

EXECUTIVE
14TH JULY 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 14th July 2009.

PRESENT: Councillor A. Woolley (Chairman)

Councillors: C. Ellis, H.D. Hutchinson, N. Matthews, N. Phillips, L.A. Sharps, N.R. Steele-Mortimer and H. Yale.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors: J. Falshaw, Ms V. Gay, Mrs C. M. Jones, D. Mackie and A.P. Shotton.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Environment, Director of Lifelong Learning, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Head of Committee, Member and Electoral Services.

APOLOGY

Councillor M Higham

61. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 23rd June 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A Woolley declared personal and non prejudicial interest in agenda item number 4 – New National Waste Targets and agenda item number 10 The Development of Dementia Services for Older People in Flintshire.

63. NEW NATIONAL WASTE TARGETS

The Executive Member for Waste Strategy and Management introduced a report which provided information on the future consultation directions paper of the Welsh Assembly Government which proposed new waste targets and priorities. The report sought approval for Flintshire's response to the consultation. She referred to a supplementary document tabled at the meeting which set out the key points to be included in the response.

The Executive Member expressed her concern over the food waste targets and the percentage targets which were unrealistic and unachievable. She also referred to the sector plans which were intended as a tool to deliver and inform the strategy but could lag behind. There also needed to be a greater acknowledgment and responsibility from manufacturers to reduce the amount of packaging being created. Whilst this was not a Local Authority responsibility Central Government backing and initiatives were required to encourage producers to reduce the amount of packaging and consideration needed to be given to undertaking a pilot within Wales.

The Director of Environment expressed his disappointment on the consultation paper particularly as there was too much reliance on recycling and not minimisation of waste.

The Chief Executive said a constructive and fair response to the consultation was needed. The North Wales Residual Waste Joint Committee, of which Flintshire was a member, would also be submitting a response.

It was agreed that the proposed new targets be noted and that the Director of Environment prepare a response to the consultation paper based on the draft which had been circulated at the commencement of the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the new proposed targets be noted and that the Director of Environment respond to the consultation paper based upon the draft circulated at the meeting and the matters arising from discussion in consultation with the Executive Member for Waste Management.

64. TAITH DRAFT REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN

The Executive Member for Environment presented a report which sought approval for finalising the final draft of the Regional Transport Plan which was due to be submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government on 30th September 2009.

The Executive Member paid tribute to the work that had gone into the preparation of the plan and to the consultation workshops that had been held including one the previous week. The work of Taith covered all of the North Wales area and had cross border relationships such as the Mersey Dee Alliance. Local Government reorganisation in Cheshire had reinforced the importance of working with Wirral, Merseyside and the North West of England. A representative of Taith was now a member of the Mersey Dee Alliance. This was an excellent report which was supported by the board of Members of which he was the Vice-Chair and it was recommended that it be submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government after it had been further considered by Taith in September.

The Director of Environment referred to the statutory process and to the recent workshop at which comments had been made on the national position in Wales and “the North South transport divide”, the A55 congestion, Aston Hill and local issues. The comments made at the workshop would be included in the representations made to Taith for inclusion in the final report. Taith would consider the report on 11th September prior to its submission to the Welsh Assembly Government. He also informed the Executive that the Welsh Assembly Government was due to publish its national transport plan the following day.

RESOLVED

- a) That the report be noted and that delegated authority be given to the Director of Environment following consultation with the Executive Member for the Environment to collate and pass on comments of the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny to Taith for their analysis and inclusion in the regional transport plan as deemed appropriate;
- b) That all members of the Council be informed about the current status of the Regional Transport Plan and be directed to the Taith website where the document would be available to view.

65. UNIARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN INSPECTORS REPORT – STATEMENT OF DECISIONS AND PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

The Chairman referred to the report of the Head of Planning which was to be considered by the Special Meeting of the County Council later in the day. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reminded the Executive that the Unitary Development Plan was a County Council function and the Executive could not make a decision but only make a recommendation to the County Council and accordingly the Council's call-in arrangements did not apply.

The Executive Member for Environment referred to the report which set out the outcomes of the Public Inquiry held into objections to the emerging Flintshire Unitary Development Plan.

