## **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

DATE OF MEETING: 19 DECEMBER 2023 AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

REPORT OF: Corporate Finance Manager

SUBJECT: MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) AND

**BUDGET 2024/25** 

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:** (1) To receive and note the revised

additional budget requirement for the 2024/25 financial year; and

(2) To note the progress made and the

ongoing work on budget solutions that continue to be urgently

addressed to enable the Council to set a legal and balanced budget by

March 2024.

**DECISION:** As detailed in the recommendations.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS** Consultation has taken place with

**REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** Portfolio Management Teams and the

Chief Officer Team, the Finance Team, Cabinet Members, Group Leaders and Scrutiny Committees. Workforce conferences have been held for

employees.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:** As set out in the report.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**DISPENSATIONS** None.

# **SIGNED**

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## **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

DATE OF MEETING: 19 DECEMBER 2023 AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

REPORT OF: Chief Officer (Housing and Communities)

SUBJECT: HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) 30 YEAR

FINANCIAL BUSINESS PLAN

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**

**DECISION:** (1) To consider the HRA budget for 2024/25 as set out in the report;

- (2) To approve the proposed minimum rent increase of 6.5%;
- (3) To approve a garage rent increase of 6.5%;
- (4) To approve the increase in service charges to full cost recovery with the exception of aerial charges which will be frozen until a new contract is negotiated;
- (5) That the tenant hardship fund be topped up to a cap of £0.350m from any surplus reserves generated in year, if required; and
- (6) To consider the proposed HRA Capital Programme for 2024/25 as set out in appendix B.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** As detailed in the report.

CONSULTATIONS

REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:

with tenants and elected Members to inform the preparation of the WHQS 2023

investment programme.

Full local consultation is carried out for each new build scheme.

As part of the 2023/24 rent settlement, the Council gave commitment to WG around engagement with contract holders / tenants and therefore a survey was being conducted around affordability to inform rent setting for 2024/25.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:** 

The HRA is a ring-fenced budget. This proposed HRA budget and Business Plan demonstrates that the Council can achieve the ongoing WHQS, can meet service improvement plans and commitments and with prudential borrowing can continue its Council house building programme in 2024/25.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**DISPENSATIONS** None

**DATE PUBLISHED:** 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**SIGNED** 

## **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

DATE OF MEETING: 19 DECEMBER 2023 AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

REPORT OF: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: DRAFT STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN 2024-28

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:

(1) Cabinet approves the draft
Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28
before wider consultation with
stakeholders, members of the
public, and employees; and

(2) That the draft Strategic Equality
Plan 2024-28 is presented to
Corporate Resources Overview
and Scrutiny Committee for their
consideration and review.

**DECISION:** As detailed in the recommendations.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:

Engagement and consultation with stakeholders and services has taken place to identify potential objectives and actions for the draft SEP 2024-28.

The draft SEP 2024-28 will be released

for public consultation in

December 2023.

Formal consultation on the draft SEP

2024-28 will take place with

Corporate Resources Overview and

Scrutiny Committee, also in

December 2023.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:** There are no significant resource

implications arising from the Strategic

Equality Plan 2024-28.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**DISPENSATIONS** None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:** 

20th December 2023

<u>SIGNED</u>

## **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

## CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

<u>DATE OF MEETING:</u> <u>19 DECEMBER 2023</u> <u>AGENDA ITEM NO. 7</u>

REPORT OF: Corporate Finance Manager

SUBJECT: REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24 (MONTH

<u>7)</u>

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:** (1) To note the report and the

estimated financial impact on the

2023/24 budget; and

(2) To approve the transfer of a £0.500m Earmarked Reserve

balance relating to Council Tax
Income to the Contingency

Reserve.

**DECISION:** As detailed in the recommendations.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS

**REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** 

None.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:** As detailed in the report.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**DISPENSATIONS** None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:** 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

SIGNED Democratic Services Manager

## **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

DATE OF MEETING: 19 DECEMBER 2023 AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

REPORT OF: Corporate Finance Manager

SUBJECT: TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REVIEW

2023/24

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:** That Cabinet recommends the draft

Treasury Management Mid-Year Report

2023/24 to County Council on 23rd

January for final approval.

