Education & Youth); Strategic Performance Lead; Finance Manager Strategy and Technical; Democratic Services Manager; Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Democratic Services Officer

**27. PRESENTATIONS**

In recognition of the Council's recent successes in the Constructing Excellence Wales Awards 2017:

- Client of the Year – nominated by Wates Residential in recognition of the partnership working on the Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP); and
- Sustainability Award – awarded to Galliford Try, the contractor appointed by the Council to build the Holywell Learning Campus.

The Chairman welcomed both the SHARP team and the School Modernisation Team to the meeting. The Chief Executive explained that the Council had been successful at the Constructing Excellence Wales (CEW) Awards Ceremony held at the Celtic Manor on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July, picking up two awards. The SHARP team was awarded with the 'Constructing Excellence in Wales Award 2017 – Client of the Year – Overall Winner'. Galliford Try had been awarded in the Sustainability category for the Holywell Learning Campus.

Councillor Bernie Attridge said that he was honoured to have been in attendance at the awards ceremony and outlined the excellent projects which had

been placed in the same category. He thanked the whole team and Wates for an excellent partnership with the Council.

Councillor David Healey congratulated Galliford Try for their award. He said that when the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee had visited the Holywell Learning Campus he had been overawed, he considered the school to be a remarkable achievement and paid tribute to all those involved in its creation.

## **28. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were submitted.

On a point of accuracy, Councillor Heesom asked that the wording 'that there is concern that the private sector does not appear to be meeting the level of supply of housing that was needed' included with his comments on minute number 23.

### **RESOLVED:**

That, subject to the amendment on minute number 23 of 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017, the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## **29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Monitoring Officer advised that a personal interest would be recorded on behalf of all Members present who were members of the Clwyd Pension Fund. He took the opportunity to remind Members of the need to keep their Register of Interest Forms up to date should any changes have occurred since their election. This could be done by completing 'Form C' and submitting to Democratic Services.

## **30. COMMEMORATION AND TRIBUTES TO THE LATE COUNCILLOR RON HAMPSON**

The Leader of the Council led the tributes to the late Councillor Ron Hampson. He commented on the dedication, commitment and love he displayed for his family; for Rita, Michelle and Stephen and the active part he played in the life of the Council since its inception. He spoke of his appetite for political discussion, his dedication to the Labour Party and how he was a dedicated and ever-present campaigner. He was passionate about helping people and representing people's needs and was happiest when speaking to residents within his ward. He said that he was thankful for the opportunity to have served alongside Councillor Hampson and that the Council would be poorer for his sad passing.

Councillors Martin White, Ron Davies, Neville Phillips, Mike Peers, Clive Carver, Brian Lloyd, Dennis Hutchinson, Patrick Heesom, Tony Sharps, Rita Johnson and Carol Ellis also paid tribute to Councillor Hampson, commenting particularly on his kindness, popularity, helpfulness, his dedication to the residents of Buckley and how much he would be missed.

## **31. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

A copy of the Chairman's Communications had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting.

The Chairman particularly commented on the Queens Baton Relay for the Commonwealth Games and thanked Theatr Clwyd for their hospitality. He commented on the Earl of Wessex visit at Theatr Clwyd which had been successful and Councillor Ron Hampson's funeral and the high number of people in attendance.

**32. PETITIONS**

None were received.

**33. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

None were received.

**34. QUESTIONS**

None were received.

**35. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS ON COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The Chief Officer (Governance) explained that a question had been received from Councillor Heesom on the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee minutes from the meeting held on 16 May, 2017.

Councillor Patrick Heesom referred to the minutes of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 16 May, 2017. He raised concern that the matter of the Welsh Government consultation on the A494/A55 improvements had not been considered by the full Council or discussion/debate. He also raised concern around the recommendation of the Welsh Government which he felt did not benefit the area of Flintshire which he represented.

