

**TO: Councillor: Arnold Woolley
(Chairman)**

Councillors: Carol Ellis, Mel Higham, Dennis Hutchinson,
Nancy Matthews, Neville Phillips OBE, Tony Sharps,
Nigel Steele-Mortimer, Helen Yale

Your Ref /
Eich Cyf

Our Ref / Ein NG
Cyf

Date / Dyddiad 06/05/2009

Ask for / Gofynner am Graham Connah

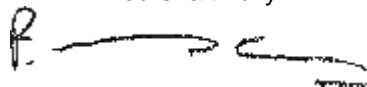
Direct Dial / Rhif Union 01352 702336

Fax / Ffacs

Dear Sir / Madam,

A meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** will be held in the **CLWYD COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNTY HALL, MOLD** on **WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2009** at **09:30** to consider the following items.

Yours faithfully



Assistant Director (Democratic Services)

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**

2. **MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 21/04/2009 (copy enclosed).

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REPORTS

STRATEGIC REPORTS

4. BUDGET 2010/11 - CHANCELLOR'S BUDGET STATEMENT
Report of the Head of Finance - Portfolio of the Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6NA
Tel. 01352 702400 DX 708591 Mold 4
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug. CH7 6NR
Ffôn 01352 702400 DX 708591 Mold 4
www.siryfflint.gov.uk

5. THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE PENNINGTON REVIEW (ON E-COLI)
Report of the Director of Environment - Portfolio of the Executive Member for Leisure and Public Protection
6. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 TO 2012/13
Report of the Head of Finance and Chief Executive and Director of Community Services and Director of Environment and Director of Lifelong Learning - Portfolio of the Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management
7. DRAFT FLINTSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2009 TO 2019 - UPDATE
Report of the Chief Executive - Portfolio of the Executive Member for Corporate Governance and Strategy

OPERATIONAL REPORTS

8. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2008/09 (MONTH 11)
Report of the Head of Finance - Portfolio of the Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management
9. BUSINESS RATES/COUNCIL TAX LIABILITY ON COMMERCIALY LET PROPERTIES
Report of the Head of Finance - Portfolio of the Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management
10. BUSINESS RATES - EMPTY PROPERTY RELIEF
Report of the Head of Finance - Portfolio of the Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management
11. INVESTMENT IN LANDSBANKI
Report of the Head of Finance - Portfolio of the Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management
12. FINANCE FUNCTION REVIEW - MANAGEMENT OF INTERNAL AUDIT
Report of the Head of Finance - Portfolio of the Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management
13. ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE AND RE-DESIGN PHASE II
Report of the Chief Executive - Portfolio of the Executive Member for Corporate Governance and Strategy
14. WELFARE RIGHTS UNIT - PERFORMANCE UPDATE
Report of the Director of Community Services - Portfolio of the Executive Member for Estate Management (Housing and Industrial/Commercial and Agricultural)
15. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS
Report of the Chief Executive enclosed
16. FOR INFORMATION
A copy of the Executive Forward Work Programme (Months 05/09 to 10/09) together with an update are enclosed for information

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - TO
CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The following item is considered to be exempt by virtue of Paragraph(s) 14, 15 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

17. **AD WASTE**
To receive a verbal report from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services

EXECUTIVE
21ST APRIL 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 21st April 2009.

PRESENT: Councillor A. Woolley (Chairman)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors: K. Armstrong-Braun, J.B. Attridge, R. Baker, H. Bateman, R.C. Bithell, R. Jones, Mrs D. Mackie, D. Mackie, P. Macfarlane, P. Pemberton 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, Head of Finance, Head of ICT & Customer Services, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development, Policy, Performance and Partnerships Manager and Head of Committee, Member and Electoral Services.

APOLOGIES: Councillors M. Higham and H. D. Hutchinson.

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman indicated that there would be an additional urgent Agenda item in respect of A. D. Waste.

311. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

312. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor N. Phillips declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item no. 8 the report of the Director of Community Services on the restructuring of Housing Operational Services.

313. COUNCIL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Chief Executive presented a report on the progress of the Council Planning Framework. He referred to the Performance Consultation Workshops held the previous day and thanked Members who had attended and for their contribution.

The Chief Executive explained that the Council Planning Framework consisted of co-related documents which together stated ambition, priorities and targets within an overall governance framework. The framework comprised the Council (Plan) Governance Framework, Annual Statements and Service and Directorate Planning. This was a staged report and the suggested outline of a new Council Governance Framework Plan was set out in the Appendix to the report and further reports would come forward to the Executive in due course.

The draft Governance Framework Plan and Directorate Plans would have been reviewed and completed by the end of June and this would give the opportunity to consider the long term priorities as part of the 2010/11 Budget as well as giving Members the opportunity to develop political priorities. In addition, regard would have to be given to the Chancellor's statement to be made the following day.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the Council (Plan) Governance Framework be supported and endorsed and the timings for the production of the Service and Directorate Plans be noted.

314. PERFORMANCE REPORTING – AN IMPROVED APPROACH

The Chief Executive presented a report on the improved style of quarterly Performance Report with four model examples. As with the previous agenda item this had been the subject of two workshops the previous day and the People and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee was overseeing this work.

An improved style for quarterly performance reporting had been developed and the four example models presented at the meeting were Community Services Directorate – Social Services for Adults; Environment Directorate – Planning Services; Lifelong Learning Directorate – Development and Resources with a focus on school modernisation and Corporate Services – ICT and Customer Services. The models for Performance Reports were at Head of Service Level of reporting accountability and were broadly based on the performance and evidence position as at quarter three which was reflected in performance for the October to December period. The model samples were work in progress.

The quarterly Performance Reports were based on performance indicators, actions/milestones in relation to the strategic assessment of risk and challenges, performance against improvement agreements, resource management, internal/external audit regulation – key findings, awards/accreditations and customer satisfaction. All quarterly Performance Reports would be accompanied by a table of performance data.

The Policy, Performance and Partnership Manager referred to the contributions made at the workshop the previous day and emphasised the importance of clarity and providing precise information; consistency in what was provided and context in providing meaningful information.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the improved approach to performance reporting be endorsed and the start of the new arrangements for all services for the quarter (April to June) in 2009/10 be approved; and
- b) that the consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Committees be noted.

315. INTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY 2009/10 TO 2011/12

The Head of Finance presented a report to inform Members of the Committee of the outline Internal Audit plan for the next three years. The plan had been presented to the Audit Committee on 15th April, 2009. The report had been accepted by the Audit Committee and a discussion had been held when the Head of Internal Audit had answered specific questions. The strategy linked to the work with the regulators and work was prioritised in accordance with the highest risk.

The Chief Executive explained that efforts were made to pre-plan the Audit work by agreement, but it was also important to note that there was unallocated time to allow the Head of Audit to undertake specific work as required.

The Chief Executive referred to the consideration by the Audit Committee of the Finance Function Review and in particular the Internal Audit arrangements for the management of Internal Audit. The Committee had made its opinion clear that the current arrangements should stay in place for twelve months pending review; the Committee had corrected the draft minutes of its previous meeting to reflect this precise view. A workshop would be held in June when Members of the Committee would be given the opportunity to make comments and provide an input into the review and to the risk assessment. A guarantee had been given that there would be no changes to the management arrangements until the risk assessment had been undertaken, completed and reported back to the Audit Committee for final decision by the Executive.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

316. PROCUREMENT OF ANAEROBIC DIGESTION CAPACITY

The Executive Member for Waste Strategy and Management introduced a joint report of the Chief Executive, Director of Environment, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Head of Finance. The report sought approval to work in partnership with Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council to procure anaerobic digestion capacity for the treatment of food/kitchen waste.

The Executive Member referred to a conference in January when there had been a Ministerial announcement to support the formation of procurement hubs to accelerate the procurement and delivery of food waste treatment capacity with the preferred technology being anaerobic digestion. The collection of food waste would be necessary in order to meet the waste minimisation target and would assist in Flintshire meeting its quotas for waste to landfill in the latter years. In conclusion, she referred to the recommendations of the report and in particular the request for delegated authority to be granted to the Director of Environment following consultation with herself, to finalise the Outline Business Case and for this to be submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government before 26th June, 2009. In relation to funding this would be financed through the Welsh Assembly Government and in 2009/10 Flintshire would receive £414,414 and £1,059,059

for 2010/11. It was emphasised that this money could not be allocated to non-food related recycling projects.

The Director of Environment referred to the very tight timescale which included the submission for approval of the Outline Business Case by the Welsh Assembly Government on 26th June, 2009 in order to access the £380,000 and this was the reason for the delegated authority as requested in the recommendation.

The Chief Executive referred to the five Authorities collaborating on the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project and to the Welsh Assembly Government advocating working collaboratively. He explained that for the food waste only Flintshire, Conwy and Denbighshire Councils were working together because Anglesey and Gwyneth Councils already had a partnership. It was also considered that food waste was better dealt with at a sub-regional level.

RESOLVED:

- a) That Flintshire County Council joining Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council to form a procurement hub to source anaerobic digestion capacity for food waste treatment be approved;
- b) that delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment, following consultation with the Executive Member for Waste Strategy and Management to finalise the formal agreement;
- c) that the Project Initiation Document for the procurement of Anaerobic Digestion Capacity be approved;
- d) that delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment following consultation with the Executive Member for Waste Strategy and Management, to select and enter into a contract with consultants to support the project; and
- e) that delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment following consultation with the Executive Member for Waste Strategy and Management, to finalise the Outline Business Case and to submit it to the Welsh Assembly Government before 26th June, 2009.

317. RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY

The Executive Member for Estate Management introduced the report which sought endorsement for the work undertaken to date by Council Officers, Council Tenants and Councillors in relation to resident involvement and to ask the Executive to adopt the Resident Involvement Strategy on behalf of the Council.

The Executive Member referred to the Resident Involvement Working Group and referred to the membership which would include three Councillors nominated by Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee who would be Councillors Peter Curtis, Bernie Attridge and George Hardcastle.

The Executive Member referred to consultation which had included a Members' seminar on 26th February and the strategy had also been considered at the Housing and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 15th March.

RESOLVED:

That the aims and objectives outlined in the Resident Involvement Strategy be endorsed and the document be adopted as the corporate strategy and to be submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government.

318. RESTRUCTURING OF HOUSING OPERATIONAL SERVICES

The Director of Community Services presented a report which outlined the first phase of restructuring of the Housing Service which involved the redesign of senior management roles responsible for Operational Services.

The Director explained that the current structure was no longer fit for purpose and the key principles in designing a new structure were a neighbourhood focus and one stop shop approach for tenants on all tenant related issues; continuous improvement in the Repairs and Maintenance Service combining responsive repairs and plan programme of works; and a comprehensive and tenure neutral Community Advice/Information and Support Service. The proposals had been discussed by the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16th March 2009.

The Director referred to the review of accommodation strategy in relation to co-location of Community Services staff. As an example an assessment was being undertaken into the feasibility of creating a Customer Services Headquarters at the Greenfield Technical Park as part of the relocation proposals for the Canton Depot.

The Director referred to Section 3.08 of the report which proposed the deletion of a number of posts which would be replaced by new management roles. This would include three Neighbourhood Housing Managers serving north, south and east geographical areas; a Community Advice and Information Support Services Manager and a Housing Assets Manager. The restructure and design would provide an opportunity to design management posts which would meet the needs of the service including ensuring that Flintshire's Housing Service continued to modernise and improve.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed structuring of the management of the operational service delivery as outlined in the report be approved.

319. ORGANISATION REDESIGN – HUMAN RESOURCES OPERATIONS

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development presented a report which sought endorsement of the scope of one of the Human Resources Reviews which was included in Phase 2 of Organisational Change and Redesign.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development referred to the considerations of the report and making particular reference to HRMIS/Payroll Trent System, the Draft New People Strategy and the ongoing arrangements for managing and maintaining the new job evaluation scheme. The initial project scoping document had been endorsed by the Corporate Management Team and she referred to a planning definition workshop for identified project team members to be held during April. The outcome from that meeting would be the Project Initiation Document and at the same time a Project Initiation Document would be completed for Phase 2 of the HRMIS. Both of these documents would be completed by the end of May 2009.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the scope of the Human Resources Operational Review and the timescales for the Project Initiation Phase of the work be noted and endorsed; and
- b) That a further report be presented to the Executive on completion of the review work to explain the proposals for the redesign of the Human Resources Operations Function, timetable for implementation of the project plan and to outline any potential efficiencies that may have been identified as a result of the early work.

320. MANAGED AGENCY STAFF SOLUTION (MASS)

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development presented a report which provided an update on the contract for the provision of agency workers. She referred to the collaborative procurement project with Denbighshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council and that Flintshire was the lead Authority in providing a Project Manager to coordinate the procurement phase.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development referred to Matrix SCM being selected as the successful supplier and this managed the supply chain of agencies on behalf of the Councils. Flintshire County Council went live on 20th October 2008.

The savings reported represented the net savings after deducting the Matrix SCM management fee and Flintshire's share of the cost of the Contract Manager position. The projected annual savings totalled £391,901 from which needed to be deducted the cost of implementation management and the Flintshire share of the Contract Manager. The savings achieved for the Housing Revenue Account also had to be passported back to that account and this gave a remaining projected annual saving of £293,771.

It was reported that there was a steady decrease in the use of agency workers and there was therefore a need to monitor to establish whether there were clear trends and the Head of Finance would be reporting on the links to the Matrix system to the Executive through the Budget Monitoring Reports.

RESOLVED:

- a) that the information contained in the report be noted;
- b) that the Executive be provided with a quarterly update report on the agency workers position; and
- c) that Directorate management teams be provided with a monthly management information report from the Matrix HR system to allow monitoring of the spend and savings on agency workers and to facilitate workforce planning.

321. EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME

The Head of Finance tabled a report on the developing plan to secure a minimum of £1.0m efficiencies in year to meet the pre-set 2009/10 General Fund Revenue target and to advise on further potential efficiencies in anticipation of difficult settlements in future years.

The Head of Finance apologised for the late report but emphasised that in considering the 2009/10 budget it was reported that an action plan to achieve the efficiencies was being developed and this would be published in April and this was the only opportunity available for this to be reported to the Executive within the month.

The Head of Finance emphasised that the £1.0m was within the base budget. The objective was to achieve the efficiencies from within the revenue budget without the need to call on any reserves. In 2009/10 the efficiencies could be a combination of one off or non-recurring and recurring efficiencies to achieve a balanced outturn position. During the year, £1.0m of recurring base budget efficiencies would need to be identified for the 2010/11 budget onwards. It had been recognised that organisational efficiency had to be a continuous discipline across the whole Council and not a process to balance budgets on an annual basis. Therefore, the £1.0m required in 2009/10 and in the base budget by 1st April 2010 would be added to over time as part of the medium term financial strategy accompanied by organisational redesign. The £1.0m efficiency requirement had increased to £1.260m as a result of the recent announcement of the 2008/09 final pay award which had added an estimated £0.260m cost into the base budget from 1st April 2009. As a result of the 2009/10 budget debate, £0.091m which originally had been intended to be spent on Member Ward Grants had been removed from the budget and had contributed to the Efficiency Programme. The effect of these two items had been to revise the £1.0m to a final figure of £1.169m.

The Head of Finance then referred to the considerations of the report and the developing strategy for the efficiency programme and referred to corporate/centrally led efficiency initiatives and Directorate led initiatives. Particular reference was made to procurement strategy, Managed Agency and staff advertising contracts, the organisational redesign phase 2 reviews, workforce planning and non-essential vacancy management, reduced spend on non-essential supplies, review of budgets for out of county provision and waste

haulage, review of non-standard inflation provision within the 2008/09 budget and other areas of budget scrutiny. The current position with regard to all of the above initiatives had been included in Appendix A of the report and showed that efficiency savings of £1.638m had been identified which had exceeded the revised figure of £1.169m by £0.469m.

The Head of Finance reported that many of the efficiencies that had been identified to date had come from detailed and careful scrutiny of budgets and from proactive work to track the actual effects of inflation in the latter part of 2008/09 and amend budgets accordingly. This was coupled with the delivery of an estimated £0.131m of procurement initiatives. Budget monitoring during the year would inevitably identify areas of variance. It was planned that in order to reinforce the need to make efficiency a part of everyday procurement and to recognise its vital part in budget management, each budget monitoring report would now include a section on procurement.

The Chief Executive emphasised that the process had not been easy but had been very thorough. Organisation discipline was needed and the Council was to operate corporately without being budget protective. Planning for the 2010/11 budget was essential and regard would have to be given to the budget statement to be made the following day by the Chancellor which was very likely to affect local government expenditure. He referred to the calculated risk in the preparation of the 2009/10 budget of making an assumption of £1m efficiency savings. Although a calculated risk this was not a practice he would recommend. From 2010/11 good practice preparation of budgets should prevent the use of such a practice.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the report and the revised target of £1.169m of efficiency savings being achieved be noted and that work continues on an ongoing basis to secure further efficiencies;
- b) that budget amendments to reflect the detail in Appendix A be agreed; and
- c) that the procurement based initiatives at paragraphs 3.10 and 3.1 be specifically noted.

322. REVIEW OF CCTV SERVICES

The Director of Lifelong Learning presented a report which provided information on options for the future of CCTV service in Flintshire and provided a summary of the outcome of the recent CCTV service Review including risk to the Council.

The service had been launched in 2002 initially to monitor 46 open space Town and Community Council CCTV cameras which had now been increased to a current active level of 120. The service review had been undertaken in the light of service growth and service delivery expectations of Town and Community Councils and North Wales Police.

The report highlighted the inconsistency of revenue funding, the need to replace outdated equipment and also identify the importance of partnership working with Wrexham County Borough Council and North Wales Police. A major finding of the review was that the future of specialist staffing arrangements of the CCTV control room should be addressed as a matter of priority.

The Chief Executive emphasised the need to upgrade the existing equipment and to explore potential partnership working with Wrexham County Borough Council and North Wales Police with a view to sharing costs, and increasing the contribution from North Wales Police which had already been discussed, should a partnership be viable and meet the needs of Flintshire.

RESOLVED:

- a) That Option 2 be adopted;
- b) That the outcomes of the CCTV Service Review be noted and that the Improvement Plan, taking into account the revised priorities, be approved;
- c) That discussions take place with (1) Town and Community Councils and (2) North Wales Police and Wrexham County Borough Council to explore the possible partnership model, new contracts and service level agreements including financial contributions and support for CCTV operational arrangements in Flintshire;
- d) To continue the existing service level agreement with North Wales Police which involved £100k contribution to six North Wales authorities and to enter discussions with North Wales Police with a view to developing the service level agreement and improving the partnership funding base;
- e) that staffing levels in the CCTV Control Room be increased to allow for two Operators on duty at all times at an estimated cost of £82,000 per annum; allocation of additional budget in 2009/10 of £82,000 to be met from the Contingency Reserve and to be included in the base budget from 2010/11 onwards;
- f) That the replacement of outdated and obsolete recording and monitoring equipment and the adjustment of the layout of the CCTV Control Room to accommodate improved ergonomic changes to an indicative capital cost of £300,000 in 2009/10 and a further estimated indicative capital cost of £140,000 in 2010/11, representing a total of £440k over 2 years be treated as a capital programme priority subject to the outcomes of (c) above; and
- g) That the CCTV Service revenue budget be increased by £11,000 for 2009/10 and to continue over subsequent years to alleviate identified service pressures, but be subject to further review.

323. CARDBOARD PILOT REPORT

The Executive Member for Waste Strategy and Management introduced a report to provide an update on the result of a pilot scheme for the collection of

cardboard from households in Flintshire and to seek approval to extend the scheme to the majority of households in Flintshire.

In presenting the report the Executive Member referred to the results of the scheme which had shown an increase of 12.5% in tonnages of paper waste collected prior to the pilot being introduced. On the basis of service rollout across the County there was a potential to divert an additional 535 tonnes of biodegradable waste from landfill. This represented a potential saving of £42,800 of landfill costs.