**DECISION:** As detailed in the recommendation.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS** Arlingclose Ltd, being the Council's

**REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** treasury management advisors.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:** As detailed in the report.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**DISPENSATIONS** None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:** 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

SIGNED Democratic Services Manager

#### **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

DATE OF MEETING: 19 DECEMBER 2023 AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

REPORT OF: Chief Officer (Governance)

SUBJECT: BUSINESS RATES - WRITE OFFS

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:** That Cabinet approves the write off of

these business rate debts, amounting to £92,489 for PPA Engineering Group Ltd and £25,776 for Gibbs (Steel Fabricators)

Ltd.

**DECISION:** As detailed in the recommendation.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS All write offs must be approved by the

REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT: Corporate Finance Manager, but in the

case of write offs over £25k, Cabinet must be consulted before a decision is taken.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:** There are no direct financial implications

for the Council or local taxpayers by writing off these debts as business rates losses are picked up by the National Collection Pool for Wales. As the Collection Pool is supported by Welsh Government, non-payment of rates does though have a wider impact on the Welsh

taxpayer.

Writing off the two debts amounting to a total loss of £118.2k income to the National Collection Pool, is being

recommended as a last resort and only on the basis that there is no realistic chance of successfully recovering the debt from

either business.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**DISPENSATIONS** None.

# **SIGNED**

## **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

### CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 19 DECEMBER 2023 AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

REPORT OF: Chief Officer (Housing and Communities)

SUBJECT: SHELTERED HOUSING REVIEW

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:** (1) To support the methodology proposed to assess the Council's

sheltered assets;

(2) To support the communication and engagement plan proposed to assess the Council's sheltered

assets;

(3) To support future assessment work to sheltered housing assets and

progress to an options appraisal stage if investment concerns are highlighted through its in-depth

review.

**DECISION:** As detailed in the recommendations.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** As in the report.

<u>CONSULTATIONS</u>

REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT: undertaken. The report proposes a

communication and engagement plan to be undertaken with all stakeholders as recommendations are identified for each

To date limited consultation has been

scheme.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:** The review and subsequent proposals

shall ensure the housing stock is

utilised most effectively and is sustainable

over the longer term.

The options appraisal process shall

involve a detailed technical

assessment of schemes and whilst most

of this work can be conducted in house there may be a need for some specialist support and input when assessing potential for scheme reconfiguration or new build options.

The decision to re-designate schemes or undertake options appraisals shall necessitate a significant investment in staff time particularly from the housing management service which shall lead on any decant process which can be intensive, challenging, and sensitive work. Any decision to de-commission schemes shall present a significant challenge to the housing asset service to ensure the scheme remains safe and secure throughout the decanting process.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**DISPENSATIONS** None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:** 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

SIGNED

## **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

DATE OF MEETING: 19 DECEMBER 2023 AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

REPORT OF: Chief Officer (Governance)

SUBJECT: PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES

ANNUAL LETTER 2022-23 AND COMPLAINTS
MADE AGAINST FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 2023-24** 

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:** (1) That Cabinet notes the annual

performance of the Council in respect of complaints made to the Public Services Ombudsman for

Wales during 2022-23;

(2) That Cabinet notes the half year performance of the Council (2023-

24) in respect of complaints made against services in line with the

concerns and complaints procedure; and

(3) That Cabinet supports the priorities

outlined in the report.

**DECISION:** As detailed in the recommendations.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** As detailed in the report.

CONSULTATIONS

**REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** 

None.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: None.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**DISPENSATIONS** None.

# **SIGNED**

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## **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

## CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 19 DECEMBER 2023 AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

REPORT OF: Chief Officer (Governance)

SUBJECT: INTRODUCING A CORPORATE FACEBOOK PAGE

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:** (1) That Cabinet supports the

introduction of a corporate

Facebook account to help achieve priorities outlined in the Council Plan and Digital Strategy; and

(2) That Cabinet champion the

introduction of a corporate Facebook account and use the platform to share messages with

customers.

**DECISION:** As detailed in the recommendations.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS

**REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** has been widely welcomed by colleagues

across services with positive feedback

The idea to introduce a corporate account

received.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:** There are no perceived resource

implications to launching a corporate Facebook account. The service is free of charge and will be managed by the Customer Service and Communications

Team.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**DISPENSATIONS** None.

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