

**Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting –  
30<sup>th</sup> November, 2016**

**Summary of observations on the reduction of cost pressures through corporate financial stewardship**

- **Council Tax Base Increase**

The Committee noted the change in forecast to the tax base.

- **Independent Living Fund (ILF)**

The Committee noted the change, following confirmation that the specific grant will continue at the same level for a further year.

- **Transition to Adulthood**

The Committee noted the change.

A comment was made that this proposal had not been presented to the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration. It was explained that each year an assessment was made of the future pressures on Adult Social Services budgets and following the review a reduction in the previous estimate has been identified. This is on-going work and therefore would not need to be considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

- **Flint Extra Care Scheme**

The Committee noted the change.

A comment was made that this proposal had not been presented to the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration. It was explained that the opening of the new facility was now set to be in early 2018, therefore the financial pressure for the 2017/18 budget had reduced.

- **Schools Investment**

The Committee noted the change.

A comment was made that this proposal had not been presented to the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration. It was explained that there would be an uplift of 1.34% to schools budgets. The £400,000 identified within the report was

lower than first set out in the budget forecast, and therefore was not a reduction in schools budgets.

- **Apprenticeship Tax Levy**

The Committee noted the change.

A number of questions were raised around the need for a prudent approach when using reserves. Members were assured that the Section 151 Officer and Deputy Section 151 Officers took a prudent approach the using reserves and there were many principles that were followed which included, the use of contingency reserves and base level reserves. A judgement would be taken when the time came.

- **Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA)**

The Committee spoke in support of the work undertaken in reviewing the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy and thanked the Officers for the detailed and informative presentation.

A number of questions were raised around the greater provision required for some years in the 50 year planning period and the impact this could have on the future Council to make necessary decisions. It was explained that the variations were considered reasonable in scale and therefore affordable.

Members were assured that a prudent and sustainable outcome was proposed and that when considering future central loans and investments, all re-payment methods be considered.