Councillor Heesom invited the Leader of the Council to answer the questions. On a point of procedure, the Chief Officer (Governance) explained that it was his understanding that notice had been given to ask the question of the Chair of Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Had it been explained that the question was to the Leader of the Council, the question would not have been accepted as it did not meet the required notice period which was 10 working days for such a question.

The question was, therefore, dismissed.

**36. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Two Notices of Motion had been received:

(i) Councillors Bernie Attridge and Kevin Hughes:

“The disaster at Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1989 led to the deaths of 96 innocent people who had left their homes that morning to watch a football match

Due to crowd control mismanagement, those fans, whose ages ranged from 10 to 67 years old, lost their lives. This disaster directly affected families in Flintshire.

It is saddening to compare the behaviour of those who were in positions of responsibility and public trust with the dignity and courage displayed by the families of the 96, who have continued since 1989 to fight for justice whilst coping with the loss of their loved ones. The council cannot overlook the hurt and distress caused by the lies and smears printed in The Sun at that time – especially to the families of the 96.

Neither can we overlook The Sun’s stubborn refusal to apologise properly for the hurt it caused until it became clear to the newspaper that public opinion demanded such an apology.

On April 26<sup>th</sup> 2016 a jury returned verdicts of unlawful killing in relation to each victim. It is this Council’s hope that in due course the conclusions reached by the Hillsborough inquest will come to finally result in justice for the victims of this tragedy.

We express our support for those affected by the disaster and commend the continuing efforts of relatives and friends of the victims in their search for justice. We condemn the behaviour of The Sun newspaper and we as a Council will support any Flintshire retailer or newspaper vendor that choose not to sell The Sun newspaper. We lend our support to the campaign “Total Eclipse of The Sun” in solidarity with fellow councils in the North West of the United Kingdom.”

This was seconded by Councillor Kevin Hughes.

In support of their joint Motion, Councillor Attridge spoke about the terrible events at Hillsborough which had led to the deaths of 96 innocent football fans due to crowd mismanagement and how the disaster had affected the lives of residents in Flintshire. Councillor Attridge said that it was saddening to compare the behaviour of those in a position of responsibility and trust to those families that had been fighting for justice while coping with the loss of their loved ones. He said that the Council could not overlook the lies printed in the Sun Newspaper at that time or its stubbornness to print an apology to the families, and that the Council express support to those affected by the disaster and commend the continuing effort of relatives and friends in their search for justice. He concluded that the Council would support any newspaper vendor who chose not to sell the Sun Newspaper.

Councillor Kevin Hughes in formally seconding the Motion clarified that the reason for submitting the Notice of Motion was that in July 2016 the inquest into the tragedy at Hillsborough found that the 96 victims had been unlawfully killed. He explained that the Notice of Motion did not seek a ban of the Sun Newspaper as had been speculated but was to support Flintshire families who had been affected and outlined a recent article which had appeared in the Sun Newspaper, which he felt did now show that lessons had been learnt.

Councillor Neville Phillips, whilst commenting on the terrible events at Hillsborough, felt that he could not support the Notice of Motion as the Liberal Democrat Party, for which he was a Member, stood for liberty and freedom for any individual and therefore felt that it would be hypocritical to support banning the Sun Newspaper.

A number of Members spoke against the Notice of Motion, citing their concern of taking away people's freedom of choice in buying the Sun Newspaper. Councillor Hilary McGuill commented on the financial burden that would be placed on newsagents who decided not to sell the Sun Newspaper and asked if the Council would be reimbursing them as part of the support outlined within the Notice of Motion.

Councillor Clive Carver questioned why the Notice of Motion being debated differed from the version which had been published on social media earlier in the year. The Chief Officer (Governance) reported on the process for Members to submit Notices of Motion and explained that amendments to the original Motion had been suggested by himself and the Chief Executive.

A number of Members spoke in support of the Notice of Motion, citing the principles to support families affected by the Hillsborough disaster. Councillor Aaron Shotton explained that the Motion did

not seek newsagent to not stock/sell the Sun Newspaper but would support any that chose not to.

