

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 19 JANUARY 2021 AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

REPORT OF: Corporate Finance Manager, Chief Executive

SUBJECT: COUNCIL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2021/22

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That Cabinet notes the progress made in moving towards a set of recommendations for Council to be able to set a legal and balanced budget in February.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT: Overview and Scrutiny Committees in November 2020.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: Revenue: the revenue implications for the 2021/22 budget are set out in the report.

Capital: there are no new implications for the approved capital programme for either the current financial year or for future financial years – the capital programme will be subject to a separate report.

Human Resources: there are no implications for additional capacity or for any change to current workforce structures or roles at this stage.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **19 JANUARY 2021** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)**

SUBJECT: **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO WELSH GOVERNMENT'S TRANSPORT STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:

(1) That Cabinet notes Welsh Government's revised draft Wales Transport Strategy – *'Llwybr Newydd – A New Wales Transport Strategy'*; and

(2) That Cabinet consider and approve the Council's response to the formal consultation process, subject to the inclusion of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny comments from their meeting in January.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** With Cabinet Member (Streetscene and Countryside).

With Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: Continued WG financial support to develop both the Council's own Integrated Transport Strategy and the North Wales Metro project will be necessary, if we are to achieve the aims and objectives of the new strategy.

WG are undertaking a concurrent consultation exercise on their proposals to introduce Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). One of the functions the new

Committee will undertake is the preparation of the Regional Transport Plan that will replace the JLTP referenced in this report. The Council has prepared a response to these proposals.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

SIGNED

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **19 JANUARY 2021** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 7**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)**

SUBJECT: **THE WELSH GOVERNMENT BUS EMERGENCY
SCHEME**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: (1) That Cabinet approves that the Council should sign up to the BES 2 agreement (Appendix 1) as regional lead authority, in order to secure (conditional) WG financial support for the bus sector and to allow WG to establish a relationship with their constituent local authorities that ensures the ongoing emergency funding meets those authorities' priorities and is delivered on their behalf; and

(2) That Cabinet request a further report on bus reform proposals relating to the future management of bus services in Wales.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** With Cabinet Member (Streetscene and Countryside).

With Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: The lead authority acts as a conduit for BSSG funding from Welsh Government to operators. Current lead authorities are Monmouthshire (for South East Wales); Flintshire (for North Wales); Swansea (for South West Wales), Ceredigion and Powys. Within each LA, transport staff play an important role liaising with

operators on a range of issues to meet local Members' requirements. The roles include administration of Concessionary Fares reimbursement and provision of support for contracted journeys on non-profitable routes.

Overall, an additional £45m has been provided by WG to support the bus sector this financial year including the £10m ramp up funding an extra £35m from September to the end of the year.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

SIGNED

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **19 JANUARY 2021** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8**

REPORT OF: **Corporate Finance Manager**

SUBJECT: **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2020/21 (MONTH 8)**

- RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**
- (1) To note the overall report and the projected Council Fund contingency sum as at 31st March 2021; and
 - (2) To note the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** None specific.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: As set out within the report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **19 JANUARY 2021** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 9**

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

SUBJECT: **ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:

(1) That Members receive the report on Adult Community Learning funding within Flintshire and acknowledge the increased funding allocation through the Community Learning Grant (CLG) by Welsh Government; and

(2) That Members note the development work with Wrexham Adult Learning Partnership and give approval for Flintshire to proceed with forming a joint Flintshire and Wrexham Adult Community Learning Partnership.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:**

Engagement with WG has indicated that they are encouraging partnerships to work more strategically and collaboratively. Members of both partnerships will be fully involved in the development of the of the joint partnership. Many of the partners already work across both local authorities and this would enable them to make more effective use of their resources as well.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Welsh Government provides councils with funding for ACL and provides guidance on the use of the funding in an annual letter (Adult Community Learning Service Delivery Plans Guidance). Councils are required to submit an ACL service delivery plan and a strategic plan to

Welsh Government annually. Councils must demonstrate that they are working in partnership with local providers to deliver adult learning in their area. The Welsh Government analyses and discusses these plans with the council.

The strategic responsibility for ACL provision within Flintshire sits within the Education and Youth Portfolio. There is insufficient funding through the CLG to support a co-ordinator post.

The proposal is to use a percentage of the total Flintshire and Wrexham funding in order to facilitate a shared post of ACL Coordinator who will support the development of the ACL Partnership, oversee the development of the Service Delivery Plans and Self-Evaluation Reports, maintain the ACL Network of Partners, liaise with Welsh Government, ensure the promotion of ACL and identify additional opportunities for learners.

Shared partnership with Wrexham would enable the continuation of a co-ordinator post across both education authorities. It would also enable Flintshire provision to benefit from Wrexham's established provision. It is anticipated that the current coordinator role, employed via Wrexham County Borough Council, will be reviewed to reflect any changes to the role caused by the development of the Wrexham and Flintshire ACL Partnership.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor Christine Jones declared a personal interest.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **19 JANUARY 2021** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 11**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Housing and Assets)**

SUBJECT: **EMPTY HOMES PURCHASE**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:

- (1) Cabinet approve the purchase of the property as identified in the report; and
- (2) Cabinet provide delegated authority to the Chief Officer (Housing & Assets) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing to purchase further empty properties through the Phase 2 Homelessness funding awarded to the Council by Welsh Government when identified.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** Consultation has been undertaken with the local elected members who are supportive of the purchase and refurbishment of the property and agree with its intended use as temporary accommodation to assist with the delivery of the authorities Phase 2 Homelessness Plan.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: As outlined in section 1.05 the total purchase and refurbishment costs is anticipated to be no greater than £450,000. An award of grant funding from Welsh Government is to be formally confirmed shortly, but not anticipated to be any less than £261,000.