RESOLVED:

That the expansion from a pilot scheme to a county wide service for the collection of cardboard and paper from households in Flintshire be approved.

324. ESTABLISHMENT CONTROL – APPOINTMENT OF SESSIONAL/RELIEF YOUTH WORKERS

The Executive Member for Education and Youth introduced a report which sought approval for the re-designation of 40 Sessional/Relief Youth Worker posts for deployment on an “as and when” basis across Flintshire.

RESOLVED:

That the re-designation of 40 Sessional/Youth Worker posts be approved.

325. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS

An information report of the Chief Executive, the purpose of which was to inform Members of actions taking the delegated powers, was submitted.

The actions were set out as below:-

Community Services –

- Fee Levels – Independent Sector Domiciliary and Day Care Providers 2009/10
- Fee Levels – Independent Sector Providers Care Home Fees 2009/10
- Direct Payment Rates Increase

Environment –

- Disposal of Site of the former Flint Youth Club
- Disposal of former garaging site at the head of Hillside Avenue, Connah’s Quay
- Granting of Licence of first floor premises Arosfa, Mold to Action for Children

326. ADMISSION OF AN ADDITIONAL URGENT AGENDA ITEM

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services referred to the statement made by the Chairman at the commencement of the meeting of the need to consider an additional urgent agenda item in respect of A.D. Waste Ltd.

RESOLVED:

That the urgent agenda item be considered.

327. 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 as the following item was considered to be exempt by virtue of paragraphs 14 and 16 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation be agreed and that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

328. A.D. WASTE LTD

The Director of Environment and Head of Legal and Democratic Services provided an update on the progress being made to bring A.D. Waste back in house particularly on a number of matters that had arisen since the last meeting of the Executive.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the contents of the update be noted; and
- b) that the delegated powers given to the Director of Environment at the last meeting of the Executive be not exercised and that a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive.

329. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 9.30am and ended at 11.16am.

330. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There was one member of the press present.

.....
Chairman

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

EXECUTIVE	DATE: 21st April 2009
------------------	---

MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
N. Phillips	Restructuring of Housing Operational Services	318

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4

REPORT TO: EXECUTIVE
DATE : 13 MAY 2009
REPORT BY: HEAD OF FINANCE
SUBJECT : BUDGET 2010/11 - CHANCELLOR'S BUDGET STATEMENT

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To provide Executive with high level information on the potential implications arising from the UK Budget announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 22nd April 2009.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The UK Budget was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 22nd April 2009.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 Attached as Appendix 1 is a Statement made by Andrew Davies, Minister for Finance and Public Services to the Assembly on 28th April on the implications of the UK budget announced by the Chancellor.

3.02 Whilst there are no specific details of what the impact for the Local Government settlement in 2010/11 or future years will be, the indications are that the revenue settlement is unlikely to be at the average 2.9% increase indicated some 18 months ago. Funding for capital (at the all Wales level) is also likely to be reduced, partly because of some capital expenditure having been brought forward to earlier years.

3.03 Indications of the implications of the global economic downturn were set out in the pre-budget budget published in December 2008 and are followed up in the April budget report.

3.04 Officers are working closely with colleagues in the WLGA, SOLACE, the Society of Welsh Treasurers and other professional groups to obtain as much information as possible about the likely position for 2010/11 and beyond. This will be the subject of further reports to members as part of the approach to the 2010/11 budget.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 Members are asked to note the report.

Date: 06/05/2009

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None directly at this stage.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None directly as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None directly as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None directly as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None directly as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None directly as a result of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None directly as a result of this report.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 – Statement by Andrew Davies, Minister for Finance and Public Services 28th April 2009.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

Contact Officer: Kerry Feather
Telephone: 01352 702200
E-Mail: kerry_feather@flintshire.gov.uk

STATEMENT BY THE WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT

Title: UK Budget

Date: 28 April 2009

By: Andrew Davies, Minister for Finance and Public Services

I would like to make a short statement to brief Assembly Members on the implications of the UK Budget last Wednesday.

The Chancellor's budget has been framed as a response to the huge shockwaves caused by the global economic downturn and difficulties which are apparent right across the world.

A number of the announcements match our approach – ensuring fairness for people in these difficult times, helping prepare the economy for recovery, and setting the foundations for a stable and sustainable future. We must target policies at dealing with unemployment, particularly for the young. As David Blanchflower said recently “ long spells of unemployment while young cause permanent scars, rather than the more temporary blemishes that occur for older workers who already have a foothold in the labour market”.

It is right to use our budget to provide a counter-cyclical economic stimulus.

We have been using our budget to maximum effect to support people, communities and business in Wales through the global downturn. For example, we are recognised throughout the UK as being at the forefront of developing innovative new approaches such as ProAct.

However, as well as benefiting from UK-wide measures Wales will need to play its part in helping to balance the books in years to come – we cannot be immune from the UK spending squeeze to get the National Debt back to sustainable levels.

The efficiencies we face making in Wales – of some £216 million revenue in 2010-11 – will pose a significant challenge for us and our stakeholder partners, as we look to make services as efficient as possible.

We take a small degree of comfort that, following representations we have made to the UK Government, we have avoided having to make larger and potentially unfair and disproportionate revenue efficiency savings of almost £300 million for 2010/11. This is what the First Minister and I had sought, and what we achieved in discussions with UK Government Ministers.

On capital, stemming from November's Pre Budget Report, and as we have indicated previously, our annual block capital budget in 2010/11 will reduce by around £200 million. This is partly as a result of bringing forward capital budgets, up to £ 140m, from 2010/11 to this financial year and last to provide an economic stimulus, and partly due to a £75m reduction in our budget arising as a Barnett consequential from a reduction in the UK Department of Health capital budget – although we intend to draw on End Year Flexibility resources accrued in earlier years to mitigate the impact of the UK health budget cut.

More positively, through Barnett consequentials of other announcements in the Budget, we also stand to receive an additional £46 million in 2009/10 and £14 million in 2010/11.

Announcements as to exactly how we will use this additional resource to continue our work to help people, communities and businesses in these challenging times will be made in the coming weeks, following Cabinet discussion.

Looking beyond 2010/11, UK Government is seeking to find an additional £9bn of efficiency savings over the period 2011/12 to 2013/14. Although overall current spending is still anticipated to grow at the UK level by around 0.7 % p.a. in real terms over this period, this is lower than the projections in the Pre-Budget Report and we cannot be guaranteed any cash increases to our budget.

In addition, gross capital investment at the UK is forecast to fall significantly over the period 2010/11 to 2013/14, which is likely to feed through into reduced capital budgets for the Assembly Government.

Although the exact impact of the further efficiency savings and wider public spending squeeze on the Assembly Government's budget is not yet known, the tighter budgets we face emphasise the importance of using our resources effectively and efficiently.

In the discussions the First Minister and I have had since the Pre-Budget Report with UK Government Ministers we have advocated measures that will help the Welsh economy, as well as minimise the impact of UK fiscal decisions on the Assembly Government budget.

There are a range of announcements in the Budget regarding initiatives that will be taken forward at a UK level. We welcome those measures which will benefit individuals, businesses and communities in Wales – for example, support for young people unemployed for more than a year and support for low carbon industries.

In particular, we welcome the new UK-wide Strategic Investment Fund – which the UK Government has indicated will support key new technology sectors we have already identified in Wales, such as advanced manufacturing, digital and bio-technology.

We will be engaging with the UK Government to seek to maximise the benefits for Wales from these UK-wide measures.

In summary, the UK Budget presents opportunities that we intend to make the most of, as well as the growing financial challenges in future years.

As we have consistently outlined, the tightening budgets we face emphasise the importance of using our resources effectively and efficiently. We will therefore continue to develop better and more efficient Public Services, focus on outcomes and ensure that we stretch the Welsh pound to deliver the maximum benefits for people across Wales.

Check against delivery

Embargoed until after ANDREW DAVIES has delivered the statement.

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 5

REPORT TO: **EXECUTIVE**
DATE : **13 MAY 2009**
REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**
SUBJECT : **THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE PENNINGTON REVIEW**
(ON E-COLI)

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To inform Members of the key findings and recommendations of the Public Inquiry Report and specifically to address those that relate to functions undertaken by the Local Authority.
- 1.02 To provide Members with an outline of the actions it proposes to take in order to implement the relevant recommendations of the Public Inquiry Report.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 In September 2005, an outbreak of E.coli 0157 occurred in South Wales. This resulted in 157 cases of infection, mainly amongst school children and tragically resulting in the death of one child.

2.02 As a result of this outbreak, which was the largest outbreak caused by E.coli 0157 in Wales, the National Assembly for Wales established a Public Inquiry, chaired by Professor Hugh Pennington. The purpose of the Inquiry was to:

"To inquire into the circumstances that lead to the outbreak of E.coli 0157 infection in South Wales in September 2005, and into the handling of the outbreak; and to consider the implications for the future and make recommendations accordingly".

2.03 The report of the Public Inquiry Team was published on the 19th March 2009 and attracted significant national and local media attention.

2.04 Local Authorities, other than the core South Wales Local Authority participants, did not have sight of the report prior to publication. Flintshire County Council received hard copies of the report, together with separate copies of the Executive Summary on 30th March 2009.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The report confirmed that the outbreak occurred because of serious food hygiene failures at the premises of John Tudor and Son at Bridgend, South

Date: 06/05/2009

Wales. The Report stated that the responsibility for the outbreak fell squarely on the shoulders of the proprietor: William Tudor.

- 3.02 Notwithstanding the above, the report made a number of important recommendations. These recommendations have major implications for a number of agencies including the Food Standard Agency, The Meat Hygiene Service, Local Authority Food Safety Enforcement Services and Local Authority Food Procurement Services.
- 3.03 All Members have been given a copy of the Executive Summary of the Public Inquiry Report. This clearly sets out the key findings and recommendations of the Public Inquiry Team. The Leader and Executive Member for Public Protection have also been provided with a copy of the full Report.
- 3.04 The Report's recommendations are wide-ranging and will have a significant impact on Local Authority Public Protection and Procurement Services. In order to assess this impact, a comprehensive Action Plan and Audit Checklist have been produced by the Head of Public Protection and are attached to this report at Appendices A and B. The Action Plan describes the processes and timetable for implementing the key recommendations contained in the Public Inquiry Report. The Audit Checklist outlines the process for assessing the current situation in Flintshire. Once this piece of work is completed a detailed Improvement Plan will be developed to ensure all the recommendations are fully implemented.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That Members support the implementation of the Action Plan and receive a further Report once the implications of the Inquiry Report for the Council has been fully evaluated.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 None at this time. However, the Action Plan referred to above will assess the resource implications arising out of the implementation of the Inquiry Report's recommendations.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 None.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 None.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 None.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix A
Appendix B

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

Contact Officer: Paul Mcgreary
Telephone: 01352 703413
E-Mail: paul_mcgreary@flintshire.gov.uk

E-coli PUBLIC INQUIRY ACTION PLAN

April 2009

Action	How?	By Whom	By When?	Date Completed
Provide an interim Report to Members recommending that the Public Protection Service takes the lead in assessing the implications and recommendations of the Report across critical services and functions	By providing an interim report to Executive outlining the actions necessary to implement the Inquiry's recommendations in Flintshire.	Head of Public Protection	End May 2009	
Conduct an 'As Is' audit to assess the current position of services and functions in terms of systems, processes, strategies, policies and practice	By undertaking a formal and systematic audit of current policy and practice using the Audit Checklist designed specifically for this purpose	Head of Public Protection – leading a multi-disciplinary audit team	End Sep 2009	
Assess the findings from the audit, identify the critical gaps and develop an Improvement Plan to ensure they are effectively addressed	By producing a draft report which identifies strengths and areas for improvement	Audit Team	End Oct 2009	
Report the findings and recommendations to Members	By providing a report to Executive	Head of Public Protection	End Nov 2009	
Implement the Improvement Plan	As detailed in the Plan	As detailed in the Plan	As detailed in the Plan but no later than 31 March 2010	

E-coli PUBLIC INQUIRY ACTION PLAN

April 2009

<p>Develop and implement an effective governance and management framework, which systematically and regularly reviews the effectiveness of control measures place to ensure the systems, processes, strategies, policy and practice continue to be maintained and improved and to reflect developing best practice in procurement, inspection and audit and hygiene practice in high risk areas</p>	<p>Development of framework within the Member Scrutiny and Strategic Management Team function functions</p>	<p>Strategic Management Team</p>	<p>By end March 2010</p>	
---	---	----------------------------------	--------------------------	--

E-coli Public Enquiry

Audit Checklist

RECOMMENDATIONS	OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS	CRITICAL QUESTIONS	EVIDENCE	IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS	DATE COMPLETED
Food Safety Practice	<p>SUPPLY OF FOOD WHICH IS SAFE TO EAT</p> <p>Review current systems processes, strategy, policy and practice for ensuring food businesses understand their responsibilities for food safety. Focus must be on preventative actions via business support programmes to ensure improved food safety practice in food businesses.</p> <p>Need to consider new FSA Guidance when it is published and ensure local food businesses are fully aware of and following the guidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What steps have we taken to ensure all food businesses in Flintshire have in place appropriate systems and processes which are capable of preventing contamination and cross-contamination of food? • How do we ensure that food businesses have implemented effective food safety management systems based on the 7 key HACCP principles? • What steps have we taken to ensure the principles underpinning the Butchers' Licensing Scheme are fully employed and seen to be effective in businesses processing raw meat and unwrapped ready-to-eat foods? • How do we ensure that the steps we have taken are effective in achieving the critical outcomes? 			
	Review current systems,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we have a clear policy for the use of 'light touch' enforcement and how do 			

E-coli Public Enquiry

Audit Checklist

<p>Food Hygiene Inspections</p>	<p>processes, strategy, policy and practice for ensuring food safety inspections are planned, implemented on time and effective in evaluating the quality of food safety practice in businesses and to ensure corrective actions are fully implemented where standards fall below accepted minimum levels.</p> <p>This should include the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management accountability – clear accountabilities and responsibilities defined and understood • Food Safety Plan • Monitoring and Review Processes • Audit Approach • Learning and development – competencies: qualifications, knowledge and experience 	<p>we ensure this remains appropriate in the case of 'low risk' businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What steps have we taken to ensure all inspections of HACCP Plans are audit-based and effective in identifying whether those plans are capable of ensuring high standards of food safety • What steps have we taken to ensure that all officers undertaking food safety inspections are competent to do so? • What specific training has been given to officers who are responsible assessing HACCP and HACCP-based plans, including those responsible for managerial supervision, to ensure that they are fully competent? • What steps have we taken to ensure that EHOs obtain a copy of a food businesses HACCP/food safety management plan at each inspection for retention on the business's inspection plan? 			
---------------------------------	---	---	--	--	--

E-coli Public Enquiry

Audit Checklist

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent audit and review e.g. Peer Review or other 3rd party assessment • Resource implications in order to implement the findings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What processes do we have in place for ensuring all critical information, about issues, observations, concerns and non-compliance, gained during inspections, is accurately recorded, fully accessible and clearly communicated? • How do we ensure that judgements and decisions about the effectiveness of management and operations in food businesses are evidence-based? • What steps have we taken to ensure that all high-risk inspections are unannounced? • What steps have we taken to ensure that ALL inspections are comprehensive and thorough, using an audit-based approach involving interviews with key personnel, managers, supervisors and operators, to ensure effective compliance? • How will we review our 			
--	--	---	--	--	--

E-coli Public Enquiry

Audit Checklist

		<p>policy and practice to ensure we are able to demonstrate to the FSA or any 3rd party auditor that the quality of our inspections is of a sufficiently high standard?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What improvements do we need to make in order to address weaknesses in the current approach and what are the resource implications arising from the implementation of these improvement actions 			
Procurement	<p>Review current practice in procurement and determine the role of the Council's Public Protection Service in evaluating the effectiveness of procurement practice in relation to food safety.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What systems, processes, strategies and policies does the Council have for the effective procurement of food which is safe to eat? • How effective are the systems, processes, strategies and policies in ensuring food which is procured is safe to eat? • What role should the Public Protection Service take in evaluating whether the systems, processes, strategies and policies are effective in ensuring food which is procured is safe 			

E-coli Public Enquiry

Audit Checklist

		<p>to eat?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the Council propose to periodically and systematically review the systems, processes, strategies and policies to ensure food which is procured is safe to eat? 			
School and Hygiene	<p>Review current policy and practice to ensure all schools in Flintshire have adequate toilet and hand washing facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What steps has the Council taken to ensure that adequate toilet and washing facilities exist in all Flintshire schools? • What is the current position regarding the availability of adequate toilet and hand washing facilities in Flintshire schools? • What level of awareness and understanding is there of the need for effective hygiene practice in Flintshire schools among managers, governors, staff, and pupils in Flintshire schools? 			
Learning Lessons	<p>Review the Report in detail, identify the critical lessons from the Inquiry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What steps have we taken to systematically review all systems, processes, strategies and policies to ensure the lessons 			

E-coli Public Enquiry

Audit Checklist

	<p>and ensure their effective implementation across the Council.</p> <p>Develop a clear, comprehensive and timely programme to ensure the necessary improvements are fully and effectively implemented across the Council</p>	<p>identified in the Inquiry are fully addressed in practice?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will the Council demonstrate that the critical lessons have been properly considered, evaluated and implemented? • What governance arrangements will need to be developed to ensure the Council is satisfied that the Inquiry's Recommendations have been fully considered and implemented? • What ongoing governance arrangements does the Council wish to employ to ensure that the recommendations and standards are maintained over time? • What are the resource implications arising from the Report and in implementing its recommendations in full? 			
--	---	--	--	--	--

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 6

REPORT TO: **EXECUTIVE**
DATE : **13 MAY 2009**
REPORT BY: **HEAD OF FINANCE AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR
OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF
ENVIRONMENT AND DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING**
SUBJECT : **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 TO 2012/13**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To propose a General Fund Capital Programme for the four year period 2009/10/11/12/13, subject to consultation with the Corporate Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee which will meet on 8th June 2009.
- 1.02 To make recommendations to County Council which will meet on 9th June 2009.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The 2008/09 General Fund Capital Programme, as approved by Council on 4th March 2008, included indicative priorities for the period 2009/10 to 2011/12, to be funded (in part) by capital receipts from asset disposals; the capital receipt values were those forecasted as at January 2008.
- 2.02 Since budget approval, the impact of the economic downturn has significantly reduced levels of anticipated capital receipts for the whole of the period 2009/10 to 2011/12, aggravated by the carry forward impact of a 2008/09 capital receipts shortfall. The situation is further exacerbated by new (2009/10 budget round) capital funding requests. If the 2008/09 uncommitted projects totalling £4.560m had not been suspended in February 2009, the capital programme implications would have been more significant (as detailed in Section 3.03).

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

General Fund

- 3.01 The latest updated General Fund information is provided in Appendices A – D, as attached, being –
- Appendix A – Capital Programme 2009/10 – 2012/13 : Schemes per 2008/09 Budget Book [Updated via the Corporate Asset Management Group (CAMG)] (excluding specific grants)
 - Appendix B – Suspended 2008/09 Schemes - schemes currently 'on

Date: 06/05/2009

hold' pending reconsideration alongside those new scheme submissions included in Appendix C.

- Appendix C – Capital Bids (Scored) (including some 2008/09 schemes) totalling £7.824m in 2009/10
- Appendix D – Available Funding (£14.911m for 2009/10).

3.02 This latest information produces the following summarised positions, with anticipated funding resources remaining considerably short of the required amounts in the first three years of the four year programme –

- 2009/10 - Bids of £20.360m (see Appendices A and C) with financing resources of £14.911m
- 2010/11 - Bids of £27.595m (see Appendices A and C) with financing resources of £13.545m
- 2011/12 - Priorities of £15.257m (see Appendices A and C) with financing resources of £10.895m
- 2012/13 - Priorities of £7.573m (see Appendices A and C) with financing resources of £17.275m.