Councillor Woolley moved an amendment that the Notice of Motion end at "The Sun Newspaper" in the second line of the last paragraph. This amendment was not accepted by Councillors Attridge and Hughes. The amendment was seconded by Councillor Richard Jones who commented that he supported the sentiment of the Motion but had to agree with previous comments around taking away peoples freedom of choice.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was lost.

In his right of reply, Councillor Attridge said that the campaign 'Total Eclipse of the Sun' had contacted all Council's asking for their support and a number of Council's across the Country had already passed similar Motions. He asked that all Members support the Notice of Motion as shown in the agenda and requested a recorded vote. The requisite number of Councillors stood in support of this.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and carried.

The following Councillors voted for the Notice of Motion:

Bernie Attridge, Glyn Banks, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Helen Brown, Geoff Collett, David Cox, Paul Cunningham, Ron Davies, Ian Dunbar, Andy Dunbobbin, Carol Ellis, David Evans, George Hardcastle, David Healey, Gladys Healey, Cindy Hinds, Dave Hughes, Kevin Hughes, Ray Hughes, Joe Johnson, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones, Mike Lowe, Dave Mackie, Billy Mullin, Ted Palmer, Michelle Perfect, Vicky Perfect, Aaron Shotton, Paul Shotton, Ralph Small, Ian Smith, Carolyn Thomas, Martin White, David Williams and David Wisinger.

The following Councillors voted against the Notice of Motion:

Clive Carver, Bob Connah, Chris Dolphin, Neville Phillips, Tony Sharps and Owen Thomas.

The following Councillors abstained from voting on the Notice of Motion:

Mike Allport, Sian Braun, Jean Davies, Rob Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke, Rosetta Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, Veronica Gay, Patrick Heesom, Andrew Holgate, Dennis Hutchinson, Rita Johnson, Richard Jones, Tudor Jones, Colin Legg, Brian Lloyd, Hilary McGuill and Mike Peers.

(ii) Councillor Clive Carver

"This Council decries the Welsh Government for promoting the building of more houses whilst at the same time not ensuring that NHS Wales has sufficient GP doctor's surgeries to cope with the existing population, let alone the increase in population that these houses will bring".

In speaking on his Notice of Motion, Councillor Carver commented on the requirement by the Welsh Government for the Council to have a supply of land for building and the work on-going on the publication of the Local Development Plan (LDP) which would focus on delivering sustainable development in the County for the next 15 years. He said that the Welsh Government required growth but does not, through NHS Wales, provide adequate funding to support this. He outlined cases where the number of GPs has reduced but the number of patients had increase due to building of more houses and how this was being repeated across the County.

Councillor Peers proposed an amendment to the Notice of Motion to replace the words 'to cope with the existing population' with 'for the capacity to cope with the existing population'. This amendment was seconded by Councillor Veronica Gay who spoke in support of the Notice of Motion based on the current lack of facilities in the ward in which she represented.

Councillor Heesom said that he could not support the Notice of Motion due to the shortage of housing within the County and commented on the need to continue to build homes with the adequate infrastructure.

A number of Councillors spoke in support of the amendment, citing the difficulties in getting GP appointments especially in rural areas of the County. Councillor Chris Bithell commented on the need for an increased housing supply and also the shortage of qualified GPs which was a countrywide problem.

Councillor Aaron Shotton spoke in support of the amendment but gave notice of a further amendment.

Councillor Richard Jones spoke in support of the amendment and said that residents had a right to services. He did not understand why Welsh Government had made a ruling on planning policy TAN1, which he felt had created the problem and commented that if houses continued to be built, services would be 'watered down'. He agreed that houses were needed but alongside that consideration was needed for appropriate services.

In response to comments around the LDP, the Chief Officer (Governance) explained that the Council asked developers if they had any sights they wanted to be included in the LDP. The Council then assessed those sites which were then reported to Planning Strategy Group which was a private meeting. Those documents would become public at the appropriate stage. It was designed to plan for all public services required and the Planning team engaged NHS Wales to plan for the expected levels of growth.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried. The substantive motion was now "This Council decries the Welsh Government for promoting the building of more houses whilst at the

same time not ensuring that NHS Wales has sufficient GP doctor's surgeries for the capacity to cope with the existing population, let alone the increase in population that these houses will bring".