The Director of Environment explained that Andy Roberts, Head of Planning Policy, would be making a presentation at County Council later in the day and that the current planning process was based on the Delyn Local Plan, the Alyn and Deeside Local Plan and the Clwyd Structure Plan all of which had time expired and with inconsistent planning policies. There was a need to have an up to date plan and a commitment had been given to the Welsh Assembly Government that the County Council would adopt the UDP. However, there were a number of Members who were newly elected and had therefore had not been involved in the preparation. Nevertheless, there was a need to move on to enable preparation of the Local Development Plan and there would be considerable benefits for the County Council and the planning process would be streamlined. In response to questions by Members he confirmed that the consideration by the County Council later in the day would not be the last opportunity for Members to discuss the UDP. If the report was approved by the County Council there would be a six week consultation process in September and this would give the opportunity for late comments to be made on issues not previously considered. The process would then include a report back to the Executive prior to consideration by the County Council on responses arising out of the consultation process in approximately November with adoption of the plan in early 2010.

RESOLVED

- a) That the statement of decisions as set out in appendix 1 to the report be accepted as the Council's position in respect of the recommendations contained within the inspectors report;

- b) That the proposed modifications to the UDP as set out in appendix 2 to the report and the accompanying maps in appendix 3 be approved to go out for formal consultation for a six week period as soon as practicable following the August recess from September 2009;
- c) That the proposed modifications to be used in conjunction with the deposit UDP for development control purposes, be approved;
- d) That delegated powers be given to Officers in drawing up the final modifications ready for publication to address any minor errors or issues of consistency that might come to light following the meeting;
- e) That the above recommendations be recommended for approval by the County Council on 14th July 2009.

66. MANAGEMENT OF INTERNAL AUDIT

The Chief Executive reported on the feedback from the Member workshop held on 16th June 2009 and the extension of the Bentley Jennison Contract. Members were reminded of the previous report to the Executive on 10th March and 13th May 2009 on the management of internal audit and to a report that had been made to the Audit Committee on 24th June 2009. The workshop to explore issues around the management of internal audit had been held on 16th June 2009 and had been facilitated by Price Waterhouse Coopers the Council's external auditors.

The workshop had provided an opportunity to discuss the future delivery of internal audit and four management options had been explored which were in house (management and staff); external management of in house staff; wholly outsourced and partnership. A detailed options appraisal on each of these options would now be planned and a report brought back to the Audit Committee in the first instance. The Chief Executive also referred to discussions which had taken place with Bentley Jennison since the workshop and indicated that an agreement had been reached to extend the current contract for a further six months from 30th September 2009 to 31st March 2010 to ensure service continuity and morale within the internal audit team.

RESOLVED

That the report and the further extension of the external management contract with Bentley Jennison be noted.

67. WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME MONITORING REPORT 2008-2009

The Executive Member for Corporate Government and Strategy introduced the report which presented Members the Council's Welsh Language Scheme Annual Monitoring Report for 2008/09 and to seek agreement to the formal submission of the report to the Welsh Language Board.

The Chief Executive expressed his appreciation of the work that had gone into the preparation and ongoing management of the scheme. The scheme, as developed, was proportionate to the Welsh Language needs of the County area and would now be submitted to the Welsh Language Board.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and agreed for formal submission to the Welsh Language Board.

68. TOWN ACTION PLANS

The Director of Environment presented a report which informed Members how the Town Action Plan projects would be funded in 2009/10 and to seek agreement for the process of approving applications for assistance. The Director referred to the process which had been approved by the Executive on 16th September 2008 and referred to workshops that had been held in each of the seven main towns. Partnerships were now being established in each town to agree actions and develop the Town Action Plans.

The Director referred to the considerations of the report, highlighting in particular projects that would address sustainable improvements to the built and green environment; measures to increase viability and vitality of businesses and measures to protect/increase the footfall of customers and visitors. It was proposed that projects that were eligible for support would be considered by the Flintshire Regeneration Partnership.

In conclusion, he referred to the 2009/10 Capital Programme allocation of £180,000 and the £120,000 Tidy Town funding and to the allocation of a balance of £18,000 for 2009/10 for Strand 1, £10,000 allocated to support community actions to maintain and improve the rivers in Flintshire as part of Strand 2 and £8,000 allocated to support community clean up activities across the whole County as part of Strand 3.

The Executive Member for Environment referred to the importance of regeneration schemes but expressed his concern on the impact of anti-social behaviour in the town centres at night and the impact this was having on residents and emphasised the need for more Wardens and Police activity.

The Executive Member for Leisure and Public Protection referred to the meetings held with Town and Community Councils on the Town Action Plans and their high expectations. He expressed his disappointment that schemes had been put forward only to receive negative responses from Officers. The Director agreed to speak to the Member on his concerns.

The Chief Executive referred to considerations by Town and Community Councils who would need some certainty to enable them to plan ahead and make budget provision for projects. Additional resources were needed and the County Council had made a bid for Strategic Capital Investment funding.

The Executive Member for Education and Youth supported the recommendations to the report but emphasised the importance of supporting villages as well as town centres.

