

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
15 FEBRUARY 2022

Minutes of the meeting of Flintshire County Council held as a remote attendance meeting on Tuesday, 15 February 2022

PRESENT: Councillor Joe Johnson (Chairman)

Councillors: Bernie Attridge, Janet Axworthy, Glyn Banks, Haydn Bateman, Marion Bateman, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Sian Braun, Helen Brown, Derek Butler, Clive Carver, Geoff Collett, Bob Connah, Paul Cunningham, 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, Cindy Hinds, Andy Hughes, Dave Hughes, Ray Hughes, Alasdair Ibbotson, Paul Johnson, Rita Johnson, Christine Jones, Richard Jones, Tudor Jones, Colin Legg, Brian Lloyd, Richard Lloyd, Mike Lowe, Dave Mackie, Hilary McGuill, Ted Palmer, Mike Peers, Michelle Perfect, Vicky Perfect, Neville Phillips, Ian Roberts, Tim Roberts, Kevin Rush, Tony Sharps, Aaron Shotton, Paul Shotton, Ralph Small, Ian Smith, Carolyn Thomas, Owen Thomas, Martin White, Andy Williams, David Wisinger and Arnold Woolley

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: Mike Allport, Jean Davies, Patrick Heesom and Billy Mullin

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer (Education and Youth), Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy), Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Corporate Finance Manager, Revenues Manager; Strategic Finance Manager - Financial Strategy and Insurance, Corporate Manager (People and Organisational Development); Democratic Services Team Leader and Democratic Services Officers

88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Chris Bithell declared a personal interest on the Council Fund Revenue Budget 2022/23 – Final Closing Stage (agenda item 4) and North Wales Population Needs Assessment and Market Stability Report (agenda item 9) as a Board Member and Trustee of DASU.

Councillors Bernie Attridge, Chris Bithell and Ted Palmer declared a personal interest on the Council Fund Revenue Budget 2022/23 – Final Closing Stage (agenda item 4) as they each had family members who were employed by the Social Care sector within Flintshire County Council.

Councillors Andy Dunbobbin, Chris Bithell and Arnold Woolley declared a personal interest on the Council Tax Setting for 2022/23 (agenda item 5). Councillor Dunbobbin in his capacity as Police and Crime Commissioner and Councillors Bithell and Woolley as Members of the North Wales Police and Crime Panel, as the report detailed the precept for North Wales Police.

Councillors Ted Palmer and Martin White declared a personal interest on the Housing Revenue Account 30 year Financial Business Plan (agenda item 6) as Council house tenants.

89. PETITIONS

None were received.

90. COUNCIL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23 - FINAL CLOSING STAGE

The Chief Executive introduced a report to receive the recommendations from Cabinet for the Council to set a legal and balanced Council Fund Revenue Budget for 2022/23.

The Chief Executive, Corporate Finance Manager, Strategic Finance Manager and Revenues Manager gave a presentation covering the following:

- Setting a legal and balanced budget
- The Journey so far...
- Changes to the Additional Budget Requirement 2022/23
- Budget Solutions 2022/23
- Council Tax 2022/23
- Schools and Social Care Budgets
- Open risks
- Reserves
- Professional opinions and concluding remarks
- Looking ahead and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

The Council had received full reports on previous stages of the budget setting process for 2022/23 and previous reports and appendices had been provided as background information. Cabinet had sent a revised minimum budget requirement for 2022/23 of £20.696m at its meeting on 14 December and received an update on the key headlines and financial impacts of the Welsh Local Government Provisional Settlement at its meeting on 18 January 2022.

In previous years, the Council had set a clear direction that any annual increase should be 5% or less. The Council had had to include a number of additional pressures to provide for the new responsibilities identified in the Welsh Local Government Provisional Settlement which had increased the budget requirement. Based on the final additional budget requirement of £30.562m an overall annual increase of 3.3% is required on Council tax for Council Services and 0.65% for additional contributions to North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Regional Coroners Service and Regional Education Consortium GwE. This equated to an overall uplift of 3.95%.