Councillor Shotton moved a further amendment that the following wording be added to the beginning of the Notice of Motion:-

"This Council calls upon UK Government and Welsh Government to ensure that adequate funding is forthcoming to address local GP capacity, due to the requirement by the WG to further promote".

The remaining Notice of Motion was to remain the same following the deletion of the wording "This Council decries the Welsh Government for promoting".

In speaking to the amendment, Councillor Shotton said that the Council should not decry the Welsh Government. He recognised there was a need for additional GPs and about the balance that was needed. Without the resources of funding to NHS Wales, there would be no change. There needed to be adequate funding initially from UK Government to Welsh Government to ensure that there was sufficient GPs to meet the need.

Councillor Carver felt the word "decry" should remain due to NHS Wales using funding for other projects and not sufficiently for the NHS. Councillor Ellis said that an increase of housing being built also had a detrimental effect on hospitals and suggested that health and social care across Wales needed to be reviewed.

On being put to the vote, the amendment as circulated by Councillor Aaron Shotton, including the successful amendment by Councillor Peers, as read out by the Chief Officer (Governance) for clarity, was carried.

Councillor Carver requested a recorded vote but was not supported by the requisite number of Members.

On being put to the vote, the amendment became the substantive motion and on being put to the vote, was carried.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Notice of Motion from Councillor Attridge and Kevin Hughes be supported as follows: "The disaster at Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1989 led to the deaths of 96 innocent people who had left their homes that morning to watch a football match. Due to crowd control mismanagement, those fans, whose ages ranged from 10 to 67 years old, lost their lives. This disaster directly affected families in Flintshire. It is saddening to compare the behaviour of those who were in positions of responsibility and public trust with the dignity and courage displayed by the families of the 96, who have continued since 1989 to fight for justice whilst coping with the loss of their loved ones. The council cannot



overlook the hurt and distress caused by the lies and smears printed in The Sun at that time – especially to the families of the 96. Neither can we overlook The Sun’s stubborn refusal to apologise properly for the hurt it caused until it became clear to the newspaper that public opinion demanded such an apology. On April 26<sup>th</sup> 2016 a jury returned verdicts of unlawful killing in relation to each victim. It is this Council’s hope that in due course the conclusions reached by the Hillsborough inquest will come to finally result in justice for the victims of this tragedy. We express our support for those affected by the disaster and commend the continuing efforts of relatives and friends of the victims in their search for justice. We condemn the behaviour of The Sun newspaper and we as a Council will support any Flintshire retailer or newspaper vendor that choose not to sell The Sun newspaper. We lend our support to the campaign “Total Eclipse of The Sun” in solidarity with fellow councils in the North West of the United Kingdom.”; and

- (b) That the amendment to the Notice of Motion from Councillor Carver as put forward from Councillor Aaron Shotton, including the successful amendment by Councillor Peers, be supported as follows: “That this Council calls upon both UK and Welsh Government (WG) to ensure that adequate funding is forthcoming to address local GP capacity, due to the requirement by the WG to further promote the building of more houses whilst at the same time not ensuring that NHS Wales has sufficient GP doctor’s surgeries or the capacity to cope with the existing population, let alone the increase in population that these houses will bring”.

### **37. COUNCIL PLAN 2017 – 23**

The Chief Executive introduced the report on the Council Plan 2017-23. The Plan had been reviewed and updated to reflect the key priorities of the Council for the 5 year term under the newly elected administration.

The Plan had six priorities with sub-priorities, with the six priorities taking a long term view of the aims for the next five years. The Plan had been presented to all six Overview & Scrutiny Committee’s, four of which supported with no comments and two supported the Plan but with specific comments which were presented to Cabinet. A copy of the amendments to the Plan, recommended by Cabinet had been circulated to all Members prior to the start of the meeting.