3.03 The Appendix D information also includes, for illustrative purposes, the impact of funding those amended Appendix A (2008/09 Budget Book) schemes, as first call against available resources, as summarised below –

- 2009/10 – Available funding of £2.375m** for Appendix C purposes (total £7.824m)
- 2010/11 – A shortfall of £7.479m.
- 2011/12 – A shortfall of £0.702m
- 2012/13 – Available funding of £12.422m.

*** If the 2008/09 uncommitted projects had not been suspended in February 2009 (aggregate budget of £4.560m), the available funding total of £2.375m would instead have been a shortfall of £2.185m (i.e. £2.375m less £4.560m).*

The above values produce a net cumulative total of £6.616m across the four year period, available to support 2008/09 uncommitted amounts and all new schemes. However, in view of the continuing economic pessimism, it may be considered prudent to allocate schemes for 2009/10 only.

3.04 Based on the 2009/10 available funding total of £2.375m, the following schemes are proposed for recommendation to Executive on 13th May 2009, being the eight highest scoring 2009/10 schemes as included in Appendix C -

Table 1: Proposals - General Fund	
	Proposed
	2009/10
	£m
Access Bridge to Mostyn Docks	0.750
Family Placement Team	0.042
Town Centre Regeneration *	0.187
Canton Depot Relocation	0.735
Flint Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) #	0.010
Energy Efficiency - Spend to Save	0.030
Connah's Quay Library **	0.036
Minor Capital Works - Health & Safety	0.200
* Generates external funding of £0.138m	
# Total gross scheme value of £1.205m over 5 years (with external funding of £0.900m)	
** Generates external funding of £0.316m	
Total	1.990

The above proposals leave a sum of £0.385m (£2.375m - £1.990m) available as headroom to cover any contingencies that may arise during the course of the financial year. The £1.990m contributes to a total 2009/10 General Fund Capital Programme of £14.526m (excluding specific grant funded schemes currently estimated at £14.334m), as below -

Table 2: General Fund Capital Programme	
	Proposed
	2009/10
	£m
2008/09 Revised Budget Book Schemes (per Appendix A)	12.536
2009/10 Proposals (per Table 1 above)	1.990
Total	14.526

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

3.05 A detailed proposed programme of planned works is currently in the process of being prepared, and it is recommended that the programme is reported to Executive on 2nd June 2009 when work is completed.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That the Executive recommends the following to County Council on 9th June, subject to any comments from Overview and Scrutiny on 8th June -

(a) That the schemes as set out in the report be included in the General Fund Capital Programme 2009/10 to 2012/13 :-

- 2009/10 - General Fund (Section 3.04 and Appendix A)

(b) That the General Fund 2010/11 to 2012/13 indicative allocations are noted (Appendix A)

(c) That the detailed Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme is reported to Executive once the exercise has been completed (Section 3.05).

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 As set out in the report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 Individual capital programme schemes may have specific anti-poverty impacts.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 Individual capital programme schemes may have specific environmental impacts.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 Individual capital programme schemes may have specific equalities impacts.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None directly as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Overview and scrutiny, executive members and strategic directors.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Executive members and strategic directors.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix A - Schemes per 2008/09 Budget Book

Appendix B - Suspended 2008/09 Schemes

Appendix C - Capital Bids

Appendix D – Available Funding

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

Contact Officer: Kerry Feather
Telephone: 01352 702200
E-Mail: kerry_feather@flintshire.gov.uk

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 - 2012/13 (Schemes per 2008/09 Budget Book [Updated])

APPENDIX A

	Indicative 2009/10			Indicative 2010/11			Indicative 2011/12			Indicative 2012/13		
	Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing	
		£000	General £000		Specific £000	£000		General £000	Specific £000		£000	General £000
SUMMARY												
GENERAL FUND												
Former ADULT SOCIAL CARE	50	50		50	50		50	50				
Former COMMUNITY & HOUSING	705	705		1,223	1,223		1,180	1,180				
LIFELONG LEARNING	5,601	5,601		4,782	4,782		4,784	4,784				
ENVIRONMENT	2,410	2,410		1,324	1,324		1,330	1,330				
CENTRAL DEPARTMENTS	486	486		10,050	10,050		350	350				
HOUSING (GENERAL FUND)	3,284	3,284		3,595	3,595		3,903	3,903		4,853	4,853	
TOTAL - GENERAL FUND	12,536	12,536		21,024	21,024		11,597	11,597		4,853	4,853	

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 - 2012/13 (Schemes per 2008/09 Budget Book [Updated])

	Indicative 2009/10			Indicative 2010/11			Indicative 2011/12			Indicative 2012/13		
	Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing	
		General	Specific		General	Specific		General	Specific		General	Specific
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Former ADULT SOCIAL CARE												
General												
General Disabled Facilities Grants	50	50		50	50		50	50				
TOTAL - Former ADULT SOCIAL CARE	50	50		50	50		50	50				

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 - 2012/13 (Schemes per 2008/09 Budget Book [Updated])

	Indicative 2009/10			Indicative 2010/11			Indicative 2011/12			Indicative 2012/13		
	Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing	
		General	Specific		General	Specific		General	Specific		General	Specific
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Former COMMUNITY & HOUSING												
Administrative Buildings												
Various Disability Discrimination Act Works	200	200		200	200		200	200				
Various Energy Efficiency Measures	275	275		300	300		300	300				
Various Asbestos Removal	100	100		100	100		100	100				
Various Legionella Monitoring	100	100		100	100		100	100				
Various Upgrading Fire and Intruder Alarms				80	80		80	80				
Various Fire Safety Order Works				400	400		400	400				
Agricultural Estates												
Various Minor Works	30	30		43	43							
TOTAL - Former COMMUNITY & HOUSING	705	705		1,223	1,223		1,180	1,180				

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 - 2012/13 (Schemes per 2008/09 Budget Book [Updated])

	Indicative 2009/10			Indicative 2010/11			Indicative 2011/12			Indicative 2012/13		
	Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing	
		£000	General		Specific	£000		General	Specific		£000	General
LIFELONG LEARNING												
Education - General												
Various	School Building Repairs and Maintenance	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500		4,500	4,500				
Various	Special Schools Additional Funding Works	631	631									
Various	Upgrade Electronic Communications in Schools	190	190									
Various	Disability Discrimination Act - Individual Pupils	100	100	100	100		100	100				
Various	Furniture and Equipment	80	80	82	82		84	84				
Primary Schools												
Various	Learning Environments (Foundation Phase)	100	100	100	100		100	100				
Libraries												
Saltney	Library Facilities	0	0									
TOTAL - LIFELONG LEARNING		5,601	5,601	4,782	4,782		4,784	4,784				

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 - 2012/13 (Schemes per 2008/09 Budget Book [Updated])

	Indicative 2009/10			Indicative 2010/11			Indicative 2011/12			Indicative 2012/13		
	Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing	
		£000	General		Specific	£000		General	Specific		£000	General
ENVIRONMENT												
Engineering												
Various	Land Drainage Works - General	110	110	110	110	110	110	110				
Various	Coast Protection Works - General	165	165	165	165	165	165	165				
General Environmental Enhancement												
Various	Empty Homes Grants	206	206	211	211	211	217	217				
Highways												
General	Highways Infrastructure	1,091	1,091									
Various	Bridge Assessments and Replacement	220	220	220	220	220	220	220				
Various	Street Lighting Replacement	275	275	275	275	275	275	275				
Various	Structural Maintenance	275	275	275	275	275	275	275				
Regeneration												
Holywell	Townscape Heritage Initiative	68	68	68	68	68	68	68				
TOTAL - ENVIRONMENT		2,410	2,410	1,324	1,324		1,330	1,330				

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 - 2012/13 (Schemes per 2008/09 Budget Book [Updated])

	Indicative 2009/10			Indicative 2010/11			Indicative 2011/12			Indicative 2012/13		
	Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing	
		General	Specific		General	Specific		General	Specific		General	Specific
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
CENTRAL DEPARTMENTS												
Information & Communications Technology (ICT)												
General ICT Infrastructure	350	350		350	350		350	350				
Finance (Corporate)												
General Housing Stock Options (Subject to Housing Review)				9,700	9,700							
Clwyd Theatr Cymru												
Mold Minor Works	136	136										
TOTAL - CENTRAL DEPARTMENTSS	486	486		10,050	10,050		350	350				

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 - 2012/13 (Schemes per 2008/09 Budget Book [Updated])

	Indicative 2009/10			Indicative 2010/11			Indicative 2011/12			Indicative 2012/13		
	Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing		Indicative Payments	Financing	
		General	Specific		General	Specific		General	Specific		General	Specific
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
HOUSING (GENERAL FUND)												
Grants												
Various Renovation Grants	3,284	3,284		3,595	3,595		3,903	3,903		4,853	4,853	
TOTAL - HOUSING (GENERAL FUND)	3,284	3,284		3,595	3,595		3,903	3,903		4,853	4,853	

SUSPENDED 2008/09 SCHEMES

	£m
Schemes moved to Appendix C :	
For consideration in 2009/10 (scored) -	
Coast Protection Works	0.135
Energy Efficiency - Spend to Save	0.030
Land Drainage	0.265
DDA Works	0.358
Bridge Assessments	0.160
County Hall Reception	0.230
R & M Backlog	0.078
Library Facilities	0.150
Electronic Communications in Schools	<u>0.138</u>
	1.544
For consideration in 2010/11 (not scored) -	
County Hall Toilet Refurbishment	0.015
Queensferry to Alltami Depot Relocation	1.438
Sandycroft Waste Recycling Park	0.786
Highways Matched Funded Schemes	0.022
Leisure Centres - Customer Facing Enhancements	<u>0.350</u>
	2.611
No longer required (funding available for new schemes) :	
Disabled Facilities Grants	0.050
ICT Infrastructure	0.210
E Government	0.001
Hope Hall Farm	0.006
Pigeon House Farm	0.008
The Oaks Farm	0.001
Waterloo Farm	0.003
Mount Farm	0.015
Industrial Estates - Electrical Works	0.024
Greenfield Industrial Estate - Unit 46	0.054
Minor works	0.013
Abbey Metal	0.005
Castle Connections	0.002
Estuary Crafts	0.006
Glanrafon	0.004
Orchard Way	<u>0.003</u>
	0.405
Total (Reconciling with Appendix D figure)	<u><u>4.560</u></u>

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL BIDS - BY SCORE

APPENDIX C

REF	DIRECTORATE & SCHEME DETAILS		CAPITAL COST (Net of External funding)					ANN REV IMPLIC'S		EXT'L FUND	ORIG SCORE	REV'D SCORE	
			2009/10 £000's	2010/11 £000's	2011/12 £000's	2012/13 £000's	2013/14 £000's	TOTAL £000's	ONE-OFF £000's				RECURR £000's
CAMG RECOMMENDED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION													
CAP 115	ENV	Access Bridge to Mostyn Docks	750									22	68
CAP 126	CS	Family Placement Team	42									26	68
CAP 113	ENV	Town Centre Regeneration	187	187	187	187				276		19	62
CAP 123	CS	Canton Depot Relocation	735									30	58
CAP 109	ENV	Flint Townscape Heritage Initiative	10	61	61	61	112			900		26	57
CAP 065a	ENV	Capit'ion of Rev Expend - Continuation		1,091	1,091	1,091						24	56
CAP 009	ENV	Energy Efficiency - Spend to Save	30									30	55
CAP 137	LL	Connahs Quay Library	36							316			55
CAP 122	CORP	Minor Capital Works - Health & Safety	200	200	200	200						26	54
CAP 102	LL	CCTV Control Room Refurb		300								20	53
CAP 129	LL	DDA Works - Individual Pupils	300	300	300	300						23	53
CAP 131	LL	H&S - School Kitchen Refurbs	500									26	53
CAP 062	ENV	Coast Protection Works	135									31	52
CAP 066	ENV	Bridge Assessments	160									22	52
CAP 112	ENV	Loss of WAG Grant Funding	174	724	724	724						22	52
CAP 056	LL	Education R & M Backlog	78									29	51
CAP 092	ENV	H'den Old Rectory Boiler	200									24	49
CAP 103	LL	School Kitchens - Equipment	150									21	49
CAP 106	LL	JS High - Changing Rooms Refurb	250									23	49
CAP 132	ENV	H&S - Asbestos Assessments	200									25	48
CAP 003	ENV	CAD Drawings for Technology Forge use	125	125	125	125						24	46
CAP 063	ENV	Land Drainage Works	265									28	46
CAP 061	LL	LL Minor Works (See CAP 022 above)										26	45
CAP 107	LL	Ysgol Maes Garmon - Toilets	30									18	45
CAP 058a	LL	Amalgamation of Schools - Addit Funding		600	600							21	44
CAP 124	ENV	County Hall Structural Works	282	282	282	32						21	44
CAP 040	LL	Saltney Library	150									19	43
CAP 130	ENV	Sustainability	300									31	42
CAP 135	LL	Elfed HS - Artificial Training Pitch	170								18	20	40
CAP 030	CS	Melrose Day Centre	200						45			24	39
CAP 038	LL	Upgrade Elec Comms in Schools	138									18	39
CAP 008	ENV	DDA Works	358									26	38
CAP 081	ICT	County Hall Reception Areas	230									14	38
CAP 133	LL	Play Areas Improvements	350								18	20	38
CAP 104	LL	SEN Schools - Security Fencing	209									15	37
CAP 125	ICT	Visitor Car Parking - County Hall	150									23	36

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL BIDS - BY SCORE

APPENDIX C

REF	DIRECTORATE & SCHEME DETAILS		CAPITAL COST (Net of External funding)					ANN REV ONE-OFF £000's	IMPLIC'S RECURR £000's	EXT'L FUND	ORIG SCORE	REV'D SCORE
			2009/10 £000's	2010/11 £000's	2011/12 £000's	2012/13 £000's	2013/14 £000's					
CAP 134	LL	Recreation Grounds Improvements	90	90	90						20	36
CAP 127	ENV	Demolition Costs - Various	225								16	34
CAP 136	LL	Youth Service - Northop Hall	20								21	34
CAP 110	ENV	Footway @ Dyserth Road, Lloc	35							20	24	30
CAP 100	LL	Saltney Youth & Community Centre	10								14	26
	ENV	Terrig House	350									
	ENV	County Hall Toilet Refurbishment		15								
	ENV	Queensferry to Alltami Depot Relocation		1,438								
	ENV	Sandycroft Waste Recycling Park		786								
	ENV	Highways Matched Funding Schemes		22								
	LL	Leisure Centres - Customer Facing Enhancements		350								
TOTAL - GENERAL FUND			7,824	6,571	3,660	2,720	112	20,887	45	35	1,512	

AVAILABLE FUNDING

APPENDIX D

	2009/10 £m	2010/11 £m	2011/12 £m	2012/13 £m
Financing (Excluding Specific Grants)				
Supported Borrowing	7.759	7.759	7.759	7.759
General Capital Grant	2.586	2.586	2.586	2.586
Capital Receipts	0.006	3.200	0.550	6.930
Uncommitted Amounts - 2008/09	4.560			
Total	14.911	13.545	10.895	17.275
Expenditure				
Schemes Per 2008/09 Budget Book (Updated) - Appendix A	12.536	21.024	11.597	4.853
Total	12.536	21.024	11.597	4.853
(SHORTFALL) / AVAILABLE	2.375	(7.479)	(0.702)	12.422
Cumulative	2.375	(5.104)	(5.806)	6.616

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 7

REPORT TO: **EXECUTIVE**
DATE : **13 MAY 2009**
REPORT BY: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**
SUBJECT : **DRAFT FLINTSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2009 TO 2019 -
UPDATE**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

For Executive to approve and endorse:

- 1.01 The drafted Flintshire Community Strategy 2009 to 2019; and
- 1.02 The proposed consultation arrangements including the full involvement of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The statutory requirement for the development of Community Strategies on a partnership basis for the whole County of Flintshire has been described to Members in the report presented to Executive on 17 February.
- 2.02 The Executive meeting of 17 February endorsed the purpose and structure of the Community Strategy upon which this draft has been developed.
- 2.03 The Local Service Board (LSB) has drafted the Community Strategy which will be used to not only shape the local authority's financial and business planning processes but also those of all its community planning partners.
- 2.04 Using the Community Strategy, the Local Service Board will agree a Local Delivery Agreement (LDA), which will reflect an important set of public service improvements for the partnership to deliver.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 The LSB Strategy Group have now developed a draft Community Strategy for Flintshire 2009 to 2019 that provides vision and priorities for the LSB and the Community Strategy based on the partner issues and local need. A copy of this is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.02 The Community Strategy vision for the whole County has been drafted on a basis of partnership and negotiation to:
- Provide a statement of intent and priorities for the Local Service Board, collectively as a Partnership but also as individual organisations.

Date: 06/05/2009

- Support and complement the vision and priorities in the other Strategic Partnership Plans.
- Be the foundation for the Community Strategy Action Plan.
- Be used to influence partnership working, build and demonstrate unity amongst Partners.
- Be used as a lobbying tool for funding and influencing purposes.

3.03 The Strategy is subject to final editing prior to consultation with all Elected Members, the public and the wider partner arena. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be specifically involved in looking at the draft Strategy and handling the outcomes of the consultation.

3.04 A detailed plan for consultation on the draft Strategy is being developed in conjunction with our LSB partners. The consultation will be undertaken in collaboration with our LSB partners using existing networks (organisations / groups and virtually via partner websites) supplemented by public consultations.

3.05 The consultation will seek to secure interest, comment and endorsement of the vision and will also be used to develop the Community Strategy Action Plan.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive support and endorse:

4.01 The drafted Flintshire Community Strategy 2009 to 2019; and

4.02 The proposed consultation arrangements including the full involvement of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. However the Community Strategy and the work of the LSB may have implications in the future for allocation of resources.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 There are no direct anti poverty implications associated with this report. The Community Strategy seek to minimise the impact of poverty in the community.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 There are no direct environmental implications associated with this report. The Community Strategy will seek to minimise the impact on the environment.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 There are no direct equalities implications associated with this report. The Community Strategy will seek to optimise equality and diversity across all sectors for the benefit of Flintshire.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 There are no direct personnel implications within this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Consultation is ongoing with individual partners and the Strategic Partnerships and a partnership consultation plan is being developed.

10.02 Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be specifically involved in consultation arrangements as outlined in section 3.03.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 The Local Service Board Strategy Group has endorsed the approach outlined and led on the development of the vision outlined in this report.

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Draft Community Strategy for Flintshire 2009 to 2019.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

1. Report to Executive: Draft Community Strategy and Local Service Board Mid Year Review - 17th February 2009

Contact Officer: Yvonne Tonks
Telephone: 01352 702128
E-Mail: yvonne_tonks@flintshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1



**DRAFT
COMMUNITY STRATEGY
FOR FLINTSHIRE**

2009 – 2019

FLINTSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2009 - 2019

(WORKING / ACTING TOGETHER FOR FLINTSHIRE)

INTRODUCTION

Flintshire is a county in the North East of Wales. It borders the Dee Estuary to the north, Cheshire to the east, Wrexham to the south and Denbighshire to the west.

In 2007 the population of Flintshire was 150,500. Over the next 20 years the total dependent population is expected to increase from below 60,000 to almost 72,000 people. According to the Office of National Statistics, life expectancy at birth for males is 73.6 years compared to 78.8 years for females. This is lower than the average for Wales with males living to 75.8 years and females 80.3 years.

There are pockets of deprivation throughout Flintshire in relation to housing, housing, health, community safety, education, skills and training deprivation, income, environment and economic activity rate.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY - BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 2000 placed a duty on every local authority to prepare a Community Strategy 'for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK'.