The recommendations for Council were moved by the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Ian Roberts, who thanked the Chief Executive and officers for their work throughout the budget setting process. He also thanked the National Government and Welsh Government (WG) for the settlement provided but said that there was a need to recognise that the Council had been particularly dependent on the COVID Reserve with a number of claims having been made to WG. He assured Members that the

budget proposals had been robustly challenged by all Cabinet Members, with particular emphasis around Earmarked Reserves, and reported that Members continued to make representations on the need to review the funding formula for Local Government through the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA). He said he was fully aware of the proposed rise in Council Tax at a time when energy costs and National Insurance contributions were rising, and applauded WG's ambition to move towards a real living wage, but outlined the challenges that would face the future Council administration if the Council Tax level was to be reduced or the use of reserves was proposed. He therefore moved the following recommendations: -

- (a) That Council approves the revised additional budget requirement for 2022/23;
- (b) That Council approves the final proposals for the corporate efficiencies which would contribute to the budget;
- (c) That Council sets a legal and balanced budget based on the calculations as set out within the Cabinet report;
- (d) That Council notes the open risks which remain to be managed in the 2022/23 financial year;
- (e) That Council approve an overall annual increase in Council Tax for 2022/23 of 3.3% for Council Services and 0.65% for contributions to North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Regional Coroners Service and Regional Education Consortium GwE – an overall uplift of 3.95%;
- (f) That Council approves an additional £3.250m be transferred from the Contingency Reserve to the Emergency Reserve to safeguard against the ongoing financial risks of the pandemic in 2022/23;
- (g) That Council approves the formal Council Tax resolution following notification of the precepts of the Police and Crime Commissioner and all town and community Councils within Flintshire; and
- (h) That Council notes the medium-term forecast as a basis for the next revision of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

As Cabinet Member for Finance & Social Value, Councillor Paul Johnson seconded the proposal and supported the comments made by the Leader of the Council. He commented on the 3 year settlement from WG and the funding available in subsequent years and the significant uplift required for future budgets. He spoke of the budget planning process which had been significantly difficult given the cost of living crisis, COVID financial support coming to an end, the increase in National Insurance contributions, fuel and energy costs rising and the predicted rise in inflation. He reported that the amount of reserves had been scrutinised carefully and explained that Audit Wales had recommended that the current levels were prudent in managing reserves going forward.

Councillor Tudor Jones thanked officers for the presentation and report provided. He commented on the cessation of the WG Hardship Fund and

welcomed the Council proposal to continue to provide financial support to Services provided under Community Asset Transfers which he said were vital for the County.

Councillor Tony Sharps spoke in support of the proposal and thanked officers for their work, particularly the work carried out during the pandemic. He spoke against the banding of Council Tax which he felt was an unfair system and should be reviewed by Local Authorities to ensure a different system of collecting taxes in a fair and equitable way from local people was implemented. He also commented on the level of reserves and said that the Administration in place following the Local Government Elections in May would need to consider carefully the level of reserves given that Audit Wales had reported that the Council had one of the lowest reserve levels in Wales.

Councillor Richard Jones moved an amendment to the final closing stages of the revenue budget and thanked the officers for the presentation together with the Chair and previous speakers. He said that this year's budget requirement was £326.678m, which was made up of Aggregate External Finance (AEF) and the balancing value of Council Tax which meant that £94.5m or 29% of the total budget would be collected from Flintshire tax payers. In comparison, in 2014/15 Council Tax was £60m at 24% of total budget and in 2017/18 levels Council tax was £70m at 26% of total budget. This was an increase of £25m over the 5 year administration period and he felt that this level could not continue and that WG must start to provide their fair share and stop putting financial pressure on local residents. He advised that his amendment would result in a Council Tax increase proposal of £1.95% as follows: -

- (a) That £910,000 be transferred from the Earmarked Reserves to the revenue account in the following way –
 - Propose the transfer of £757,000 from the General Reserve – Investment in Organisational Change budget and £153,000 from the Single Status / Workforce budget. This would provide 1% towards Council Tax therefore reducing the amount to 2.95%. Any Organisational Change proposals made during 2023/24 would need to be considered during the year to assess affordability;
- (b) Additionally, that £910,000 be transferred from Contingency Reserves to the revenue account in the following way –
 - Propose that this transfer to the Emergency Fund be lowered to £2.34m, providing much needed funds to the revenue account.