Councillor Aaron Shotton thanked all Members who had contributed to the Plan, including the views that had been made at the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Constructive comments from those Committees had been accepted by the Cabinet earlier in the day and were now recommended to Council. He said the six key priorities were the key priorities based on social issues which were high up on the agenda of the administration. At a time of financial austerity it was important to focus on the priorities.

Councillor Richard Jones commented on the first amendment around ‘Ambitious Council’ and said that during the meeting of Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny he did not mention any particular town and had requested that “especially for residential use” be removed which had been supported by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. He felt developers would use this high level

document to fragment town centres to provide residential areas and asked that this wording be removed.

Councillor Jones also commented on the development of regional and local transport strategies and sought to ensure equitable spend across towns and not just Deeside. He wanted a plan that forwarded the economic development of all towns and queried why the recommendations around this which had been put forward from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee had not been put forward. The Chief Executive said the wording had been improved, on the first point, to de-emphasise housing; in the spirit of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee the wording suggested multi-use development of town centres to support their vitality. On the second point, there was a discussion on equitable allocation of resources across town centres, and as advised during the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee, it was not possible parity as much of the funding received often came from Government sources and were targeted to areas with specific characteristics such as deprivation.

Councillor Attridge clarified that the priority to develop a renewed approach to supporting town centres and the specific wording around 'residential use' related to improvements to properties above shops in town centres. The Chief Executive added that planning policy and the Local Development Plan would provide the safeguards against housing over-development.

Councillor Peers commented on page 34 on developing the Council housing growth needs and queried how the figure of 50 homes had been derived at and how did it relate to demand. On the milestones and measure document he could not see the achievement milestone linked to the action plan for the development of council houses and asked that this be looked at. On page 38, residential care and plans for 2017/18 and ensuring care home provision, he asked if the word 'affordable' could be added or was this out of the Council's control. On page 39, he commented on the risks to be managed within the Plan, particularly the risks to deliver social care which was insufficient and asked if there was a mitigation action plan if supply exceeded demand. On page 40, Integrated Community Social Health Services and working with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and asked if the Countess of Chester Hospital could be included within the 5 year plan.

The Chief Executive responded that the Plan could only contain aspirations where the Council had a high degree of control over and therefore priorities around secondary care and hospitals could not be added to the Plan and this also applied to the suggestion around including the wording 'affordable' within the provision of care homes. Further discussion on how the risks around social care were being managed could take place outside of the meeting.

The Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise) explained that the figure of 50 homes had been recommended following the local housing market assessment which identified the level of affordable, social housing needed. The figures were based on detailed work around what could be delivered over the course of the next 12 months, including, the borrowing cap available through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), known agreed planning applications and capital funding available through Welsh Government (WG). There was a gap between housing

needs and what the Council could deliver, therefore the Council was working closely with WG to make a strong case for the HRA borrowing cap to be raised.

On being put to the vote, the plan, including the comments as amended from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet, was carried.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council Plan 2017-23 be adopted by County Council for final publication by the end of September.

**38. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2016/2017 AND SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION TO STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2016/17**

The Chief Executive introduced the report on the Statement of Accounts 2016/17 and the Supplementary Financial Information to the Statement of Accounts 2016/17.

The Corporate Finance Manager explained that the report sought formal approval of the Statement of Accounts 2016/17 and the Annual Governance Statement, a copy of which had been included within the report and had been considered by the Audit Committee in June, 2017. Also detailed within the report was the supplementary information to the accounts on the full time equivalent pay, as requested by Members at a previous meeting as a Notice of Motion to Council.

Matthew Edwards, Wales Audit Office, said that he was pleased to report that the reports were positive and following approval of the Statement of Accounts 2016/17, the Auditor General intended to offer an unqualified opinion on the financial statements which would confirm that the accounts offer a true and fair view in all material respects and that they were prepared in accordance with CIPFA Code of Practice. He also commented on the high quality of the statements as presented.