In 2008 guidance was provided by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) to local authorities for the development of Community Strategies. The guidance states that the Community Strategy should:

- a. Be the overarching long-term strategy for the area and all its population focusing on the outcomes that partners aim to achieve.
- b. Be based on a thorough analysis of needs and priorities and opportunities for addressing them.
- c. Set out a 10 to 15 year vision for the area and informed by, and reflecting the strategic priorities set out in the children and young people's plans, health social care and well-being strategies, community safety, regeneration, local development plans and other major plans and strategies.

- d. A clear, shared and equal commitment from community planning partners to implement the action plan, and proposals for doing so.
- e. Arrangements for monitoring and accounting publicly for the implementation of the action plan, and for periodically reviewing the Community Strategy.
- f. Arrangements for co-ordinating the work and actions of the community planning partners, local service board and the other key thematic partnerships towards delivering their objectives.

The Community Strategy should inform and be informed by:

- o The national priorities of WAG and the UK Government for non-devolved issues;
- o Regional priorities, including those of Spatial Plan partnerships and regional partnerships/boards;
- o Community strategies for neighbouring areas (including, where relevant, areas of England);
- o Plans or strategies for areas, towns, communities or neighbourhoods within the local authority's area, including Communities First Partnerships.

The Community Strategy will be used to not only shape the local authority's financial and business planning processes but also those of all its community planning partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

It will include a high level action plan which sets out how the Strategy will be delivered and will be used to enable the Local Service Board (LSB) to agree a Local Delivery Agreement (LDA), which will reflect an important set of public service improvements for the partnership to deliver.

FLINTSHIRE LOCAL SERVICE BOARD (FLSB) - BACKGROUND

The Flintshire Community Strategy has been developed by the Flintshire Local Service Board (FLSB). All Partners have their own specific roles and responsibilities but we recognise that by working together we can add collective value to the services that we deliver to the people who live, work or visit Flintshire.

The Local Service Board Structure for Flintshire includes:

- a) LSB Executive – responsible for executive planning and action. The first meeting of the Group was held in June 2008 and comprises:
 - o Chief Superintendent North Wales Police

- Flintshire County Council Chief Executive
- Flintshire County Council Leader
- Local Health Board Chief Executive
- Principal, Deeside College

b) LSB Strategy Group – responsible for governance and priorities. The first meeting of the Group was held in August 2008 and comprises:

- LSB Executive Group Members
- Director of Community Services, FCC
- Flintshire Local Voluntary Council
- National Public Health Service
- North Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- North Wales NHS Trust
- WAG representative

The terms of reference are based on four key principle areas:

1. Effective and trusting partnership relationships as a set of local leaders.
2. Discharging the responsibilities of the LSB - this includes producing a meaningful and fit for purpose Community Strategy.
3. Consistent and effective governance and performance of strategic partnerships, e.g., Community Safety Partnership, Health, Social Care and Well Being Partnership, Children and Young People's Partnership and Regeneration Partnership.
4. Identifying common issues as public bodies/employers.

THE BENEFITS OF A COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The Strategy adds value to the work of public services and local people through a vision that:

- a. Provides a statement of intent and priorities for the Local Service Board, collectively as a Partnership but also as individual organisations.
- b. Supports and complements the vision and priorities in the other Strategic Partnership Plans.
- c. Is the foundation for the Community Strategy Action Plan.
- d. Is used to influence partnership working, build and demonstrate unity amongst Partners.
- e. Is used as a lobbying tool for funding and influencing purposes.

HOW WAS THE FLINTSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY DEVELOPED?

In 2008, a statistical profile of Flintshire was developed to inform the priorities of the Community Strategy and the work of the other strategic partnerships. It included issues highlighted in the needs assessments produced for the Children and Young Peoples Plan, the Health, Social Care and Well Being Strategy, and the Community Safety Strategic Plan.

The LSB Strategy Group then agreed that it would hold two workshops to develop a vision and priorities for the LSB and the Community Strategy based on the partner issues and local need including issues highlighted via the Profile.

A vision was developed that Flintshire is a County where there is:

- Economic prosperity
- Health improvement through everything we do
- Learning and skills for life
- Living sustainably
- Safe and supportive communities

DELIVERING THE VISION - OUR VALUES

To support this vision the Partnership will operate within a set of values that run through all of the work we do:

- We will listen to peoples needs
- We will work on behalf of those most in need but will not forget the needs of the wider population
- We will be open, honest and fair in our work and methods
- We will use evidence based practice
- We will be brave in our decisions
- We will value diversity and promote equality of opportunity
- We will work ethically and in a way that will promote sustainability.

In this Strategy we define what the vision means to us in Flintshire. However, there must be key considerations that local partners will take into account through delivering this vision:

a. Climate Change

Climate change is one of the most significant challenges facing the world. There are two strands to addressing climate change: tackling its causes by cutting emissions of greenhouse gases and preserving stores of carbon (mitigation); and responding to impacts of unavoidable climate change that is the result of previous emissions (adaptation). Communities in Flintshire can play a role in tackling both these challenges.

b. Equality - The principles of diversity and equality are not about treating every one the same but about recognising and respecting difference and creating a fairer society where all people have an equal chance to contribute and participate.

Embracing diversity and equality will contribute to equal outcomes for everyone, improving quality of life, enabling individuals to achieve their potential and will contribute to the development of strong, vibrant and cohesive communities.

All the Partners will engage with all sectors of the population, and ensure that all communities are able to participate on an equal basis, by taking account of their different needs and interests and make an important contribution to tackling social disadvantage and ensuring that the needs of the most disadvantaged groups are taken into account.

c. Sustainable Development - The Local Government Act 2000 states that each community strategy must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom. Partners must therefore set sustainable development and the integration of social, economic and environmental priorities as a key principle of the community strategy.

The Welsh Assembly Government's Sustainable Development scheme and the UK's shared framework for sustainable development, 'One Future Different Paths' set out the definition and principles of sustainable development and emphasised the need for coordinated action.

d. The Welsh Language - According to *Iaith Pawb*, the Welsh Assembly Government's national action plan for a bilingual Wales, the aim is to create a 'truly bilingual nation...a country where people can choose to live their lives through the medium of Welsh or English and where the presence of the two languages is a visible and

audible source of pride and strength to us all'. In Flintshire we support these aims and recognise that we have a responsibility and a duty to support the national strategy and to take decisive action to sustain and promote the Welsh language for the benefit of present and future generations.

Many organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors in Flintshire support the Welsh language. The Strategy will further maximise the opportunities to ensure that linguistic regeneration becomes an integral part of community regeneration and that language issues are adequately mainstreamed.

ACTING TOGETHER FOR FLINTSHIRE

We recognise that we need to draw on, invigorate and make the most of the contributions that the public and the public service providers make to communities by developing a sense of place and spirit, of service and responsibility where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder and look after not only ourselves, but each other.

Everyone can play their part. All the agencies and organisations that provide services in Flintshire from the public, private and voluntary sectors need to pull together to make things happen visibly and in new ways.

Communities

The involvement of local people is central to success of the Strategy, and to wider change and improvements in the longer term.

Through the Community Strategy public sector partners need to tap into the pool of ideas, knowledge, skills, experience, energy and enthusiasm among individuals, groups and communities as a whole which, if realised, can be a real driver for change, for example through volunteering and community activity. However individuals in our communities of all ages need to become more active citizens, getting involved and 'doing their bit'. To enable them to do this, we will need to support people to be creative, inspired, encouraged, empowered, supported and motivated.

It is hoped that the Community Strategy can help to provide an opportunity to put local people at the heart of partnership working and should be grounded in the views and expectations of those people.

In working with citizens it is important that the widest range of people are given opportunities to have their say, and to have their views taken into account on all issues

which affect their lives. As a starting point, we will make use of existing partnership involvement mechanisms that have already been proved to be effective, rather than setting up duplicate processes.

The Local Service Board and the other key partnerships (including Communities First), will consider how community views are going to influence and inform the decision making process; how differences of view are to be aired and resolved within the local strategic partnership; and how decisions are to be explained to communities.

Local Authority Councillors

The success of the community strategy will depend on the sense of ownership it generates within and outside the local authority. In exercising its community leadership responsibility to initiate and facilitate the community strategy, the local authority will draw on the expertise and skills of elected members of the council. Councillors and officers will commit the local authority to take action to deliver the Community Strategy priorities agreed as part of the community strategy action plan. Full Council must adopt the Strategy and the Executive will need to ensure that all councillors are informed of emerging developments and outcomes and have continuing opportunities to contribute to the process.

Non-executive members of scrutiny committees will examine the performance of the Local Service Board to monitor the achievements of the local authority, and other accountable partners such as health authorities, in the activities that they have promised to deliver as part of the community strategy action plan, as well as monitoring progress against long-term outcomes.

Community and Town Councils

As the tier of local government closest to individual communities, community and town councils have the potential to contribute both to the development and delivery of the Community Strategy, helping to ensure citizen understanding and involvement at the very local level.

ECONOMY / ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

OUR VISION

Economic prosperity is fundamental to creating well-being in Flintshire. We want Flintshire to be a prosperous County where a strong local economy with a sound knowledge and skills base provides the foundation for success.

We want Flintshire to be a County of innovation and excellence that fulfils its potential for economic development and prosperity at the regional, national and international level. Across the public, private and voluntary sectors, Flintshire will have a strong reputation for high quality and innovative service delivery and collaborative partnership working.

We aim to develop a sustainable, world class, modern economy, based on business enterprise and a highly motivated, well-trained workforce, supported by cutting-edge technology and which maximises the area's physical and human assets.

We will strengthen the rural economy through encouraging diversification and revitalise the County towns by developing them as popular local centres, each with their own distinctive character that complement each other and the wider retail 'offer' across the sub-region.

We will also develop a range of initiatives aimed at a substantial minority of local people who are subject to poverty, disadvantage and hardship. Our most deprived communities will be helped to give them an equal opportunity of enjoying the economic future success of Flintshire.

We recognise that people's economic circumstances are influenced by many factors including education, health, housing, caring responsibilities and their family situation. We will work together in partnership to lead public sector responses to our economic position to support: local organisations especially Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs); skills and retraining; housing market support; infrastructure; and help for individuals and families.

We aim to deliver this vision through a number of key elements:

1. Maintaining a competitive position
2. Employment and skills
3. Sustainable Communities

WHERE ARE WE NOW

Employment

In 2006, Flintshire had the highest employment rate in Wales at 78.5% (compared to 71.1% for Wales). Our main employment sectors are manufacturing and construction, which, including the self-employed account for 32,100 jobs (42% of Flintshire's total). A large number of people are employed by a small number of employers such as Airbus and Toyota. The major employment wards are Broughton North East and Sealand, between them accounting for over 20,000 employees in 2006.

As of 2006, there were 75,100 workplace jobs. Of these, 17,300 (23%) were part-time and 8,400 (11.2%) were self employed. In addition, there were 16,451 unpaid carers.

17% of all children are living in families where no-one works. This ranges from 38% in Shotton to 5% in Bryn y Baal, Mynydd Isa.

Of the 7,885 children living in lone parent households, only 55% live in households where the parent works. The proportions of lone parents in work ranges from 42% in the Flint Castle and Oakenholt to 74% in Kinnerton and Penyffordd.

Since 2004 indications are that there have been a significant number of migrant workers coming to live and/or work in Flintshire, mainly in Flint and Deeside.

Travel to Work

Of the total working Flintshire residents; 45,000 work in Flintshire, 6,000 work in Wrexham, 2,000 work in Denbighshire and 24,000 either work in other local authority areas or outside Wales.

In 2001, 49,000 of the 62,400 households in Flintshire owned a car or van. 68.3% of the total employed drove to work. This was higher than Flintshire's neighbouring districts, North Wales and Wales as a whole. Flintshire has a low proportion of workers using other forms of transport, except for motorcycles, and also fewer people working from home.

Home Ownership

In June 2008, the average price of a house sale was £143,892 which was slightly higher than the average for Wales and below the average for England & Wales.

45,942 households in Flintshire own their own home. This equates to 75.9% of all households in the county and represents one of the highest rates in Wales. This ranges from 44.7% in Flint Castle to 95.9% in Mold South.

There are 7 Electoral Divisions that are in the highest 100 areas in Wales for containing the greatest proportion of households that are 'not owned'. These are Flint Castle (22nd), Higher Shotton (23rd), Holywell Central (34th), Sealand (52nd), Mold West (64th), Saltney Mold Junction (75th) and Connah's Quay Central (77th).

There are 5,860 lone parent households in Flintshire. This equates to 9.7% of all households in the county. There are 4 Electoral Divisions in Flintshire that are in the highest 100 areas in Wales for containing the greatest percentage of households that are 'lone parent' households and they include Higher Shotton (24th), Flint Castle (47th) and Flint Oakenholt (54th) & Greenfield (79th). 52% of lone parents own their own homes. This ranges from 5.2% in Hawarden to 18% in Higher Shotton.

Education and Skills

Flintshire has a lower level of higher education attainment for NVQ Level 4+ (22.8%) than the rest of Wales (24%). Mold South has the highest number of people aged 16 to 74 achieving NVQ 4 or above (34.4%).

Flintshire has relatively few people with no qualifications (13.5% compared to 16.6% for Wales) and has relatively high average earnings (£492 per week compared to £476 per

week for Wales). Flint Castle has the highest amount of people with no qualifications (50.4%).

Tourism

There are approximately 2.6 million tourists per annum, staying around 5 million tourist days in the County and spending around £150 million pounds per annum.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE

1. MAINTAINING A COMPETITIVE POSITION

Flintshire is widely seen as having a successful and buoyant economy with strong representation in the aerospace, engineering and pharmaceuticals industries. Manufacturing is the largest employment sector in Flintshire, with 35% of all jobs, a much higher level than that for the UK (11%) or Wales (17%). Major employees include Airbus UK, DARA Electronics, Toyota Manufacturing UK and Kingspan.

The Flintshire economy forms part of a wider economic sub-region that stretches across North East Wales and North West England and is covered by the Mersey-Dee Alliance (MDA) – a collaborative partnership between all local authorities and development agencies operating in the area, together with the Welsh Assembly Government.

The future for the Flintshire economy is therefore clearly tied to that of the wider sub-region which, before the current global economic downturn, was described as being “successful, prosperous and largely self contained, with low unemployment, increasing economic activity and rising GDP” (GVA Grimley, originally 2004).

Flintshire will need to maintain its relative competitive position to ensure continued investment by current and future employers.

Key issues are:

- ❖ The current economic downturn.
- ❖ Skills availability – most of our large employers report difficulties in recruitment due to skills shortages. This will intensify as our workforce ages.

- ❖ Access – for people and goods is almost exclusively by road. Social inclusion and carbon reduction objectives require the development of alternatives.
- ❖ Competition from the emerging economies of India and China, together with the expansion of the EU eastwards.
- ❖ Affordable housing shortages – particularly important for attracting and retaining young people.
- ❖ Research and development support and links to Further/Higher Education are needed to ensure development of new technology.
- ❖ SME's – Business start up rates are below Wales and UK levels.
- ❖ Tourism – this sector has potential for future growth; we need to raise Flintshire's profile and further develop its range of attractions, particularly related to its local environment and culture, heritage and leisure potential.

2. EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

It is important that Flintshire has an adequate supply of skilled labour to support the continued development of the key employment sectors in the county. It is also important that we assist those people currently economically inactive, to be able to access job opportunities that have been created within the county. Measured at a County level Flintshire is very prosperous, although this prosperity is distributed unevenly. Flintshire enjoys low levels of unemployment.

A significant proportion of our population are lacking in basic skills. In addition, the county has levels of Higher Education attainment below the rest of Wales. This may reduce the competitiveness of the county in the long-term. We want to identify how the gap in both higher-end and basic skills will be reduced.

Although Flintshire is a prosperous County, a significant numbers of people who are economically inactive in Flintshire, many of whom do not share the prosperity of the county as a result. We will identify how more people can be encouraged and supported into economic activity, and how communities suffering from a concentration of deprivation can be helped to raise their quality of life.

The third sector – community enterprise, social business, cooperatives (e.g. Credit Union, Welsh Border Community Transport) is an under developed sector in the County. The third sector offers a real opportunity to re-engage the economically inactive and to provide services in areas where provision is otherwise limited.

We aim to:

- Reduce economic inactivity by working with partners to provide a range of support programmes to assist and encourage local people into employment.
- Encourage an increase in the skills levels of people living and working in Flintshire by working with partners to provide flexible and learning opportunities.
- Work with employers to facilitate the development of employees and increase the availability and flexibility of opportunities for employment.

We aim to create more, higher value jobs across the County. High value and advanced manufacturing is well represented in Flintshire and has significance beyond this county. For example, Airbus employs over 7,000 people directly, with a further 60,000 in the UK supply chain, about 20,000 of these are in North Wales. This sector has continued to grow and now forms the base for the local economy. Some sectors (aerospace, automotive, paper) are genuinely world-class. We are working with our partners in the MDA to develop an action plan to support these sectors. The priorities are to:

- Recognise the needs of these sectors as a priority.
- Address skill needs and raise the profile of the sector as a career of choice.
- Develop links with higher and further education providers to facilitate technology transfer and research and development.
- Support the development of a 'Centre for Advanced Manufacturing'.
- Promote major infrastructure projects, including enhanced broadband, improved rail and public transport, the development of quality sustainable business parks.

It is expected that the benefits of this action plan will provide a stimulus to all sectors within our economy.

3. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

We want Flintshire to be a place where people want to live, work and visit now and in the future. We want it to be a thriving, vibrant and sustainable county that that will improve everyone's quality of life. To achieve this, we will focus attention and co-ordinate efforts to bring about progress that meets the economic, social and environmental needs of future generations as well as succeeding now.

(i) Town Centres

We want our own centres to be healthy and vibrant with an attractive built environment. Flintshire has seven main town centres, with a range of smaller towns and villages. All of the town centres show signs of relative decline and need to be revitalised. We will work together with the Town Councils to develop Town Action Plans for each of the seven centres and then seek appropriate funding to deliver bespoke programmes of actions.

The aim will be to make the towns popular local centres for surrounding communities and also fulfil their wider potential, giving them each distinctive roles that complement one another and the wider offer across the sub-region.

(ii) Rural Areas

We want to support and sustain our rural communities, improve their quality of life and maximise the potential of the rural area economically, culturally and environmentally.

Nearly 80% of Flintshire is now defined as 'rural' by the Welsh Assembly Government. In March 2007, the Flintshire Rural Partnership published the 'Flintshire Rural Development Strategy 2007-2013'. This sets out a strategic framework for the Rural Development Programme to:

- Encourage the diversification of the rural economy
- Raise the standard of living and quality of life in rural areas
- Develop holistic and innovative approaches to rural regeneration
- Engage with rural communities

This strategy has now been approved by WAG and has been awarded £3.9million to deliver the programme over the next four years.

(iii) Community Inclusion

Regeneration is of crucial importance to socially marginalised communities. Unless these communities share in increased wealth and opportunity, then regeneration will have failed. We have a number of communities which are among the most deprived in Wales. We will give priority to developing healthy, safe and active communities through economic development and community development and by targeting health, education, safety and access issues within our deprived areas.

The five most deprived parts of the county are targeted by the Communities First initiative. This is leading wide-ranging activity designed to help communities develop locally based responses to local problems. Communities First will link these approaches with other Local Authority programmes where possible. We will also look to developing wider social and community enterprise responses where these can deliver socially useful outcomes.

ENVIRONMENT / LIVING SUSTAINABLY

OUR VISION

Our economic prosperity and quality of life are inextricably linked with the nature and quality of our environment.

We want Flintshire and its communities to thrive and prosper in a sustainable manner, where an understanding of the impact of how we interact with our environment is shared with a mutual responsibility to live within acceptable environmental limits.