The two proposals taken together would transfer £1.82m into the revenue account, lowering the Council Tax increase to 1.95%. Councillor Richard Jones felt that this would have very little effect on the running of the Council and would have a minimum effect on risk to finances and that lowering the burden on Flintshire tax payer's outweighed perceived increases in risks.

Councillor Mike Peers seconded the amendment outlined by Councillor Jones. He commented on previous high Council tax increases following low settlements from WG and said that it was clear the shortfall in funding from WG was being made by up by the tax payers of Flintshire. He said that the cost of living was being faced by all Council tax payers irrespective of proposals being

put forward by WG to try and ease the cost of living and said that the proposal put forward by Councillor Jones would benefit all tax payers in Flintshire.

The Chief Executive and Corporate Finance Manager responded to the amendment outlined by Councillor Jones. The Chief Executive advised that there needed to be financial resilience in the Council, and this would not be possible by reducing the Council tax to levels suggested in the amendment. The Corporate Finance Manager said that the fundamental principle was that it was not sustainable to use reserves to meet the costs of recurring spends. Reserves could only be used for one year and therefore would create a funding gap the following year. For a number of years there was a cycle of using reserves to bridge the budget gap and reserves were having to be replaced the following year to ensure sustainable budgets. Members also needed to consider that the settlement proposed for 2023/24 left a budget gap which was likely to rise and would increase the financial risk significantly to the Council. On the proposal to reduce the £4.7m hardship fund, detailed consideration had been given and a risk assessment carried out on all current claims to ensure the levels were prudent. The Corporate Finance Manager advised that he would not be supportive of the amendment.

Councillor Chris Dolphin spoke against the amendment. Whilst he agreed that improved settlements were required from WG, and paid tribute to the late Councillor Kevin Hughes on leading the lobbying of WG for better settlements, he felt that reserves should be safeguarded and thanked officers for their professional and sound advice.

Councillor Dave Healey spoke against the amendment, highlighting climate change and the need for reserves to be used to deal with any adverse weather. Councillor Carolyn Thomas also spoke against the amendment and supported the comments made by Councillor Healey. She said that in her role as a Member of the Senedd, she had asked for the funding formula to be reviewed and for additional funding to be provided for highway maintenance. She reported that a £150 cost of living support would be provided to all households within Council tax band a-d and those households who are part of the Council tax reduction scheme. WG were currently working with Local Authorities on how the scheme would operate with payments being made available as soon as possible.

The Leader of the Council said that the hole in the argument put forward for the amendment by Councillor Jones was that the use of reserves was one off money and therefore could not be used again next year. Following the Local Government elections in May, the next Council administration would immediately face a £2m funding gap and he felt this was irresponsible. He re-iterated the comments made by the Corporate Finance Manager and hoped the Council would not vote to support the amendment.

Councillor Carol Ellis spoke in support of the amendment. She raised concerns that many Members had not been involved in the budget setting process and not been consulted on proposals. She referred to the funding settlement from WG and commented on the low settlement provided. She welcomed the cost of living support provided by WG but said that many people living in poverty were not in receipt of benefits and relied on foodbanks. She did not feel that it was fair for residents in Flintshire to make up the funding gap from

WG year on year. Councillor Helen Brown also spoke in support of the amendment and the comments made by Councillor Ellis. She commented on the work she had undertaken as a volunteer over the past 2 years and the overwhelming support needed for people all across Flintshire who were struggling with the cost of living. She sought Members support in accepting the amendment to help reduce the burden on all residents.

Councillor Aaron Shotton thanked all officers and Cabinet Members for their work on the budget and presentation. He spoke against the amendment and said that there was a clear message within the report, particularly around pay awards which was a considerable risk, particularly as the current proposed public sector pay was considerably below inflation and could be expected to rise in final negotiations. He referred to the comments made by the Corporate Finance Manager around ending the cycle of utilising reserves and said that reserves had previously been used during times of austerity to protect services which had been removed in neighbouring authorities and had not been re-instated. He felt that the amendment would increase the Council's cost and would put Council services at risk.