On the Pension Fund Accounts, they were not up to the high standard that had been shown previously but assurance had been given that arrangements have been put in place to address this in future.

Councillor Clive Carver said in September 2012 he queried payments made to consultants and senior officers. Since the Notice of Motion to Council this information had been included as a supplementary document. This year it did not include the same amount of information and was now contained in the main report. The Chief Executive explained that all of the information could be contained within one report and it was all presented. The Corporate Finance Manager clarified that the information did not form part of the formal accounts but was provided for information to Members.

Councillor Mike Peers asked why the Landlord Services had an overspend of £66,000 and why the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) projects had a budget of 0 but £111,000 had been spent. He also asked why there had been an increased spend to cover expenditure and asked what the monthly repayments were on the borrowing level which stood at £251m. He commented on the

appeared decrease on reserves and asked for further information on this and also asked how bad debts were being dealt with. The Chief Executive suggested that as the questions did not affect the validity of the accounts that written responses could be provided if that was acceptable, to which Councillor Peers said it was. It was confirmed that a copy of the response would be provided to all Members.

Councillor Richard Jones commented on the outstanding loan of £860,000 from Welsh Government (WG) for regeneration initiatives in Deeside and asked how long the repayment terms was on this loan. He also asked for further information on the net worth of the Council which had decreased £168M to £43M. The Finance Manager, Strategy and Technical, responded that the repayment term on the loan was 15 years. A written response on the net worth of the Council would be provided to all Members following the meeting.

Councillor Helen Brown reported that the Audit Committee had received a detailed presentation from officers on the statement of accounts which gave good progress and said that officers from Wales Audit Office had also attended the meeting to outline their findings. Councillor Brown confirmed that the Committee had no issues to draw to the Council's attention and outlined the recommendations from the Audit Committee.

On being put to the vote, the recommendations were carried.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the final version of the Statement of Accounts 2016/17 be approved;
- (b) That the Letter of Representation – Flintshire County Council; and the Letter of Representation – Clwyd Pension Fund, be approved; and
- (c) That the Supplementary Financial Information to the Statement of Accounts 2016/17 be noted.

**39. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17**

The Corporate Finance Manager introduced the Treasury Management Annual Report 2016/17. The Annual Report had been received by Audit Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and Cabinet on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2016/17 be approved.

**40. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION PAPER ELECTORAL REFORM IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN WALES**

The Chief Executive introduced the report on the Welsh Government Consultation Paper *Electoral Reform in Local Government in Wales*.

He commented on the areas covered in the consultation paper on:

- The voting franchise;
- Registration;
- The voting system;
- The voting process;
- Standing for election; and
- Returning Officers

Councillor Hilary McGuill commented on the proposal to remove the address of candidates. The Chief Executive said Members could disclose what ward they live in as opposed to their address if the proposal was enacted, and that he would suggest that this was applied to the statutory imprint for published materials if the candidate were self-promoting themselves without a separate promoter.

Councillor Mike Peers asked for clarification on page 344, Single Transferable Vote, and it being a preferential electoral system and asked if this could be substantiated. The Chief Officer (Governance) said that this meant first and second preference was to be indicated. The Council was being advised to object to the devolution of choice on the voting system to individual councils, and not the principle of the voting system.

On being put to the vote, the recommendation was carried. The Chief Executive confirmed that once the response had been finalised a copy would be made available.

**RESOLVED:**

That the proposed response to the consultation paper be made.

**41. TRADE UNION (WALES) ACT**

**RESOLVED:**

That this item be deferred to the next meeting scheduled for 24 October, 2017.

**42. REAPPOINTMENT OF TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:**

That this item be deferred to the next meeting scheduled for 24 October, 2017.

**43. FOR INFORMATION - APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

**RESOLVED:**

That this item be deferred to the next meeting scheduled for 24 October, 2017.

**44. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE**

There was one member of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 5.40 pm)

.....  
**Chairman**