We will strive to value Flintshire's built and natural environment as assets, to be protected, regenerated and enhanced for their own sake, for the sake of our health and well-being, and for the economic and other opportunities that the environment serves to support.

An urgent and essential focus is to understand and respond to the effects of climate change on our communities, working environments, way of life, and well-being. We must therefore act now to adapt to the unavoidable consequences in relation to issues such as flood risk, land use, water resources, and biodiversity and wildlife.

We will therefore work with our partners and communities to become a low-carbon county as well as reducing our broader ecological footprint, which goes beyond addressing the impact of carbon emissions alone.

Living within environmental limits means that we must strive to use the natural resources of the planet in such a way that the systems which regenerate them are not damaged beyond repair. These systems include our climate, the nitrogen cycle, and our water systems which are all closely inter-connected. This is a delicate relationship however, which is increasingly affected by the way we extract and use energy, the waste we create, how we live, work and move about, and how we use land.

In terms of how we live within, relate to, use, and manage our environment, we must ensure that these limits are assessed and understood in order to guide how we use resources in the future, and live more sustainably.

This responsibility is the same for us all as decision-making authorities, service providers, businesses and employers, communities, and individuals. Together we must think about how we move towards 'one planet living' – where we consume fewer resources and live within the earth's natural capacity – and to explore the decisions and trade-offs which will face us in achieving this.

We aim to deliver this vision by developing our approaches to:

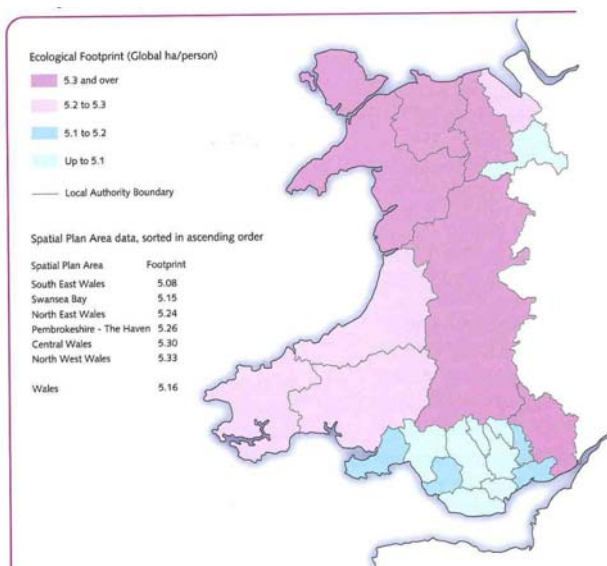
- Responding to climate change
- Building Sustainable Communities
- Valuing our Environment
- Managing energy, resources and infrastructure

WHERE ARE WE NOW

Responding to Climate Change: The latest estimates from DEFRA of CO₂ emissions by local authority area show that overall in 2006, Flintshire emitted 1.9million tonnes of CO₂. 58% of this was from industry and commerce, with the remainder split roughly equally between domestic sources, and road travel.

When expressed as a ratio of tonnes per head of population, Flintshire at 12.7 tonnes per capita (tpc), is the highest emitting authority in Wales, and significantly above the Welsh average of 8.4 tpc.

The Welsh Assembly Government recently commissioned work to assess Wales' ecological footprint, which is a broader measure of the implications of climate change than CO₂ emissions. This measure essentially demonstrates the number of planet earths that would be needed to sustain our current pattern of living and consumption of resources.



Flintshire’s Ecological Footprint – Whilst there is some variation across Wales at local authority level, the main message from this is that we require the equivalent of five planet earths, to continue living the way we do, which is not sustainable.

As of April 2008, there were 6,171 properties within the identified flood risk zone where the probability of flooding is 1 event likely in 100 years for fluvial and 1 in 200 for tidal. There are a further 8,759 properties subject to a lesser probability of occurrence of 1 event in 1000 years, but where the event when it happens is more severe.

Building Sustainable Communities: The latest WAG household projections for Flintshire show that there will be a demand for x,xxx homes over the next yy years (Z homes/yr).

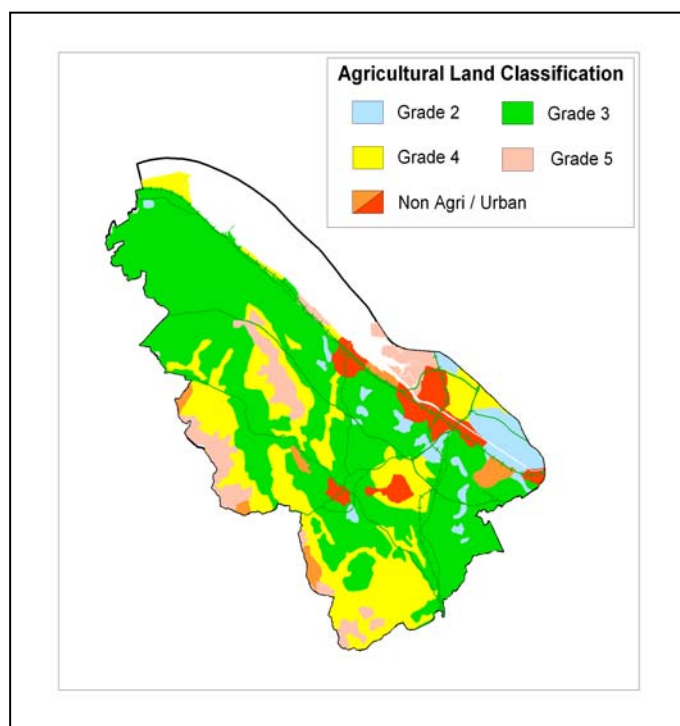
The recent Local Housing Market Assessment indicates that there is a significant need for affordable housing in the County, with X% of all new homes built needing to be affordable.

The Council’s open space survey carried out in 2005 Shows that there is in general terms an adequate supply of open/play space provision in Flintshire, this space is not always of the appropriate quality or in the right places.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2008 identifies that 9 areas in Flintshire are in the top 10% most deprived areas in Wales in relation to housing deprivation. These areas comprise.....Check with YT.

There are currently **X,XXX** applicants registered on the Council's housing waiting list. The WIMD 2008 shows that Cilcain, Caerwys and Whitford are amongst the 10% most deprived areas in Wales in relation to access to services.

Valuing Our Environment: As well as the Dee Estuary, which is of international importance for its bird species, Flintshire contains numerous habitat types, which are nationally and internationally recognised, such as the mixed ash woodland along the Alyn Valley and the limestone grasslands on Halkyn Mountain.



Flintshire has significant areas of higher quality agricultural land (grades 2 and 3), with the higher grade (2) concentrated in the Sealand basin in the north east of the County.

Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are considered the most important sites in Wales for their natural heritage. SSSIs often support species or habitats that are of international importance. There are 23 SSSIs in Flintshire, and a

further 6 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) which include the whole of the Dee Estuary. There are also a total of 308 wildlife sites within Flintshire.

Flintshire has 337 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) which cover 105 woodlands, 63 areas, 372 groups of trees and 1,270 individual trees.

There are around 1,100 listed buildings in Flintshire. There are also 32 conservation areas, and 23 registered historic parks and gardens in the County and many are of national or even international importance.

Managing Energy, Resources and Infrastructure: STATS TO FOLLOW

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE

1. RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is an urgent and compelling issue which places an unavoidable responsibility on society today, to act now to avoid, adapt to and mitigate the predicted future effects of climate change, which will occur if nothing is done.

This means living more sustainably as the impacts and consequences of doing otherwise will:

- Impact on the economy as markets change;
- Question the resilience of our infrastructure (including transport and health) as flooding becomes more prevalent and temperatures rise;
- Affect food resilience as growing conditions change;
- Affect our overall quality of life.

In order that we minimise the contribution that we make to climate change in the future, we need to reconsider how we live, work and move about, reducing the consumption of energy and resources that we need.

The key elements to defining and understanding how we will do this/achieve this, are to:

- Develop an understanding along with our community partners of our carbon footprint and our environment limits, and develop strategies to reduce the impact of the way we serve the community;
- Assess the strategic long term consequences of flooding in order that we adapt our approach to spatial planning and the location of development and infrastructure in the future;
- Define ambitious but achievable targets that define and explain the concept of a low carbon county and how this can be achieved;
- Identify the key interventions necessary to achieve agreed reduction targets;

- Provide advice, guidance and a policy framework to make the community aware of their options and opportunities in relation to energy efficiency and reduction of their carbon emissions, and encourage the take up of these measures;
- We should start with the easy things first, such as energy use, product/service design, employee working/travel patterns, and the impacts of our business/service operations;
- We will develop a sustainability checklist to apply to all new developments;
- To adapt to climate change, we need to minimize the threats from, and impact of, increased coastal erosion, increased flood risk, habitat disturbance, fragmentation and increased pressure on water supply and drainage systems;
- We will use a peer review process to provide ongoing knowledge/training/understanding of our approach to tackling climate change, and how we monitor progress to achieving targets;
- Identify, assess and apply measures to ensure effective adaptation to likely environmental, social and economic effects of climate change.

2. BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

In order to live more sustainably we must reconsider our approach to the making and shaping of the places in which we live, work and interact. We must strive to make our communities attractive places to live and work, where inequalities between communities are minimised, whilst their individual character and distinctiveness is retained and enhanced.

We must therefore develop strategies for sustainable development and construction that incorporate the need to adapt to climate change alongside the need for a high quality of design of buildings and their relationship to their setting and to the public realm.

An important part of this will be to consider the role that Flintshire's settlements fulfil, for the provision of housing, jobs, services and facilities. This must be judged against an assessment of the community's needs for housing (including affordable homes), jobs, services and facilities, as well as opportunities for recreation, leisure and play.

This must also be judged against the capacity of our settlements to accommodate future growth and development, in terms of flood risk, physical capacity (e.g. drainage, water supply, transport and accessibility), and social capacity (e.g. schools, health care, leisure).

Rural areas cover the majority of the land area in Flintshire. The issues facing rural communities (e.g. housing affordability, economic diversification, access to jobs and services) have particular causes and require particular solutions, but this does not mean that these issues should be dealt with in isolation, and not integrated with other mainstream decision making.

The key challenges in this are:

- To provide quality, energy efficient, affordable homes in a choice of sustainable locations where people want to live;
- To ensure that all new development is sustainable in terms of its design, location, layout, and achieves high standards of energy efficiency;
- We need to identify and maximise opportunities to reuse previously developed land and buildings within towns and urban areas;
- We should consider the regeneration and renewal potential which exists for parts of our towns and particularly our town centres;
- In assessing the community's need for development, services and facilities, we must engage effectively through the Community Planning process, in order to understand local issues, aspirations, and priorities;
- To ensure that through careful and coordinated spatial, land use, and service planning, we maximise and focus public investment and regeneration opportunities on key priorities, which will in turn serve to guide and direct private investment to follow;
- We need to identify the needs of our rural areas and consider how they are met through the development of a sustainable Rural Development Strategy.

3. VALUING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Living sustainably means living within environmental limits. To achieve this we must value and respect the environment, its natural resources and its biodiversity as

fundamental assets for their own sake, and for the contribution they make to our economy and to sustaining our communities and our quality of life.

Over 80% of Flintshire's land area is classified as rural and within this and alongside a rich marine environment is a rich and diverse array of attractive and historic landscapes, productive agricultural land, accessible countryside and sites of local, regional, national and international conservation importance. Whilst there are significant responsibilities attached to the protection of this framework, there are also significant opportunities to enhance the quality of these assets and the role they can play in economic regeneration, health and wellbeing and our overall quality of life.

We will seek to develop a multidisciplinary approach to the identification, management and creation of green infrastructure. Green infrastructure is the County's life support system – it is the network of green and blue spaces that lie within and between Flintshire's towns and villages, which provides multiple social, economic and environmental benefits. The green infrastructure approach requires identification and management of a network of green spaces in an integrated way that allows for the provision of wider socio-economic and health benefits while at the same time, contributing to the delivery of biodiversity conservation objectives. Other benefits of green infrastructure include the adaptation and mitigation of climate change.

In relation to the marine environment, Flintshire has a significant length of attractive and sensitive coastline, which has associated with it a challenging combination of management issues. This requires the development of an integrated approach to the development of a strategy concerning the coastal zone, which links together spatial planning on land with that at sea. This will ensure the most effective protection, enhancement and use of the resources.

The key elements to achieving this involve:

- Protecting and enhancing environmental quality by understanding and respecting the character, distinctiveness of species, habitats and landscapes;
- Providing a more integrated approach to delivering a better environment through effective and coordinated land and water management including an improved

relationship of new development to water resources, flood risk and adaptation to the impacts of climate change;

- Taking the opportunity to develop with partners a multifunctional policy framework approach to green infrastructure, improving access to green space which in turn contributes to place making, economic and social regeneration, and health and wellbeing;
- Maintaining and enhancing the tranquility of open countryside and rural areas;
- Preserving, protecting and enhancing the quality and quantity of biodiversity and habitats;
- Ensuring that plans, strategies and proposals which alone or in combination could have a significant affect on the integrity and conservation objectives of sites of international importance for nature conservation, are subject to assessment;
- Developing policy responses to address national environmental and biodiversity issues by considering integrated land use in coastal and marine management, in the context of dynamic habitats and changing landscapes;
- Understanding the environmental capacity of the county to monitor performance and underpin future policy development.

4. MANAGING ENERGY, RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Flintshire's economic competitiveness is important and its growth must be facilitated but demands for housing, workplaces and services to support this growth will need to be met in a more sustainable manner, making the best use of energy and existing infrastructure, and managing resources prudently and efficiently.

Whilst the conservation and enhancement of Flintshire's environmental and cultural assets is of utmost importance, we must also consider the role of the environment when seeking to achieve social and economic objectives and addressing climate change. The environmental economy makes a significant contribution to overall growth, and an integrated approach is required to ensure this can continue in a sustainable manner without causing irreversible harm.

This integrated approach should encompass:

- Water management
- Waste management

- Minerals
- Energy
- Sustainable transport

We must aim to integrate water management with growth and development, respecting the capacity of the water environment to cope with changes in land use, whilst factoring in the risks and uncertainties associated with the extremes of excess winter water and shortage in summer, which will result from climate change. It is critical that we manage the area's demand for water as well as current and future flood risk, to avoid potential damage to property or loss of life.

In relation to waste management, European legislation, government targets, and rising public expectations combine to drive the need for a change in our approach to waste management. Accepting the need to minimize waste production as a first principle, an imperative thereafter is to manage waste more sustainably, providing alternative facilities for reprocessing, recycling, treatment and disposal. We will work in partnership at the regional level and locally, to ensure that a range of appropriate and sustainable facilities are provided, and that waste targets are met and exceeded.

National policies seek to protect mineral reserves whilst at the same time ensuring that an adequate supply is available to meet needs. Flintshire is an important source of hard rock limestone and sand and gravel and we will ensure that the need for these minerals is assessed against current land banked reserves, the potential for secondary aggregates, before allowing development of new or extended mineral sites.

The production, security of supply, and efficient use of energy is essential to our society today, but our approach to energy should be based on moving towards a sustainable energy system, which should focus on reducing energy wastage, reducing demand, and increasing energy efficiency. This means that new development must achieve higher standards of energy efficiency from the outset, and the existing housing stock and industrial base must improve on their current levels of energy efficiency and CO2 emissions.

In relation to sustainable transport infrastructure, development should be located so as to reduce the need to travel especially by car, and to enable people as far as is practicable, to meet their needs locally.

The key elements to achieving this include:

- Work with water companies and the Environment Agency Wales when planning the location and phasing of new development;
- Produce a strategic flood risk assessment for the County to inform future spatial planning options and adaptation strategies to climate change;
- Require new development to incorporate sustainable drainage systems and water conservation measures;
- Promote and require the provision of a sustainable waste management infrastructure, facilities and systems for all waste streams, in line with the waste hierarchy and the proximity principle;
- In ensuring the provision of a steady and adequate supply of minerals to meet requirements, we must also ensure that once these sites cease to be worked, they are restored to high environmental sustainability standards.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING / HEALTH IMPROVEMENT THROUGH EVERYTHING WE DO

OUR VISION

We support the World Health Organisation's definition of 'health' as being 'a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity'.

We want Flintshire to be a County in which people are able to achieve the best possible physical and mental health and well-being. We will achieve this through providing accessible and relevant information, high quality services and opportunities for all individuals to live, work and spend their leisure time in ways that enable and encourage them to look after their own health, and that of others.

A healthy Flintshire will mean improved health for all. It will focus action on people whose choices or circumstances put them at increased risk of poor health.

Whilst working to improving the health and well-being of people, we will work to reduce the gap in life expectancy and improve the health status of individuals and communities that are experiencing greater levels of ill health.

Partners will understand and maximise their potential to promote and support health and well-being, and will work to ensure that opportunities to improve both physical and mental health and well-being is at the heart of everything that we do.

We aim to deliver this ambition through a number of key elements:

1. Promoting and Protecting Health and Well-Being
2. Bringing Optimum Health to All
3. Increasing Personal and Organisational Responsibility for Health

WHERE ARE WE NOW

A large number of statistics and indicators are used to monitor and report on health status, behaviour and lifestyles of individuals, and causes of death. The key messages are:

- As elsewhere in the UK, the proportion of older people in the population in Flintshire is increasing. Between 1991 and 2006 the 55 to 59 years age group grew by 4,032 (36%), 85+ years age group grew by 1,088 (39%).
- Average life expectancy is increasing. However this does not mean that everyone is benefiting equally from this. For example, on average, women still live longer than men and life expectancy is reduced for people who have a mental health problem or who live in more deprived communities for example.
- Life expectancy for males in Flintshire is 73.6 years (compared with 75.8 years for Wales); for Flintshire females it is 78.8 years (80.3 for Wales).
- In the 2001 Census, almost 70% of the population of Flintshire self-reported that they had been in 'good health'. Almost 80% of the population in Mold South reported that they were in "good health" compared to less than 60% of the population in Holywell Central and Flint Castle.
- Compared to the Welsh average, population health indicators for Flintshire are often favourable. However when these figures are compared with areas outside of Wales, the results often reveal that there is still much that can be done.
- The diseases causing ill health and premature death in the County are often preventable. However statistics reveal that many people continue to adopt and maintain lifestyle behaviours that put them at increased risk, and that there are inequalities that exist between population groups. For example, according to the Welsh Health Survey, Flintshire residents self-reported the following health related behaviours:

	Flintshire	Wales
• Residents with BMI of 25 or more	53%	54%
• Residents who smoke	26%	27%
• Residents that have usual alcohol consumption above daily guidelines	38%	40%
• Residents that “Binge drink” (defined as drinking eight or more units of alcohol in one session for men, and more than six units in one session for women)	17%	19%
• Residents that meet the recommended consumption of fruit and vegetables (5 portions or more per day)	39%	40%
• Residents that achieve the recommended levels of physical activity	31%	29%

- Furthermore, in line with other parts of Wales, the rate of diagnosed sexually transmitted infections has increased markedly in recent years.
- Using population data and obesity prevalence rates from the National Heart Forum, an estimated 15% of children aged 4 to 11 years in Flintshire are overweight or obese. In addition, only 25% of young people in Flintshire meet the recommended level of physical activity and 25% are inactive.
- Between 2003 and 2004, five year olds in Flintshire had the lowest rate of decayed / missing / filled teeth in Wales. However, this rate is three and a half time worse than the best Primary Care Trust (PCT) area in England.
- In 2006, diseases of the circulatory system were the main cause of mortality in Flintshire, accounting for 34% of all deaths.

- There has been an increase in the proportion of deaths from cancer from 26% of all deaths in 1996 to 33% in 2006. However as the proportion of older people in the population is increasing, and increasing age is a key risk factor for cancer, this increase is not unexpected.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE

1. PROMOTING AND PROTECTING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Giving individuals and communities the knowledge and skills they need to make choices that promote and protect their physical and mental health and well-being throughout life is essential.