Councillor Richard Jones in summing up, said that he had been accused of utilising reserves but he explained that the amendment would see the contingency reserves remain the same level with funds being taken out of earmarked reserves. He said that his amendments utilised small amounts of funding and that it was not irresponsible to reduce the Council tax burden. He outlined the decisions made by WG which had funding implications on the Council, such as the increase in Teacher's pay and the implementation of the real living wage, where additional funding from WG should have been provided. He said that this year would see residents facing one of the most difficult financial years and therefore the Council should be setting a Council tax at the most affordable level possible.

A recorded vote was requested, and the requisite number of Members outlined their support for this. On being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

For the amendment: -

Councillors: Bernie Attridge, Haydn Bateman, Sian Braun, Helen Brown, Clive Carver, Bob Connah, Rob Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke, Rosetta Dolphin, Carol Ellis, Veronica Gay, George Hardcastle, Richard Jones, Brian Lloyd, Dave Mackie, Mike Peers, Ralph Small, Owen Thomas and Arnold Woolley.

Against the amendment: -

Councillors: Janet Axworthy, Glyn Banks, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Derek Butler, Geoff Collett, Paul Cunningham, Ron Davies, Chris Dolphin, Ian Dunbar, Andy Dunbobbin, Mared Eastwood, David Evans, David Healey, Gladys Healey, Cindy Hinds, Andy Hughes, Dave Hughes, Ray Hughes, Alistair Ibbertson, Joe Johnson, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones, Tudor Jones, Richard Lloyd, Mike Lowe, Hilary McGill, Ted Palmer, Michelle Perfect, Vicky Perfect, Neville Philips, Ian Roberts, Kevin Rush, Tony Sharps, Aaron Shotton, Paul Shotton, Ian Smith, Carolyn Thomas, Martin White and David Wisinger.

Abstentions: -

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Colin Legg and Tim Roberts.

The amendment was lost and therefore the proposal as moved and seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Roberts and the Cabinet Member for Finance & Social Value, Councillor Paul Johnson became the substantive motion.

The Chief Officer (Governance) advised Members that they may wish to keep their vote, and therefore if a Member voted for the amendment that they would be voting against the original proposal.

Councillor Haydn Bateman indicated that he wanted to amend his vote and therefore would now be voting for the proposal.

Having been moved and seconded, the following recommendations were put to the vote and carried.

- (1) That Council notes and approves the revised budget requirement for 2021/22;
- (2) That Council approves the final proposals for the corporate efficiencies which will contribute to the budget;
- (3) That Council approves a legal and balanced budget based on the calculations as set out in the report;
- (4) That Council notes the open risks which remain to be managed in the course of 2021/22;
- (5) That Council approves an annual increase in Council Tax for 2021/22 of 3.95%; and
- (6) That Council notes the medium-term forecast as a basis for the next revision of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the recommendations of Cabinet, as detailed above, for balancing the budget for 2022/23 be approved; and
- (b) That the level of Council Tax for 2022/23 as recommended by Cabinet be approved.

91. COUNCIL TAX SETTING FOR 2022/23

The Revenues Manager introduced the report to formally set the Council Tax charges and associated statutory resolutions for 2022/23 as part of the wider budget strategy on the basis of the decision taken on the previous item. Members were asked to endorse the continuation of the Council Tax Premium scheme and the practice for designated officers to lead on legal proceedings on behalf of the Council.

As mentioned in the previous item, three separate precepts made up the overall level of Council Tax charges against each property. The 3.95% increase in the Council's element met expectations of affordability and would, along with central government funding and Revenue Support Grant, help to protect front-line services and maintain the scale and complexity of demand for services. The overall amount raised by Council Tax consisted of the County Council's total precept of £94,503,918; the North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner's total precept of £20,653,459; and the collective precept of £3,195,763 across 34 Town and Community Councils.