The capital investment required to bring

the assets into the HRA are therefore at most £189,000, but likely to be less following negotiation of purchase price, costing for refurbishment works and final award of grant from Welsh Government.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

SIGNED

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 19 JANUARY 2021 AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

REPORT OF: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: AURA – RENEWAL OF SERVICE CONTRACT

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:

- (1) That Cabinet agrees to a further and final extension of the service agreement with Aura to 31 March 2024; and
- (2) That the Chief Executive be granted authority to make variations to the terms of the current agreement and the level of the service payment as set out in the report, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education & Youth.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT: There has been full consultation with the Aura Board and Management Team, the Cabinet Member and senior officers.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: No new implications to report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **19 JANUARY 2021** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 13**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Education and Youth), Chief Officer (Social Services)**

SUBJECT: **CHILDCARE OFFER PROGRAMME**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:

- (1) Cabinet approves entering into a contract for the construction phase of the Childcare Offer Programme; and
- (2) Cabinet approves that the £50k shortfall on the proposed project at Ysgol Brynford be funded from the Council's capital headroom.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:

A report to Cabinet in June 2019 provided Members an overview of the Council's strategic response to securing sufficient, sustainable, and high quality, childcare within the county. The report included an overview of progress in responding to the childcare sufficiency assessment and confirmed the allocation of the Childcare Offer Capital Grant to the authority.

In order to gather the information required to achieve and deliver a successful Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan, consultation took place with a wide range of stakeholders. Under schedule 2 of the Statutory Guidance appropriate stakeholders were identified and involved in the undertaking of the Assessment and the development of the Action plan.

Meetings and conversations have taken place with Childcare Providers to provide

information and guidance on the development of business cases which have formed an integral part of assessing the sustainability of proposals.

An update report was presented to Cabinet on 8th September 2020.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The Childcare Offer Capital funding envelope has been agreed by Welsh Government and is 100% funded by WG.

The project at the Aston Family Centre is 100% funded through Welsh Government Flying Start Capital Grant.

The project at Ysgol Croes Atti, Glannau Dyfrdwy site is part funded by Welsh Governments, 21st century school programme (65% WG / 35% FCC). The Council's contribution of 35% or £262,500 is agreed and noted in the MTFs.

Ysgol Brynford is funded through the Council's capital programme £1.040m is agreed and noted in the MTFs. Cabinet have been asked to authorise a £50K shortfall from Capital headroom.

Revenue implications have been tested through submission of school business case and only projects that have demonstrated that they are viable and sustainable have been chosen to proceed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **19 JANUARY 2021** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 14**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Housing and Assets), Chief Officer (Social Services)**

SUBJECT: **ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF IN HOUSE RESIDENTIAL CARE PROVISION FOR CHILDREN**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Members support the purchase of three properties, as outlined within the report, to enable the development of a Residential Care Homes for Children.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT: No formal consultation is needed as there is not a change of use in this situation. The local member has been consulted and is fully supportive, and there will be further informal consultation with other local stakeholders, as necessary.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: Intermediate Care Fund (ICF) funding totalling £500k has been secured in principle for the acquisition.

A proposal is being developed for ICF funding from the 2021/22 capital allocation to contribute to the refurbishment. An initial estimate, based on a number of assumptions, indicates a refurbishment cost of £1.1m for the main building. The semi-detached properties would be an additional cost, but they require some relatively cosmetic work. This may necessitate a phased approach to the site with refurbishment and establishment of the service at the semi-detached properties first depending on the actual cost, grant allocation and whether Wrexham become a funding

partner. Proposals for a Welsh Government grant to support the development of 'safe accommodation for children with complex, high end emotional and high end needs' is being developed which provide opportunity for funding for the refurbishment.

Revenue funding has been secured through the Welsh Government Transformation Fund to cover the initial set up and revenue expenditure in 2021/22 for the registered care and support Team as well as the provision of the MST support. A detailed costed business case is being developed to identify associated revenue costs from 2022 onwards.

Existing residential placements range from £3,500 to £10,000 per week if beds are available. Ultimately a proportion of funding used to commission placements can be diverted to the running costs. Rebalancing provision to in house, local provision provides direct control of the quality of services and will strengthen the authority's position in responding to escalating challenges relating to availability and cost of external provision. Nationally, COVID-19 has seen an increase in the number of children looked after, a reduction in the number of Residential beds in operation and this is leading to sharp increases in the rates private sector service providers are now charging for placements. Even some of our existing providers are now moving to inflate their fees. Appropriately supporting more placements in family or foster care, through this service model will enable a sustainable approach. There is not always an alignment of bed availability with placement need particularly closer to home.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:


None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

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