The provision of information and advice about steps that children, adults and families can take to improve their own health and well-being plays an important part in enabling us to deliver this ambition. We will improve access to and support to understand/make use of quality assured information on a wide range of issues that impact directly or indirectly on health. Examples include:

- Managing personal finances, improving fuel efficiency at home or engaging in opportunities to comment on developments locally and across the county.
- Lifestyle behaviours such as not smoking, being active, eating a balanced diet, and reducing alcohol consumption in line with the recommended guidelines, etc.
- Health protection issues such as immunisation, health screening and infection control.
 - The importance of maintaining a high level of uptake of immunisations to protect against specific diseases cannot be underestimated. Unless 95% coverage is reached there remain a sufficient number of susceptible individuals for an outbreak to occur. The programme of early childhood immunisations, together with boosters and additional vaccines targeted at adolescents and the

opportunity for flu and pneumococcal immunisation in older people and those in particular circumstances, all contribute to protecting the population against diseases that are preventable which can be fatal or leave long-term disability.

- o Promoting the uptake of the national screening programmes (including antenatal screening, the newborn hearing programme, breast, bowel and cervical cancer screening) can help to identify potential threats to health at an earlier stage than is otherwise possible. This can increase the range of choices available to the individual, and/or mobilise appropriate services to support them.

We will ensure continued and coordinated access to such resources, with support where appropriate to enable people to understand and act on the information contained.

We will also help individuals and communities increase their skills and confidence to adopt health promoting behaviours (e.g. health literacy, cooking skills etc)

We will support people to eat a balanced, nutritious diet and lead an active lifestyle so that levels of obesity that contribute to many poor health outcomes are reduced. Reducing health damaging behaviours of all types is important, but we also recognise that people's home, work and neighbourhood environments, their educational attainment, financial circumstances, ability to access places and opportunities, and feelings of safety and belonging all have the potential to impact positively or negatively on people's ability to stay well, or likelihood of becoming ill.

We recognise that (despite our efforts to promote good health and well-being) illness, injury and/or disability will affect some Flintshire residents. Our responses as services providers will be to continue to provide timely and effective interventions, at appropriate locations (including within people's own homes where it is possible to do so). We will strive to restore people to their fullest health potential as quickly as possible, ensuring that individual choices about the quality of their life are paramount.

The population in Flintshire is changing. The population is ageing and there are more people living for longer periods of time with chronic health conditions, mental health problems (particularly those associated with ageing) and/or disabilities. The impact and opportunities that this shift will bring must be understood and responded to appropriately.

2. INCREASING PERSONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HEALTH

Providing services which promote and support both physical and mental health and well-being is fundamental to our ambition.

Given the broad range of factors that influence an individual's or population's health and well-being, all organisations and agencies need to consider how they can contribute to promoting good physical and mental health and well-being, and reducing harms or risk. We will achieve this by:

- Promoting the importance of the wider determinants of health. This includes raising awareness that people's home, work and neighbourhood environments, their educational attainment, caring commitments, financial circumstances, ability to access places and opportunities, and feelings of safety and belonging all impact on health and well being.
- Raising the profile of the importance of developing 'healthy public policy'. This important component of effective strategies to improve population health can be taken forward by embedding health impact assessment (HIA) considerations into all decision making.
- Supporting and responding to input from customers, clients, patients, families and organisations and groups that represent them. We will embed engagement and involvement of the public in decision making about policy, service developments

and delivery, thereby helping to engender feelings of self efficacy which is a component of mental well-being.

- Supporting the development of strong communities (whether in geographic areas, settings or between people who share common circumstances) so that people can support and learn from one another as this is integral to promoting both mental and physical well-being.
- Leading by example to improve the health of our workforce through effective health promotion. We believe that it is important that we demonstrate our commitment by recognising the impact that we can have on our employees, creating a supportive environment, providing information, and having policies and practices which assist employees to make healthy choices.

Alerting people of the possible consequences of their behaviours and lifestyles on their own and their families' health is important to us. We acknowledge and accept that every person has the right to determine how they live their lives; however where there is actual or potential harm (whether to the individual or to others) arising from such choices, we will endeavour to provide appropriate input to support the adoption of less harmful behaviours.

3. BRINGING OPTIMUM HEALTH TO ALL

Supporting individuals to maintain, regain or improve their optimum level of physical and mental health and well-being is important to us.

We will continue to provide timely and effective interventions, at appropriate locations to people who need health and social care services. We will strive to restore people to their fullest health potential as quickly as possible, ensuring that individual choices about the quality of their life are paramount.

In delivering this ambition, we will ensure particular consideration is given to:

- Providing flexible and responsive support to people who are carers. We recognise and value the importance of carers, both in terms of the direct support they give to the person they are caring for, and as essential components of healthcare and social care provision in the county. We will identify people in a caring role through our assessment processes, and will strive to ensure that carers own needs (whether financial, practical, or emotional) are met through signposting them to appropriate services.
- The impact and opportunities posed by demographic change, including the ageing population. For example, as our older population expands and life expectancy increases, there will be an increasing need to support people's choices, for example, their living arrangements.
- Available evidence about communities which are (or are at risk of) experiencing poorer health, reduced access to services or are otherwise disadvantaged by the current pattern of service delivery (including health care, education, social care, leisure services, housing, transport, etc.) We will take account of this information in making decisions about service development (across all policy areas), and specific interventions and also adapt current practices to promote a more accessible service.
- Ensuring that particular population groups have access to targeted services – for example: outreach healthcare provision (including immunisations) to the traveller community and to those who are homeless; providing appropriate education opportunities for mothers of school age, or coordinating community transport schemes to increase access to all kinds of services (including health treatment, work, education and leisure) to people unable to travel using other means.

We recognise that reducing poverty and its related disadvantage, using both targeted and universally applied approaches is essential to improving the health and well-being

of our communities. We will pursue initiatives to give people a better environment to improve their physical and mental health and well-being by targeting initiatives to maximise income / reduce poverty both on geographical areas of deprivation and on particular population groups. This may include benefits uptake campaigns, debt management advice, learning opportunities and skills building, volunteering and work placement opportunities, and/or area regeneration initiatives.

LEARNING / LEARNING & SKILLS FOR LIFE

OUR VISION

Quality learning, cultural and leisure experiences accessible to all have the potential to enhance and change the quality of life of people in Flintshire. We want Flintshire to be a County in which all people are able to reach their potential throughout their life through access to opportunities where they can learn and develop in line with their needs.

High quality education and training opportunities make a vital contribution to improving the communities of Flintshire. They are a key part of securing social and economic wellbeing. Children and adults learn in many settings, and an environment must be established where individuals, businesses and organisations including the voluntary sector support and promote both informal and formal learning.

We want to ensure that people in Flintshire have a comprehensive range of education, training and learning opportunities, including gaining essential basic and key skills, vocational skills, personal skills and social / life skills.

We aim to deliver this ambition through a number of key elements:

1. Improving opportunities for children and young people
2. Widening learning opportunities
3. Improving employability and skills

WHERE ARE WE NOW

- In 2005, there were 13.5% of residents of working age with no qualifications - compared to 16.6% for Wales. There are also fewer residents with degree level qualifications in Flintshire (22.8%) than in Wales (24%).
- Mold South has the highest number of people aged 16 to 74 years with qualifications of NVQ4 or above (34.4%), and Flint Castle has the highest amount of people with no qualifications (50.4%).

- In 2008, parts of Shotton Higher, Mold West and Greenfield as well as Flint Castle were in the most deprived 10% for education, skills and training deprivation in Wales. The majority of areas in Flintshire's are in the least deprived 50%.
- The total population of children under 5 in Flintshire was estimated to be 7,298. There was one childcare place for every 6 children aged 0 to 4 years. In Wales in 2006, the figure was just over 1 place for every 13 children.
- Childcare provision varies across the County. In Flint Mount Pleasant, Cornist and Flint Mountain there is no early years provision compared to nearly 48 places for every 100 children in Flint Castle and Oakenholt.
- In 2007, Flintshire pupils received the following expected Key Stage results:
 - Key Stage 1 at Year 2 was 81.6% - higher than the Welsh average of 80.1%.
 - Key Stage 2 at Year 6 was 73.3% - lower than the Welsh average of 74.1%.
 - Key Stage 3 at Year 9 was 62.4% - higher than the Welsh average of 56.7%.
- In 2007, Flintshire is above the Welsh average for exams at age 15 for:
 - the percentage entering GCSEs.
 - the percentage achieving single and multiple passes and good passes at A* to C.
 - the Core Subject Indicator (good passes in English or Welsh, Maths, and Science).
- Flintshire has one of the lowest absenteeism rates from school out of the 22 local authorities in Wales.
- The total number of registered places in after school clubs in Flintshire was 1,827, which relates to just 9.5 places for every 100 children aged 5 to 14 years.

- 14% of sessional child care settings are Welsh Medium in Flintshire with an additional 8% delivering services bilingually. While English alone is used in only 27% of settings, the majority of services are predominantly English with some use of Welsh.
- A-level results in Flintshire over the past 6 years have shown that although the fraction of pupils achieving at least 2 passes is at or above the Welsh average, the fraction achieving at least 2 passes at grades A to C is lower than the Welsh average.
- In 2003, a survey reported that people who were in fair or poor health were much more likely to have at most entry level literacy (41% in Flintshire compared to 25% for Wales) or at most entry level numeracy (69% in Flintshire compared to 53% for Wales).

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE

1. IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We will ensure that children have a 'flying start' in life and the best possible basis for their future growth and development. To do this, we will develop new and support existing local and national initiatives / programmes, as appropriate, based around parenting, education, play and childcare.

The opportunity for all children and young people to be included in such initiatives and programmes will be supported by:

- Providing access to services and information.
- Promoting participation and positive citizenship.
- Promoting Advocacy (representing the views, wishes and needs of children and young people to decision makers).
- Promoting social inclusiveness and cohesion in all that we do.

A positive parenting style has a strong and beneficial impact on children's outcomes and can act as a protective factor against other risks. Agencies will work with families

as a whole to maximise the support that is available to them so that they can reach their full potential.

We want to ensure that the children and young people of Flintshire have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities. We want all children and young people to benefit from their education as students, as citizens and in their future careers by:

- Working in a physical and emotional environment which enhances learning experiences in a variety of different situations both structured and unstructured.
- Experiencing learning which matches their individual needs (academic, emotional, social and cultural).
- Having lifelong learning skills and attitudes integrated into learning activities.

The Foundation Phase is the National Curriculum for three to seven year olds. This represents a major shift in the way that schools will teach young children to ensure that they achieve their full potential. In delivering this Curriculum, we will need to improve: learning environments and leadership; teaching and support staff training; working in partnership with agencies, parents and carers; and improving information that is provided to all.

Play has an important role in experiential learning and can promote positive self esteem, self confidence and a sense of belonging. We recognise that there is a wide range of play provision ranging from informal settings such as play areas, to structured settings such as play groups, and more formal such as Foundation Phase. We will continue to provide and develop opportunities for formal and informal play close to where people live.

We will tackle issues that prevent children and young people from reaching their full potential, for example, where behaviour puts them at risk such as smoking, substance

misuse including prescribed drugs, alcohol misuse, eating disorders and obesity, unsafe sexual practice, mental health problems.

Ensuring that formal education is of high quality and relevant to the world of work is essential. We recognise that a young person's education up to the age of 16 can make a significant contribution to their employability and skill levels. We will continue to improve future job prospects by planning for higher educational attainment.

We will actively encourage participation in further and higher education. Delivering the entitlement of all 14 to 19 year old students to a wide range of vocational and academic curriculum options require new ways of working across the network of providers in the region. Key tasks include:

- Widening the options available for 14 to 19 year olds.
- Reducing unnecessary duplication of provision by increasing levels of collaborative curriculum planning.
- Planning for excellence across all aspects of network provision.

We will ensure that the needs of children and young people who are vulnerable or who have additional needs are identified at the earliest opportunity so that appropriate arrangements can be made for them in the pre-school setting, on entry to school and thereafter. We will support vulnerable individual and groups to improve: their access to services and information; education; health and well being; transition into adult services; inclusion; and, accommodation and housing.

2. WIDENING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Education, training and learning opportunities - such as gaining essential basic and key skills, personal skills and social / life skills – sit alongside cultural and leisure experiences in the wider context of lifelong learning. We understand that all of these have the potential to enhance and change the quality of life of people in Flintshire. In addition, there are lots of ways to learn. We recognise that it is important for us to

understand the learning needs of our communities so that we can focus on supporting them to develop.

We will promote learning in all its forms and the benefits that it can bring to the individual, their family and the wider community. However, there are a number of barriers to learning at all ages such as poor health and disability, conflicting care responsibilities, lack of information, possessing few or no qualifications, inaccessible facilities and transport difficulties, lack of confidence, age discrimination, language, cost, etc. We will continue to identify these obstacles and put measures in place to help remove barriers to learning.

Ensuring that people have access to information and advice to help them to overcome any barriers to learning is essential. We want to encourage people to be confident as learners.

We recognise that there are some people who may be at risk of exclusion and it is these people that are often the hardest to engage. This engagement is essential if service provision is to be properly targeted and appropriate to individuals' needs. The voluntary and community sectors are ideally placed to engage excluded groups and have a significant role in providing both formal and informal learning in a community setting so that we can support them to develop.

Where it is difficult for people to travel, learning opportunities should be provided close to where people live or work. We will maximise the opportunities for developing and supporting schools for the whole community and programmes for learning outside school hours including voluntary leisure, arts and cultural activities.

We will also seek to expand alternative routes to education by increasing opportunities for on-line education, community learning and libraries, and making use of new technologies and innovative approaches to the way that we use existing resources. We will also explore new or different ways for people to learn that promote learning for pleasure.

We will enhance the role of education in family and community life by developing excellence from pre-school provision through the National Curriculum key stages and beyond. This will include the needs of adult returnees and older people as well as the fostering of active links between schools, colleges, communities and other centres of learning. It will also include the promotion of intergenerational learning and community involvement in learning.

Key principles to underpin the work in Flintshire include:

- Recognising that learners' needs are central.
- More collaboration and partnership working.
- There will be a learner entitlement to a wider choice of pathways.
- Buildings that will be fit for purpose and curriculum requirements.
- Changes that lead to improvement (standards, range of choice, participation rates).
- Maximising use of current assets.
- Parity of esteem between vocational and academic pathways.
- Excessive learner travel should be avoided (distance and frequency).
- There will be opportunities to learn in English and/or Welsh and within a faith based setting.
- Agreement on and coordinated publication of all pathways available within Flintshire.

3. IMPROVING EMPLOYABILITY AND SKILLS

Education and skills are essential for maintaining the economic prosperity of Flintshire. A commitment to lifelong learning will help the county to adapt to changing economic conditions and the changing demand for different occupations and industrial sectors.

Working, whether paid or voluntary, is generally linked with better quality of life, more active lifestyles, improved well-being, a greater sense of social inclusion and better

income. People with low skills levels can be at increased risk of income poverty. Maintaining people's skills whether they are in the workplace or retired can bring benefits not only to the employer but to an individual's mental and physical health. We want people to be able reach their potential and to access more high value jobs.

Helping people to reach their potential is important to us but we realise that learning potential and / or need will differ from person to person. For some it may be about increasing employability, for others it may be to develop vocational skills to do well in workplace or social / life skills.

There are significant numbers of people who are economically inactive in Flintshire and do not share the prosperity of the county as a result. People who are economically inactive already face multiple barriers to engaging with the labour market whether that be through employment, learning or volunteering. The challenge for Flintshire is even greater in providing support and training for those who want to work. We will provide locally based solutions to local needs and to recognise the need for soft skills development, volunteering and the gradual steps towards activity that are required before entering accredited training or mainstream employment.

We aim to:

- Develop locally based approaches to local employment skills needs through regeneration initiatives such as Communities First and other similar programmes.
- Encourage an increase in skill levels within the county and foster a culture of lifelong learning and continuous personal development in partnership with colleges and training providers.
- Work with employers to facilitate the development of employees and increase the availability of opportunities for employment thereby promoting the availability of a skilled and flexible workforce.
- Work with employers to support the transition of young people from school to the world of work.

- As partners, we also aim to be model employers ourselves, facilitating access to appropriate continuing development and training opportunities for staff which will result in staff feeling more valued, which benefits our customers in turn.

We want Flintshire to be a place where secondary schools, further and higher education are closely integrated equipping people with the skills and qualifications they need to secure productive, rewarding and high value employment in a modern economy. We want to be a learning county that is at the forefront of new technology in our schools, homes, local businesses and organisations.

Without appropriate job training, workers' skills can become obsolete. Moreover, in the absence of flexible working arrangements it may be difficult for some people to combine work with their caring responsibilities.

As model employers, we will seek to enable people to reach their potential by:

- Ensuring sufficient high performing staff are recruited, trained and retained.
- Supporting flexible working opportunities that can benefit everyone - employers, employees and their families.
- Designing pay and reward structures that attract, retain and develop a skilled and flexible workforce, while achieving value for money and fairness.
- Developing workforce skill and capacity to address both current and future skills needs
- Developing leadership capacity

We will encourage other employers in Flintshire to create the right conditions to encourage people to work and improve peoples working lives through ways of working that recognise equality and diversity, and support investment in workforce development and training – in and out of the workplace, flexible working arrangements, staff involvement, and a 'healthy' and safe workplace.

The proportion of older people in Flintshire is growing. As people get older it is important to enable them to develop their skills so that they can adapt to their changing role, employment or industry demands.

We will develop policies and initiatives to enable the over 50's to continue to work, learn, volunteer and care, making an active contribution for as long as they wish and ensure that they do not live in poverty by providing support to:

- the recruitment and retention of older workers and increase economic activity by improving access to jobs for the over 50s, including the disabled and those who have experienced ill health.
- Enable older employees to re-train and upgrade their skills and, in addition, pass on their skills and experience, in part through intergenerational learning in the workplace.
- The development of flexible working practices to accommodate carers and develop programmes to ensure gradual transitions to retirement.
- Encouraging volunteering programmes involving the over 50s in order to extend the active contribution of older people.

SAFEGUARDING / SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

OUR VISION

We want Flintshire to be a County where people of all ages and from all backgrounds and abilities feel safe, confident, supported and protected from harm, including abuse and neglect.

We want to reduce the impact that crime and anti-social behaviour can have on the lives of people.

We want to reduce the number and the impact of unintentional injuries in homes, in our communities and neighbourhoods.

We want all people to feel that they are a part of a community in which they can actively participate and can both give and receive help and support, where public services in Flintshire work alongside individuals, families, neighbourhood, voluntary and community groups to support vulnerable people and to tackle the problems and challenges which face them.

We recognise that any individual can be vulnerable at any stage of their life. Vulnerability means that a person may be at greater risk and have less ability to cope with different aspects of their life. It may be based on socio-economic conditions, gender, age, disability (mental and physical), ethnicity, lifestyle or other criteria that influence a person's well being and / or their ability to access resources and development opportunities.

