

HOUSING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
23 JANUARY 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Friday 23 January 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Ron Hampson (Chair)

Councillors: Amanda Bragg, Paul Cunningham, Ron Davies, Rosetta Dolphin, George Hardcastle, Ray Hughes, Mike Reece and Gareth Roberts

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: Peter Curtis, Jim Falshaw, Hilary Isherwood and Brian Lloyd

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors: Haydn Bateman and Richard Jones

CONTRIBUTORS:

Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Chief Executive, Cabinet Member for Housing, Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise), Corporate Finance Manager, Housing Asset Manager, Supporting People Manager, Acting Finance and Accountancy Manager, Capital Works Team Manager

IN ATTENDANCE:

Housing & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Overview & Scrutiny Support Officer

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

53. BUDGET CONSULTATION FOR 2015/16

The Chairman welcomed the contributors to the meeting.

The Leader outlined the budget consultation process to date, which included briefing meetings with Group Leaders and Chairs of Overview & Scrutiny Committees, culminating with the Overview & Scrutiny mop-up session scheduled to be held on Friday, 30th January, 2015, prior to the final budget proposals being presented to County Council on the 17th February, 2015. Regular updates had been given to Members over recent months and the Leader commented on the unprecedented financial challenges facing all Councils across Wales. The draft budget report, presented to Cabinet on 16th December, 2015 highlighted a £16.4m budget gap for 2015/16. Following intensive work a balanced budget had been achieved. The risk to frontline services was a unique challenge with no magic formula and no additional money available.

The Leader commented on the consequential revenue provision and briefed Members on his lobbying of Ministers and the Welsh Government (WG). He expressed his disappointment following the Autumn Statement that no additional funding for service protection was being allocated to Local Government.

The Chief Executive and Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) gave a brief presentation which covered the following areas:-

- National Position
- Revised Local Position
- Impacts of 14-15 on 15-16
- Strategy to close the extended gap
- Up to date Strategy position
- Remaining Strategy Actions
- Big Budget Conversation
- Member Involvement
- Overview & Scrutiny
- Final Steps in the Budget
- Medium Term Financial Plan Review
- Context for efficiencies 2015/16
- Housing Council Fund Efficiency Proposals 2015/16
- Housing Revenue Account 30 Year Business Plan
 - HRA 1015/18
 - Self Financing
 - 30 Year Business Plan
 - Other income
 - Principles underpinning Efficiencies
 - HRA Efficiency Proposals
- HRA Capital Programme 2015/16
 - Funding for HRA Capital Programme
 - Council Housing Building Programme

The Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) and Housing Asset Manager gave a detailed presentation on budget proposals within the Community and Enterprise portfolio.

The comments and questions which were raised by Members of the Committee on the presentations, together with the responses given, are detailed in Appendix 1 (attached).

During discussion, the Chair thanked Officers for the openness in which the workshops and verbal updates had been delivered to Members and felt members of the public were better prepared for the year ahead.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

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

There were no member of the public and one member of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 12.15 pm)

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Chairman