The recommendations were moved by Councillor Ian Roberts and seconded by Councillor Paul Johnson.

Councillor Mike Peers sought advice from the Chief Officer (Governance). He commented on Members who had voted against the Council tax increase as part of the recommendations in the previous item and asked whether their vote would carry over for this item. The Chief Officer (Governance) suggested that Members may wish to keep their vote, and therefore if a Member voted for the proposal in the previous item, they would be voting against the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor Marion Bateman indicated that she wanted to amend her vote and therefore would now be voting for the proposal.

Having been moved and seconded, the recommendations were put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the 2022-23 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 2022/23 Council Tax charges for second homes and long-term empty homes be endorsed. Also, where exceptions do not apply, to charge 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.

92. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) 30 YEAR FINANCIAL BUSINESS PLAN

The Chief Executive introduced a report to approve the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue and Capital budget for 2022/23, the HRA Business Plan and the summary 30-year Financial Business Plan as recommended by Cabinet. The Chief Executive and Strategic Finance Manager (Corporate Finance) gave a presentation covering:

- Welsh Government (WG) Rent Policy

- Proposed Rent Uplift 2022/23
- Welsh Government - Wider Rental Agreement
- Service Charges
- Other Income
- Invest to Save Proposal
- Proposed Pressures and Efficiencies
- Reserves
- HRA Business Plan 2022/23
- HRA Capital Investment
- Capital Programme
- Development of the revised Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS)
- Capital Programme 2022/23
- HRA Capital Funding 2022/23

The proposed rent increase met requirements of the WG Rent Policy to consider affordability and value for money for tenants. In 2020/21 it was agreed to delay the final phased increase in service charges, with a view to protecting tenants who may be experiencing financial difficulty as a result of Covid-19. It was proposed that these increases be frozen again in 2022/23 due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic. It was proposed that further work would be undertaken to ensure services provided were of a high standard, represented value for money and that the true costs reflected in the service charges calculations.

The recommendation was moved by Councillor Dave Hughes and seconded by Councillor Ian Dunbar. Councillor Dunbar spoke in support of the Capital Programme which indicated that four schemes were due to start on site immediately which would provide an additional 77 properties to the housing stock.

Councillor Ian Smith spoke in support of the proposed rent increase which he felt was not too high and tenants would welcome given the high rise in the cost of living and energy costs.

Having been moved and seconded, the recommendation was put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

That the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2022/23 as set out in the appendices be supported and approved.

93. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2022/23

The Corporate Finance Manager presented the draft Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23, shown at Appendix 1, in conjunction with:

- Draft Treasury Management Policy Statement 2022 to 2025, shown at Appendix 2; and

- Draft Treasury Management Practices and Schedules 2022 to 2025, shown at Appendix 3 and 4.

The main body of the 2022/23 Strategy had not changed significantly from that of the 2021/22 Strategy. Matters that merited the attention of Members were outlined in section 1.08 of the Cabinet report. The counterparty limits for local authorities and other government entities for banks and building societies had been increased to £3m. This was considered necessary due to the higher levels of surplus cash held by the Council resulting from the receipt of additional Covid-19 funding in 2020/21 and 2021/22.

The Corporate Finance Manager reported that no significant changes had been made to the Strategy, Policy, Practices and Schedules and no specific issues had been raised following consultation with the Governance and Audit Committee and Cabinet.

The recommendations were moved by Councillor Paul Johnson and seconded by Councillor Chris Dolphin.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23 be approved;
- (b) That the Treasury Management Policy Statement 2022 to 2025 be approved; and
- (c) That the Treasury Management Practices and Schedules 2022 to 2025 be approved.

94. MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION - 2022/23 POLICY

The Corporate Finance Manager introduced the report to approve the annual policy for the Minimum Revenue Provision for the prudent repayment of debt. He confirmed that there were no changes to the recommendations made by Cabinet.