In conclusion, and in moving the recommendations of the report, the Executive Member for Environment emphasised the importance of the County Council encouraging local businesses to stay in the County and he gave examples of planning considerations which had resulted in the businesses locating outside of the County.

RESOLVED:

That the project approval process, as set out in the report, be approved.

69. DEVELOPMENT OF DEMENTIA SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN FLINTSHIRE

The Executive Member for Social Services presented a report which sought approval to re-align the budget for older people services to enable service re-design to meet future challenges both in demographic growth and complexity of care.

The Executive Member referred to the report and that it was estimated in Flintshire there were 1,600 people aged over 65 years who currently had a formal diagnosis of dementia. By 2020 it was projected that this would increase to approximately 2,200 an increase of 30%. She explained that Flintshire's services for people with dementia were under-developed and were one of the key priorities in the Health and Social Care Well Being Strategy promoting partnership working to address the agreed priorities. Research showed that providing social care support for people with dementia at an earlier stage could result in a slow down in the rate at which people progressed from a low to moderate level of need resulting in them being maintained in their own homes for an average of two years longer.

The Director of Community Services referred to the planned developments to meet future needs and to develop a Dementia Specialist Team and to re-align the current older peoples' service budget by moving resources from long term care residential purchasing budget to enable the development of a more flexible and specialist community based provision. The proposed service model would initially be trialled in East Flintshire where joint working with the Community Mental Health Teams was well established.

The Director then referred to the financial implications of the report and to the budget re-alignment together with Welsh Assembly Government grants through the independent and well-being and continuing health care funding.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the re-alignment of £148,182 within the older peoples' service budget be approved; and

- (b) That it be noted that following a period of development, consideration would be given to extending the service model to other areas within Flintshire.

70. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS

An information report of the Chief Executive, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The purpose of the report was to inform Members of actions taken under delegated powers.

The actions taken were as set out below:

The Environment	Disposal of land adjacent to 39 Tegid Way, Saltney
	Renewal of lease of land at rear of 63/65 High Street, Holywell
Community Services	Flexible Contracts for Children's Services Assistants

71. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 – TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following Agenda Items which were considered to be exempt by virtue of paragraphs 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (As Amended).

72. A D WASTE TRANSFER

The Executive Member for Waste Strategy and Management presented a report which provided an update on the progress made on the transfer of A D Waste Limited into the County Council and to make recommendations.

The Director of Environment referred to the considerations and background of the report and provided information on the options available. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services outlined the legal considerations.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the transfer be effected at market value;
- (b) That option 3 as set out in paragraph 3.27 of the report in relation to future landfill disposal, be approved; and
- (c) That the Director of Environment be authorised to implement the above decision in consultation with the Executive Member for Waste Strategy and Management.

73. ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE MANAGEMENT REVIEW

The Director of Environment presented a report which provided an update on the Environment Directorate Management Review and to seek approval for a revised structure.

The Director referred to the current five service areas within the Directorate and to the Directorate Management Team undertaking a review of third and fourth tier posts. He outlined the reasons for the review and to the key requirements of the process which had been to take account of the corporate principles for reviews. The review covered all areas of the Directorate except Streetscene/Waste Management and Regeneration which were the subject of separate reviews.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed changes set out in the report, be approved for consultation; and
- (b) That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, and with the advice of the Chief Executive and Head of Organisational Development and Human Resources to consider representations made, finalise proposals and implement them.

74. FINANCE FUNCTION REVIEW

The Chief Executive presented the report of the Head of Finance which provided an update on progress on the Finance Function Review and sought approval of a new senior management structure for the Finance Division and the grouping of services under each Manager reporting to the Head of Finance. The report also sought agreement for the deletion of posts from the current established structure.

The Chief Executive referred to the Appendices to the report which illustrated the established senior management structure for Finance as it existed within the former Finance, Legal and Democratic Services Directorate, the current interim senior management structure and the proposed new senior management structure and functional groupings.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That progress to date be noted
- (b) That the senior management structure for the Finance Division and the creation of three posts in principle, pending job evaluation, be approved;
- (c) That the functional groupings as set out in Appendix C to the report, be approved;

- (d) That the deletion from the structure of two Head of Customer Accounts posts and the Head of Pensions and Funds, be approved.

75. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and ended at 11.20 am.

76. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were three members of the press and one member of the public in attendance.

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Chairman

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S
CODE OF CONDUCT**

EXECUTIVE	DATE: 14th July 2009
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
Councillor A Woolley	Agenda Item No 4 – New National Waste Targets Agenda Item No. 10 – The Development of Dementia Services for Older People in Flintshire	63