We will achieve this vision by ensuring that public services and local people work effectively together to create:

1. Inclusive communities and neighbourhoods
2. Communities that are safe and protected from harm
3. Supportive communities and neighbourhoods

WHERE ARE WE NOW

- It can be estimated that around 25% of children in Flintshire living below the official poverty level.
- During 2007 and 2008, there was a 24% (664 crimes) reduction in violent crime.
- In 2007/08, of those who were victims of crime, 60% were aged between 21 and 50 years.
- During 2007 and 2008, 9,579 incidents of anti social behaviour were reported. The highest number of incidents related to rowdy nuisance with 6,480 (67.6%) reports, followed by complaints about pets/animals with 940 incidents and reports of vehicle nuisance with 677 incidents.
- A form of anti social behaviour is deliberate fire setting. During 2007 and 2008, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (NWFRS) attended 1,840 deliberate fires of which 376 (20.4%) were in Flintshire. 015 of the incidents were attacks on items of value such as property and vehicles. 271 were deliberate secondary fires which included refuse, fly tipping, grass / gorse, hedge rows and abandoned vehicles.
- In 2007/08, NWFRS delivered tailored fire safety advice to 4,895 homes in Flintshire in the form of a Home Fire Safety Check.
- During 2007 and 2008, there were 1,538 domestic violence incidents reported. Of these 462 (30%) were recorded as crimes. There were 395 arrests providing a crime to arrest ratio of 85.4%. 33 of the persons arrested were repeat offenders.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of people accessing help in relation to alcohol misuse. There is a recognized link between alcohol misuse, domestic violence and anti-social behaviour.

- Each year, it is estimated that over 6,100 children in Flintshire will attend hospital as a result of an injury. Approximately half of these injuries occur in the home, and are potentially preventable. Similarly, an estimated 6,600 people over the age of 50 will experience a fall each year, with over 1,300 incidents requiring medical attention and approximately 600 fractures.
- In 2004, Flintshire's road traffic collision casualty rate was the second highest in Wales at 560 per 100,000 population. Furthermore, the total number of casualties and collisions on roads in Flintshire has been constant over the last three years and injuries to children as passengers have risen substantially.
- Between 2001 and 2007 there were 579 accidental fires in homes in Flintshire. There were 135 injuries and 8 deaths. Seven main contributory factors associated with this type of fire have been identified that include being alone, fire interaction, not having a smoke detector, age, alcohol use, disability and living in rented accommodation.
- During 2007/08, 141 incidents were dealt with under Flintshire's adult protection procedures.
- In December 2008, 86 children were on Flintshire's Child Protection register.
- There has been a positive increase in the percentage of clients aged 65+ who are supported in the community.
- The 2001 Census recorded 16,451 (11.1% of total population) people in Flintshire that were providing unpaid care. 23% of these Carers provide 50+ hours care per week. These figures relate to known Carers.

- Since 2004 indications are that there have been a significant number of migrant workers coming to live and/or work in Flintshire, mainly in Flint and Deeside.
- It is estimated that aside from English and Welsh there are over 30 different languages spoken in Flintshire.
- Flintshire has the highest recorded number of unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments in North Wales. Between 2006 and 2007, there were 46 unauthorised encampments.
- In 2003, there were over a 1,000 voluntary and community groups in Flintshire comprising 18,000 volunteers and trustees, 2,500 staff and with an annual income of £15 million. The groups vary greatly in size and purpose with the majority being small local groups run entirely by volunteers, however, a significant number are larger organisations, operating across the county, employing staff, and involving volunteers, some are branches of national charities. Voluntary and community groups involve thousands of people every week. They provide a wide range of services and activities which enhance the social, cultural and economic life of the community. These include, support for children, families and young people, arts activities, environmental projects, health and social care services, advice and advocacy, training, support for people with disabilities, sports, leisure and recreation activities.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE

1. INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS

We want Flintshire to be a County built on fairness and respect, where people feel confident in all aspects of their diversity regardless of age, disability, gender, language, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation.

We will ensure that people from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities and know their rights and responsibilities.

Community Cohesion lies at the heart of a strong, vibrant and safe community and is what must happen in all communities to enable different groups of people to get on well together. People valuing each other and playing an active part in the community will mean that:

- More people will be clear about how they are expected to behave, will take responsibility for their own and their children's behaviours and will respect others and their neighbourhood.
- More people will be able to choose how they get involved and feel they have a voice in their community.
- Newly arrived and established communities will be able to communicate, share experiences and information to maximise their contribution to and experience of life in Flintshire.

We will map our communities to enable us to understand:

- The people who make up our communities;
- Where they live;
- What their needs are;
- What their perceptions are about their local community;
- How these communities are changing;
- What issues and activities may be impacting, both negatively and positively, on their community life, and;
- How communities engage and communicate with each other and identify areas of concern and opportunity.

This in turn will enable public service providers, voluntary and community groups in Flintshire to prioritise their services in line with local needs.

2. COMMUNITIES THAT ARE SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM HARM

We want to improve people's quality of life by helping them to feel safe, protected from harm and more at ease in their homes, neighbourhoods and in public areas across the County.

Harm can be either intended or unintended. We will work in partnership to positively address factors that can affect:

- Unintentional injuries occurring in and around the home or care environment.
- Unintentional injuries to older people arising from a fall.
- Unintentional injuries to people on the roads (pedestrians, passengers, cyclists and drivers / riders of motor vehicles).

Although the communities of Flintshire will be encouraged to take part in ensuring their own safety, we will listen to the needs of our communities and engage with hard to reach and diverse groups. At the same time we will focus on safety issues that partners identify through the use of local information and identify vulnerable people and premises through effective partnership working and community education.

We will support people including victims of crime and the vulnerable, to make their home environment a safe place for their family to live and grow. This will include addressing issues of safe play including toy safety in the home and in childcare facilities, fire prevention, unintentional injuries, and domestic abuse.

We will aim to increase early identification and intervention with victims of domestic violence by utilizing all points of contact with front line professionals. We will build on existing capacity to provide effective advice and support to victims of domestic violence. We will improve the response to domestic violence by supporting victims through the criminal justice system and to manage perpetration to reduce risk.

We will seek to understand the impact of substance misuse in the family by understanding the root causes and by supporting families to stay together. We will aim to reduce the harm to individuals caused by substance misuse particularly

children and young people, families and the wider community. We will improve the availability of education and treatment services and give particular priority to issues relating to alcohol. We are focused on tackling the availability of illegal drugs and the inappropriate availability of alcohol and other substances.

We will take action to address and positively manage factors commonly associated with crime and anti-social behaviour that impact upon how safe a person feels in their community. More people will consider the County to be a safe place as fear of crime will be reduced, including tackling issues that people perceive as threatening and destructive including racial abuse and hate crime.

We will help to distinguish between people's perception of crime and how safe they feel by engaging public figures, elected members and the media to help communicate the facts about community safety and to help reduce peoples fear. We will also utilize modern technology such as mobile telephones and the internet to inform and educate our communities. This will help to ensure that people have the knowledge and understanding to address issues that affect them in relation to crime and safety.

All offenders and ex-offenders will, where possible and appropriate, receive every opportunity to rehabilitate themselves. However the needs of the victims are paramount and this remains at the heart of our ambition.

We will work together to protect and support children and adults who need safeguarding because of risk of neglect, abuse and other forms of harm. We will support the wide range of professionals in agencies who work in this sensitive and challenging area.

Safeguarding vulnerable adults and children is everyone's priority. We want our communities to feel that they have responsibility for not just their own safety but also the safety of vulnerable people. We will help to ensure that communities have the knowledge and understanding to address such issues and take action when needed.

In 2007, a consultation by the Children & Young People's Partnership with young people highlighted the following; sports centres are considered too expensive to attend on a regular basis, youth clubs did not open enough in evenings and not at all during school holidays and were not all of a suitable building standard, dancing venues were not provided, parks were not challenging/fun enough and were poorly lit at night and there was poor knowledge of clubs and activities available.

We recognise that sport and leisure has an important role to play in preventing anti-social behaviour amongst children and adults. Sport and leisure can generate commitment and pride, removes social barriers, can provide a focus for peoples' lives, and helps promote team work, a sense of belonging, social responsibility and healthy lifestyles. We will engage with people to provide appropriate opportunities for all for sport and leisure activities at school, in the home, the workplace, open spaces and leisure facilities. We will also work with communities to improve their understanding of anti-social behaviour and how to respond to it.

We will empower children at school and adults in the workplace not to feel threatened or bullied by putting mechanisms in place to respond accordingly and effectively.

We will work together to deliver a safer travel network that promotes the use of a safe and accessible public transport system. This will also include considering local measures to promote road safety and therefore reduce fatal accidents and accidents resulting in injuries.

3. SUPPORTIVE PLACES

Flintshire is a safe place to live with opportunities for people to participate in many aspects of community life. However, there are some communities where individuals and families may struggle to find support and where services and facilities are difficult to access. There are over 1,000 voluntary and community groups operating in the county covering a wide range of activities and services, including: playgroups

and youth groups, sports and arts groups, social groups and self-help groups, environmental and conservation groups. The majority are small local groups, managed and run by volunteers. Together with public services they play a key role in supporting people and ensuring that they feel safe and included.

We want Flintshire to have safe homes, families, communities and neighbourhoods. We will support families to stay together where it is possible. We will enable people to take a lead in the improvement of their safety through education, proactive prevention, intervention and support and by providing a framework where effective communication can occur.

To provide supportive places to live, vulnerable people will be effectively safeguarded – including children, young people, older people, people with mental health problems or learning and physical difficulties and victims of domestic violence.

We will work in partnership to:

- Identify and protect those vulnerable members of the community that need advice and support.
- Use legislation to improve the sharing of information between partners to protect vulnerable people.
- Consider the needs of the vulnerable and the impact of their economic circumstances which may compromise safety, for example, the threat of 'cold calling'.
- Provide advice to our communities, for example, to reduce fuel poverty in Flintshire.
- We will enable more people to live independently for longer where it is their choice.

We will support parents and carers to make the best choices for their children to enable them to live their lives in safety. Parents are the single most important factor in a child's well-being, achievement and future prospects. We recognise that there are times in the life of all parents when they need some extra support, information and advice. We will improve support for all parents and carers, to improve life

opportunities for all children by actively encouraging parents to use parenting services to gain information and advice. This includes signposting, awareness raising, provision of information, advice and support, improving networking and building of relationships with other parents, and linkages between parents, schools and the wider community.

Safe, well-maintained and attractive public spaces have a critical role in creating pride in the places where we live which, in turn, is essential to building community cohesion and successful communities. That is why we are committed to action to make public spaces cleaner, safer, greener places that create a good impression, enhance the quality of life in our neighbourhoods and the perception of our areas.

Local events provide a great way for communities to come together and encourage people to get involved in local activities. We will support local communities in local events. For example, we will support community effort in tackling climate change by demonstrating how communities can take action to adopt low carbon lifestyles.

Some people already act as good neighbours but in many of our communities there are still people who need support. As communities change some people can feel that they have been left isolated within their own community. We will encourage people to support each other and be active within their own communities by promoting the concept of a 'good neighbour' to help in times of need and to provide a safety net to young and old. We will also provide access to information, help and support to people should they need it to help to reduce any feelings of isolation and exclusion experienced.

We will provide more accessible and open information to enable people to make more informed choices about the services that they access. This will include using modern technology such as the internet to provide up-to-date local information and exploring new and innovative approaches to sharing information both with citizens and with third parties. We will try to ensure all our communities can enjoy the benefits of the internet and other methods of communication.

We recognise the value of the diversity of organisations in the community and voluntary sectors that provide a voice for under represented groups, in campaigning for change, in creating strong, active and connected communities, in promoting enterprising solutions to social and environmental challenges and in transforming the design and delivery of public services. We will further develop effective, on-going engagement with the third sector and actively encourage volunteering.

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 8

REPORT TO: EXECUTIVE
DATE : 13 MAY 2009
REPORT BY: HEAD OF FINANCE
SUBJECT : REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2008/09 (MONTH 11)

1.00 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.01 The report updates members on the Council's financial position for 2008/09 in respect of the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.
- 1.02 Members are requested to note the projected net overspend of £0.280m (£0.933m at month 10) on the General Fund and the projected overspend of £0.376m (£0.413m at month 10) on the Housing Revenue Account.
- 1.03 The estimated Contingency Sum available at 31st March 2009 (above the base level of £5.112m) is £1.348m (para 4.01). This is after assuming that the projected overspend of £0.280m is taken from Unearmarked Reserves.
- 1.04 Taking into account the projected overspend of £0.376m on the Housing Revenue Account the level of balances at 31st March 2009 will be £0.874m which at 3.9% is higher than the recommended level (para 5.05).

2.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.01 To provide members with the most up to date revenue budget monitoring information (Month 11) for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.

GENERAL FUND

- 2.02 The table below shows an in-year overspend of £0.280m, which is a decrease of £0.653m on the figure reported at month 10.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME	Original Budget	Revised Budget	In-Year Over / (Under) spend		Non Ring-fenced		Ring-fenced	
			Month 10	Month 11	Month 10	Month 11	Month 10	Month 11
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Direct Services								
Community Services (Exc Housing)	48.176	48.468	0.215	(0.021)	(0.520)	(0.692)	0.735	0.671
Community & Housing	15.431	15.776	0.044	(0.164)	0.213	0.022	(0.169)	(0.186)
Lifelong Learning	104.216	104.144	1.172	1.186	0.609	0.640	0.563	0.546
Environment	17.089	17.413	0.810	1.095	0.560	0.745	0.250	0.350
Support Services								
Chief Executive	0.772	0.785	0.005	0.001	0.005	0.001	-	-
Corporate Strategy	8.336	8.571	(0.033)	(0.012)	(0.033)	(0.012)	-	-
Financial, Legal & Democratic Services	7.205	7.294	(0.059)	(0.170)	(0.059)	(0.170)	-	-
Clwyd Theatr Cymru Contribution	1.001	1.001	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Services	202.226	203.452	2.154	1.915	0.775	0.534	1.379	1.381
Central and Corporate Finance	25.915	24.689	(1.221)	(1.635)	(1.221)	(1.635)	-	-
Total	228.141	228.141	0.933	0.280	(0.446)	(1.101)	1.379	1.381

2.03 The Original Budget column reflects the budget approved by Council on the 4th March 2008. The Revised Budget column reflects in-year virements which have been approved in compliance with Finance Procedure Rules. Appendix 1 gives further analysis of the above net figures showing separately the total expenditure and total income for each Service. Appendices 2-10 detail directorate variances compared to the revised budget in budget book format.

2.04 The Organisational Re-Design Programme is being implemented in a phased process which means that the disaggregation of budgets has not yet been undertaken. Due to this, the figures mainly reflect the previous structure, with the exception of Children's Services which is now included within Community Services. The monitoring report will be changed to reflect changes as and when they occur.

2.05 The net projection can be grouped into underspends and overspends over ringfenced and non-ringfenced budgets as follows:-

	Mth 10 £m	Mth 11 £m	Variance £m
Non Ringfenced			
(Underspends)	(1.833)	(2.509)	(0.676)
Overspends	1.387	1.408	0.021
	(0.446)	(1.101)	(0.655)
Ringfenced			
Overspends/(Underspends)	1.379	1.381	0.002
General Fund Revenue Account in-year (under)/ overspend	0.933	0.280	(0.653)

Significant New Variances

Community Services - Older People Services – Underspend of £0.329m (£0.107m at Month 10)

- 2.06 The main variation within the service relates to a reduction in the projected expenditure within Purchased Residential Services due to service demand during the winter period being less than anticipated in earlier periods. Further variations in Professional Support relate to a reduction in the projections for agency staffing. Local Authority Domiciliary Support is projecting a reduced overspend due to revised projections on staffing which have reduced the outturn position.

Community Services - Community Living - Underspend of £0.175m (£0.105m at Month 10)

- 2.07 The increase in the projected underspend is due to the removal of a commitment for client costs which had been incurred in a previous period.

Community & Housing (now Environment) - Underspend of £0.168m (£0.089m at Month 10)

- 2.08 The positive variance of £0.079m is due to additional income received from completed School Buildings Improvement Grant Schemes which were not previously expected to be completed in 2008/09.

Lifelong Learning - Inclusion Service - Overspend of £0.064m (£0.002m at Month 10)

- 2.09 An increased overspend of £0.062m is now being projected within the Inclusion Service due to increased activity on the statutory provision of Teaching Assistants for children with special needs and/or behavioural problems. The management arrangements within the Inclusion Service are currently being reviewed. The School Budget Forum will be considering the merits of alternative resource deployment models, including further delegation of responsibilities to schools as part of its future work programme.

Lifelong Learning - Pupil/Student Transport - Overspend of £0.202m (£0.072m at Month 10)

- 2.10 There is an increase in the transport charges projection on School/Pupil Transport due to delays in the timing of changes to contracts. Previous projections had anticipated efficiencies would be made on these retendered contracts. It had been anticipated that the retendering would negate the impact of the timing of Easter (there were 204 school days in 2008/09 compared to 187 in 2007/08 and 193 in 2009/10), and the effects of non-standard inflation. It is not anticipated that this will impact on 2009/10 as the number of school days will be less and there is £0.200m non-standard inflation already ear-marked within the 2009/10 budget.

Lifelong Learning - Service Units - Underspend of £0.103m (£0.013m at Month 10)

- 2.11 The increase in the projected underspend is mainly due to vacancy savings of £0.048m and a projected underspend of £0.043m on centrally held directorate budgets (e.g. furniture and IT budgets).

Environment - Environmental Maintenance – Overspend of £0.380m (£0.200m at Month 10)

- 2.12 The commitment to undertake essential Environmental Maintenance Works throughout the year which were not included in the original Contract specification is likely to result in additional costs e.g. increased frequency of grasscutting at elderly person complexes was undertaken throughout 2008/09, costing £0.075m and the cleansing of Talacre Beach and preparation of Cenotaphs. These extra costs also include cover for long term sickness of permanent staff, together with increased hire and repair costs for plant and machinery, fuel costs and other charges in excess of the year-on-year budget increases. The main reasons for the changes over the last month are additional Traffic Management costs coming to light following legislative changes to improve safety of works on highways e.g. extra costs from contractors for rural highway maintenance operations. Also, the allocation of Matrix agency costs was delayed and hence the true extent of the additional costs within Environmental Maintenance was not reported at month 11.

Environment - Winter Maintenance - Overspend of £0.350m (£0.250m at Month 10)

- 2.13 Due to the significant levels of wintry conditions continuing throughout January and February, considerable additional costs were incurred for an unprecedented amount of salt required to ensure road conditions were safe within the County and it is now estimated that the Winter Maintenance budget will be overspent by at least £0.350m.

Finance - Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit – Underspend of £0.115m (£0.036m at Month 10)

- 2.14 Although benefit payments have increased due to the current economic climate, subsidy received largely balances this out. However, the main

reasons for the increase in the projected underspend is as a result of the identification of additional recoverable benefit overpayments of £0.060m and reduced bad debt provision of £0.011m.

Central & Corporate - Financing & Funding - Underspend of £0.073m (£0.004m at Month 10)

- 2.15 The revised projection of £3.638m reflects an anticipated underspend in external audit fees of £0.039m and net additional windfall income of £0.030m.

Central & Corporate - Corporate Other - Underspend of £1.176m (£0.869m at Month 10)

- 2.16 It is now projected that there will an underspend of £0.334m on the energy non-standard inflation allocation of £1m (see para 3.02). This is offset by an increase of £0.027m in the anticipated Collection Fund deficit.

REQUEST FOR CARRY FORWARD - COMMUNITY SERVICES

- 2.17 It is currently projected that the Arosfa budget (Children's Services) of £0.355m will be underspent in 2008/09 by £0.255m. As indicated at month 4 this includes a commitment of £0.100m for the initial refurbishment works on the vacant site. It has not been possible to carry out these works before the end of March. Approval is sought to carry forward £0.100m to assist with the remodelling of the service next year to complete the project to provide respite care for disabled children.

REQUEST FOR CARRY FORWARD - LIFELONG LEARNING

- 2.18 Delays in the recruitment of the School Organisation Development Officer has led to a projected underspend on this area of £0.040m. As the work will continue into 2009/10 permission is sought to carry forward this amount.

REQUEST FOR CARRY FORWARD - CORPORATE SERVICES

- 2.19 An amount of £0.016m is currently held for improvements to facilities at Llwynegrin Hall. These works will now be undertaken in 2009/10 and permission is sought to carry forward this amount.