The recommendations were moved by Councillor Paul Johnson and seconded by Councillor Chris Dolphin.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the following be approved for Council Fund (CF): -
 - Option 3 (Asset Life Method) be used for the calculation of the MRP in financial year 2022/23 for the balance of outstanding capital expenditure funded from supported borrowing fixed as at 31st March 2017. The calculation will be the 'annuity' method over 49 years.
 - Option 3 (Asset Life Method) be used for the calculation of the MRP in 2022/23 for all capital expenditure funded from supported borrowing from 1st April 2016 onwards. The calculation will be the 'annuity' method over an

appropriate number of years, dependent on the period of time that the capital expenditure is likely to generate benefits.

- Option 3 (Asset Life Method) be used for the calculation of the MRP in 2022/23 for all capital expenditure funded from unsupported (prudential) borrowing or credit arrangements. The calculation will be the ‘annuity’ method over an appropriate number of years, dependent on the period of time that the capital expenditure is likely to generate benefits.
- (b) That the following be approved for Housing Revenue Account (HRA): -
- Option 3 (Asset Life Method) be used for the calculation of the HRA’s MRP in 2022/23 for the balance of outstanding capital expenditure funded from debt fixed as at 31st March 2021. The calculation will be the ‘annuity’ method over 49 years.
 - Option 3 (Asset Life Method) be used for the calculation of the HRA’s MRP in 2022/23 for all capital expenditure funded from debt from 1st April 2021 onwards. The calculation will be the ‘annuity’ method over an appropriate number of years, dependent on the period of time that the capital expenditure is likely to generate benefits.
- (c) Members approve that MRP on loans from the Council to NEW Homes to build affordable homes through the Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP) (which qualify as capital expenditure in accounting terms) be as follows: -
- No MRP is made during the construction period (of short duration) as the asset has not been brought into use and no benefit is being derived from its use.
 - Once the assets are brought into use, capital (loan) repayments will be made by NEW Homes. The Council’s MRP will be equal to the repayments made by NEW Homes. The repayments made by NEW Homes will be classed, in accounting terms, as capital receipts, which can only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt. The capital repayment / capital receipt will be set aside to repay debt and is the Council’s MRP policy for repaying the loan.

95. NORTH WALES POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND MARKET STABILITY REPORT

The Chief Officer (Social Services) introduced the report to provide an overview of the North Wales Population Needs Assessment 2022 which had been produced as a requirement of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

The North Wales Population Needs Assessment was a statutory requirement and was an assessment of the care and support needs of the population and the support needs of carers throughout North Wales. The reports development was led by the North Wales Social Care and Well-being services improvement collaborative with information from the six North Wales Councils

and the Health Board. The report must be approved by all partners prior to being published on 1 April 2022.

The Regional Market Stability report which followed on from the Population Needs Assessment and provided an assessment of the sufficiency of care and support in meeting the needs and demand for social care must also be published in June 2022. Together, both documents should help to provide those commissioning care and support with a comprehensive understanding of the current and projected demand and supply. The next phase of the project would involve using the Population needs assessment to develop an area plan for the region which was to be developed and published in 2023.

In moving and seconding the recommendations, both Councillor Christine Jones and Councillor Hilary McGuill spoke in support of the comprehensive report and thanked both Emma Murphy and Katrina Shankar for their work in collating the information.

Councillor Chris Bithell paid tribute to the officers who had contributed to the report and commented on the number of responses received from Flintshire residents, staff and partner organisations which was welcoming. He also commented on the future population trajectories which he felt would be challenging and the implications for future funding to provide social care services for an ageing population.

The Chief Officer (Social Services) thanked Members for the comments and said that he would pass on the thanks of Members to the officers. He agreed with the concerns from Councillor Bithell around an ageing population and explained that documents like the one presented allows for the Council to prepare for the development of extra care housing and in-house care provision for older people.

Having been moved and seconded, the recommendations were put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the North Wales Population Needs Assessment be supported; and
- (b) That the process for the approval of the Regional Market Stability Report, as outlined in the report, be approved.

96. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None were received.

97. QUESTIONS

None were received.

98. NOTICE OF MOTION

None were received.

99. **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN ATTENDANCE**

There were no members of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 2pm and ended at 4.30pm)

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Chairman