REQUEST FOR CARRY FORWARD - CORPORATE SERVICES

- 2.20 Permission is sought to carry forward an amount currently held of £0.034m to cover the cost of any additional demand for CRB checks in 2009/10.

3.00 NON STANDARD INFLATION/CENTRAL CONTINGENCIES

NON STANDARD INFLATION

- 3.01 Included in the budget is an amount of £2.606m, which, as in previous years is being held centrally until the actual need is known.

- 3.02 It has previously been reported that all of the energy budget of £1m would be required, although the final position would not be known until after the winter months. Based on the costs to date it is now projected that there will be an underspend of £0.334m on this allocation. This projected underspend is

currently shown in central and corporate (para 2.16 refers), although it is intended to transfer the various allocations to services within directorates as part of the final accounts closedown process.

- 3.03 The only other allocation remaining within central and corporate is £0.490m in respect of school transport as previously reported.

CENTRAL CONTINGENCIES

- 3.04 The budget for 2008/09 included £0.269m in respect of Central Contingencies. It was agreed that these items be held centrally and only allocated out to services when the actual increase in cost is known. All of the allocation has now been transferred to the relevant directorate and have been previously reported.

4.00 UNEARMARKED RESERVES

- 4.01 The amount of un-earmarked reserves brought forward into 2008/09 and the current projected amount available for delegation to Executive is detailed below.

	£m	£m
Un-earmarked Reserves as at 1 April 2008		10.737
Less – Base Level (Includes increase as per budget report 2008/09)		<u>5.112</u>
Amount Available for Delegation to Executive		5.625
<u>Less other approvals in 2008/09 budget report</u>		
One – Off expenditure	(1.901)	
Contribution to Capital Programme	<u>(1.000)</u>	
		<u>(2.901)</u>
Contingency Reserve at 1 st April 2008		2.724
Less In-year approvals previously reported		<u>(1.096)</u>
		1.628
Less Month 11 Overspend		<u>(0.280)</u>
Amount Remaining		1.348
<u>2009/10 Budget</u>		
Review of earmarked reserves	1.385	
Review of 2008/09 budget monitoring	<u>0.869</u>	
		2.254
Funding of one-off pressures	(2.097)	
Increase in Base Reserves	<u>(0.157)</u>	
		<u>(2.254)</u>
Level of Contingency Reserve at 31 st March 2009 (above base level of £5.112m)		1.348

4.02 The amount remaining of £1.348m is £0.483m more than was anticipated when the 2009/10 budget was finalised.

5.00 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

5.01 On 19th February, 2008, the Council approved a Housing Revenue Account budget for 2008/09 of £22.613m.

5.02 The budget provided for a closing balance at 31st March, 2009 of £0.986m which at 4.36% of total expenditure satisfies the prudent approach of ensuring a minimum level of 3%.

5.03 Since the 2008/09 budget was agreed, the accounts for 2007/08 have been closed and the closing balance at the end of 2007/08 was £1.342m which

was £0.264m higher than the estimate of £1.078m. This has the effect of increasing the opening balance for 2008/09 by the same amount.

5.04 The projected revenue account and the use of balances for 2008/09 are set out in Appendix 11 and there are no significant variances from the Month 10 position.

5.05 The net effects of the revised balance brought forward and the projected outturn is that there would be balances in hand at the end of the year of £0.874m (budget £0.837m) which at 3.9% of budgeted expenditure is greater than the minimum level of 3% recommended by the County Finance Officer.

6.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.01 Members are recommended to:-

- a) Note the overall report.
- b) Approve the requests for carry forward identified in paras 2.17/2.20.
- c) Note the General Fund Contingency Sum available as at 31st March 2009. (Section 4).
- d) Note the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account. (para 5.05)

7.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.01 The financial implications are as set out in Sections 2.00 – 5.00 of the report.

8.00 ANTI-POVERTY IMPACT

8.01 None.

9.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

9.01 None.

10.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

10.01 None.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 General Fund Variances - Appendices 1-11.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Month 11 Monitoring Papers

Contact Officer: Gary Ferguson
Telephone: 01352 702287
E-Mail: gary_ferguson@flintshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

EXPENDITURE	Original Budget	Revised Budget	In-Year Over / (Under) spend		Non Ring-fenced		Ring-fenced	
			Month 10	Month 11	Month 10	Month 11	Month 10	Month 11
			£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Direct Services								
Community Services (Exc Housing)	61.453	61.569	2.646	2.622	1.911	1.951	0.735	0.671
Community & Housing	34.204	34.562	0.850	1.409	1.019	1.595	(0.169)	(0.186)
Lifelong Learning	129.496	129.123	4.815	4.746	4.252	4.200	0.563	0.546
Environment	38.903	39.452	0.255	0.540	0.005	0.190	0.250	0.350
Support Services								
Chief Executive	0.783	0.809	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	-	-
Corporate Strategy	11.175	11.658	(0.290)	(0.234)	(0.290)	(0.234)	-	-
Financial, Legal & Democratic Services	42.710	42.996	0.643	0.670	0.643	0.670	-	-
Clwyd Theatr Cymru Contribution	1.001	1.001	0.193	0.179	0.193	0.179	-	-
Total Services	319.725	321.170	9.111	9.931	7.732	8.550	1.379	1.381
Central and Corporate Finance	32.659	32.481	(1.539)	(1.877)	(1.539)	(1.877)	-	-
Total Expenditure	352.384	353.651	7.572	8.054	6.193	6.673	1.379	1.381
INCOME								
Direct Services								
Community Services (Exc Housing)	(13.277)	(13.101)	(2.431)	(2.643)	(2.431)	(2.643)	-	-
Community & Housing	(18.773)	(18.786)	(0.806)	(1.573)	(0.806)	(1.573)	-	-
Lifelong Learning	(25.280)	(24.979)	(3.643)	(3.560)	(3.643)	(3.560)	-	-
Environment	(21.814)	(22.039)	0.555	0.555	0.555	0.555	-	-
Support Services								
Chief Executive	(0.011)	(0.024)	0.006	0.002	0.006	0.002	-	-
Corporate Strategy	(2.839)	(3.087)	0.257	0.222	0.257	0.222	-	-
Financial, Legal & Democratic Services	(35.505)	(35.702)	(0.702)	(0.840)	(0.702)	(0.840)	-	-
Clwyd Theatr Cymru Contribution	-	-	(0.193)	(0.179)	(0.193)	(0.179)	-	-
Total Services	(117.499)	(117.718)	(6.957)	(8.016)	(6.957)	(8.016)	-	-
Central and Corporate Finance	(6.744)	(7.792)	0.318	0.242	0.318	0.242	-	-
Total Income	(124.243)	(125.510)	(6.639)	(7.774)	(6.639)	(7.774)	-	-
Net Expenditure	228.141	228.141	0.933	0.280	(0.446)	(1.101)	1.379	1.381

COMMUNITY SERVICES (EXCLUDING HOUSING)

APPENDIX 2

Budget Monitoring as at Month 11

Objective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Final Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Children's Services					
-6	Children's Training	119	181	173	(8)	(2)
-15	Family placement	1,526	1,475	1,486	11	26
-1	Grants	162	125	123	(2)	(1)
17	Family Support	290	281	306	25	8
	Prevention and Support	75	116	115	(1)	(1)
-257	Other Residential	709	709	456	(253)	4
-44	Professional Support	5,553	5,586	5,530	(56)	(12)
-1	Youth Offending Team	376	393	392	(1)	-
29	Special Investigation	38	-	40	40	11
(278)	Sub-Total - Children's Services	8,848	8,866	8,621	(245)	33
	Services for Older People					
(10)	Community Re-enablement	380	381	363	(18)	(8)
26	Day Services	1,216	1,194	1,212	18	(8)
(29)	Intermediate Care Beds	155	155	123	(32)	(3)
175	Domiciliary Support	6,435	6,435	6,574	139	(36)
(82)	Extra Care	-	190	91	(99)	(17)
(1)	Meal Services	1	1	-	(1)	-
-	Supporting People Income	(847)	(847)	(847)	-	-
(332)	Residential Services	9,602	9,540	9,074	(466)	(134)
146	Professional Support	2,390	2,472	2,602	130	(16)
(107)	Sub-Total - Services to Older People	19,332	19,521	19,192	(329)	(222)
	Physical Disability & Sensory Impairment					
(25)	Vulnerable Adults	106	106	78	(28)	(3)
(26)	Day Centres	137	137	108	(29)	(3)
49	Equipment - Stores	314	314	365	51	2
-	ESF Transition	-	-	-	-	-
47	Domiciliary Support	1,450	1,450	1,490	40	(7)
(5)	Minor Adaptations	126	126	132	6	11
-	Supporting People Income	(219)	(219)	(219)	-	-
205	Residential Services	641	641	849	208	3
125	Professional Support	1,205	1,205	1,325	120	(5)
(8)	Visual Impaired	11	11	3	(8)	-
(14)	Supported ABI	39	54	40	(14)	-
348	Sub-Total - PDSI	3,810	3,825	4,171	346	(2)
	Learning Disability Services					
62	Work Opportunities	1,775	1,770	1,833	63	1
(105)	Community Living	7,165	7,029	6,854	(175)	(70)
20	Day Services	957	962	975	13	(7)
(23)	Sub-Total - Learning Disability Services	9,897	9,761	9,662	(99)	(76)

COMMUNITY SERVICES (EXCLUDING HOUSING)

APPENDIX 2

Budget Monitoring as at Month 11

Objective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Final Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Mental Health Services					
-	Contracts	19	19	20	1	1
(19)	Day Services	233	233	210	(23)	(4)
-	Grants	130	130	136	6	6
(52)	Supported Accommodation	426	426	364	(62)	(10)
10	Supported Living	330	330	330	-	(10)
-	Supporting People Income	(567)	(390)	(390)	-	-
(62)	Residential Services	470	412	401	(11)	51
35	Professional & Support	819	802	805	3	(32)
4	Substance Misuse	223	225	237	12	8
(13)	Work Schemes	394	394	375	(19)	(6)
(97)	Sub-Total - Mental Health Services	2,477	2,581	2,488	(93)	4
	Ringfenced Budgets					
735	Out of county Pooled Budget - Children's Services	2,545	2,545	3,247	702	(33)
(41)	Learning Disability	570	570	530	(40)	1
(27)	Mental Health	391	391	363	(28)	(1)
29	Older People	-	-	37	37	8
696	Sub-Total - Ringfenced Budgets	3,506	3,506	4,177	671	(25)
	Partnerships and Performance					
(31)	Business Systems and Financial Assessments	977	945	917	(28)	3
(21)	Supporting People	-	136	147	11	32
(307)	Business Services - Income	(2,684)	(2,685)	(2,984)	(299)	8
(18)	Finance	331	330	316	(14)	4
(2)	Good Health	28	28	25	(3)	(1)
68	Management & Support	1,030	1,030	1,108	78	10
(14)	Public Information & Planning	438	438	421	(17)	(3)
1	Training	186	186	186	-	(1)
(324)	Sub-Total - Business Services	306	408	136	(272)	52
215	TOTAL - COMMUNITY SERVICES (EXCLUDING HOUSING)	48,176	48,468	48,447	(21)	(236)

Subjective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Budget	Final Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
770	Employees	27,089	27,480	28,253	773	3
128	Premises	740	756	884	128	-
559	Transport	1,977	2,002	2,535	533	(26)
614	Supplies and Services	1,939	1,985	2,647	662	48
489	Third Party Payments	27,020	26,677	27,117	440	(49)
50	Transfer Payments	2,568	2,603	2,654	51	1
32	Support Services	36	66	97	31	(1)
4	Capital Financing	84	-	4	4	-
(2,431)	Income	(13,277)	(13,101)	(15,744)	(2,643)	(212)
215	TOTAL - COMMUNITY SERVICES (EXCLUDING HOUSING)	48,176	48,468	48,447	(21)	(236)

COMMUNITY & HOUSING

APPENDIX 3

GENERAL FUND

Budget Monitoring as at Month 11

Objective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Final Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Business & Support - Operational					
-	Cemeteries	464	464	464	-	-
	- Sub-Total - Business & Support - Operational	464	464	464	-	-
	Customer & Housing Services					
(18)	Community Services	200	197	177	(20)	(2)
-	Grants & Contributions	94	94	94	-	-
(35)	Homelessness - Non Ringfenced	325	331	298	(33)	2
(169)	Homelessness - Ringfenced	336	336	150	(186)	(17)
12	Housing Grants	(123)	(135)	(132)	3	(9)
(6)	Housing Strategy	-	68	64	(4)	2
(18)	Neighbourhood Wardens	245	250	227	(23)	(5)
	(234) Sub-Total - Customer & Housing Services	1,077	1,141	878	(263)	(29)
	Technical Services - Operational					
69	Waste Collection	2,722	2,715	2,773	58	(11)
52	Waste Disposal	4,604	4,606	4,613	7	(45)
(40)	Agricultural Estates	(142)	(142)	(204)	(62)	(22)
(19)	Fly Tipping	83	83	63	(20)	(1)
1	Sustainable Waste Management	235	282	284	2	1
56	Markets	(93)	(90)	(31)	59	3
201	Property Holdings	(27)	(27)	174	201	-
61	Recycling	504	503	568	65	4
149	Civic Amenity Sites	1,610	1,712	1,861	149	-
8	Public Conveniences	169	169	181	12	4
(330)	Industrial Units	(1,802)	(1,802)	(2,142)	(340)	(10)
-	Animal & Pest Control	121	128	128	-	-
	208 Sub-Total - Technical Services - Operational	7,984	8,137	8,268	131	(77)
	Technical Services - Support					
72	Administrative Buildings	1,201	1,198	1,266	68	(4)
77	Design Services	(69)	(69)	3	72	(5)
1	Energy Services	217	220	220	-	(1)
(89)	Corporate Property Maintenance	2,523	2,541	2,373	(168)	(79)
(49)	Valuation and Estates	517	517	460	(57)	(8)
	12 Sub-Total - Technical Services - Support	4,389	4,407	4,322	(85)	(97)
	Supporting People					
30	Carelink	125	129	159	30	-
2	Community Centres	126	126	129	3	1
135	General	(1,371)	(1,372)	(1,240)	132	(3)
-	Management & Admin.	253	223	223	-	-
(16)	Relief Wardens	215	228	212	(16)	-
-	Tenants Gardens	231	231	231	-	-
(14)	Resident Wardens	973	1,185	1,172	(13)	1
	137 Sub-Total - Supporting People	552	750	886	136	(1)
	Business Units					
(8)	Waste Collection - Contractor	(195)	(195)	(204)	(9)	(1)
(71)	Administration Support	1,160	1,072	998	(74)	(3)
	(79) Sub-Total - Business Units	965	877	794	(83)	(4)
44	TOTAL - COMMUNITY & HOUSING	15,431	15,776	15,612	(164)	(208)

COMMUNITY & HOUSING

Budget Monitoring as at Month 11

Subjective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Budget	Final Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
(216)	Employees	9,974	10,171	9,958	(213)	3
757	Premises	8,450	8,458	9,577	1,119	362
362	Transport	1,611	1,611	1,964	353	(9)
333	Supplies and Services	6,481	6,391	6,871	480	147
(545)	Third Party Payments	7,666	7,909	7,337	(572)	(27)
11	Transfer Payments	24	24	36	12	1
8	Support Services	(240)	(240)	(231)	9	1
140	Capital Financing	238	238	459	221	81
(806)	Income	(18,773)	(18,786)	(20,359)	(1,573)	(767)
44	TOTAL - COMMUNITY & HOUSING	15,431	15,776	15,612	(164)	(208)

LIFELONG LEARNING

APPENDIX 4

Budget Monitoring as at Month 11

Objective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Final Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Out County Pooled Budget					
563	Special	1,278	1,278	1,824	546	(17)
563	Sub-Total - Out County Pooled Budget	1,278	1,278	1,824	546	(17)
	Libraries, Culture and Heritage					
4	Libraries and Arts	2,407	2,403	2,390	(13)	(17)
30	County Record office and Records Management	422	426	457	31	1
(11)	Museums and Heritage Service	380	380	354	(26)	(15)
-	Schools Library Service	334	334	334	-	-
23	Sub-Total - Libraries,Culture & Heritage	3,543	3,543	3,535	(8)	(31)
	Leisure Services					
337	Leisure Centres and Pools	2,483	2,483	2,820	337	-
18	Recreational Grounds and Amenities	415	415	433	18	-
9	Leisure services	267	267	276	9	-
(2)	Play Development	333	333	331	(2)	-
362	Sub-Total - Leisure Services	3,498	3,498	3,860	362	-
	Delegated Schools Budgets					
-	Nursery	108	108	108	-	-
-	Primary	36,554	36,603	36,603	-	-
-	Secondary	32,231	32,263	32,263	-	-
-	Special	3,016	3,016	3,016	-	-
-	Sub-Total - Delegated Schools	71,909	71,990	71,990	-	-
	School Improvement Service					
-	Early Years	1,073	1,073	1,073	-	-
(7)	Primary - non delegated	977	977	970	(7)	-
6	Secondary non - delegated	1,056	1,056	1,099	43	37
2	Inclusion	5,755	5,706	5,770	64	62
(97)	School Improvement Service	1,294	1,423	1,322	(101)	(4)
(2)	ICT Unit	1,083	1,083	1,068	(15)	(13)
14	Schools Related	390	358	372	14	-
34	Sports Development	136	136	170	34	-
(50)	Sub-Total - School Improvement	11,764	11,812	11,844	32	82
	Development and Resources					
	Cymorth - Childcare	312	312	312		
-	Youth and Community	1,276	1,276	1,276	-	-
72	Pupil/Student Transport	6,147	5,992	6,134	142	70
(11)	Student Finance	108	108	97	(11)	-
(13)	Service Units	2,049	2,050	1,947	(103)	(90)
213	Facilities Services	1,190	1,335	1,548	213	-
13	Management and Administration	1,142	950	963	13	-
274	Sub-Total - Development & Resources	12,224	12,023	12,277	254	(20)
1,172	TOTAL - LIFELONG LEARNING	104,216	104,144	105,330	1,186	14

LIFELONG LEARNING

Budget Monitoring as at Month 11

Subjective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Final Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Balances	-	-	-	-	-
2,380	Employees	100,937	101,235	103,609	2,374	(6)
(811)	Premises	7,651	7,030	6,198	(832)	(21)
242	Transport	5,204	4,999	5,309	310	68
1,866	Supplies and Services	7,955	8,029	9,890	1,861	(5)
1,088	Third Party Payments	7,055	6,270	7,252	982	(106)
(69)	Transfer Payments	85	870	801	(69)	-
143	Support Services	409	442	585	143	-
(24)	Capital Financing	200	200	177	(23)	1
(3,643)	Income	(25,280)	(24,931)	(28,491)	(3,560)	83
1,172	TOTAL - LIFELONG LEARNING	104,216	104,144	105,330	1,186	14

ENVIRONMENT

APPENDIX 5

Budget Monitoring as at Month 11

Objective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Final Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Highways & Transportation					
	- Maintenance Works					
	- - Structural Maintenance	939	702	702	-	-
	- - Routine Maintenance	2,108	2,314	2,314	-	-
200	- Environmental Maintenance	2,198	2,179	2,559	380	180
250	- Winter Maintenance (Ringfenced Account)	488	488	838	350	100
	- - Street Lighting	750	819	819	-	-
	- - Structures	73	73	73	-	-
	- Car Parks	64	64	64	-	-
50	Fleet Services	75	75	125	50	-
95	Neighbourhood Services	935	1,140	1,235	95	-
(150)	Transportation	1,052	1,052	902	(150)	-
	- Concessionary Fares	269	270	270	-	-
	- Trunk Road Management Unit	(38)	(38)	(38)	-	-
75	Environmental Maintenance Trading Account	-	-	75	75	-
50	Highways Maintenance Trading Account	-	-	50	50	-
570	Sub-Total - Highways & Transportation	8,913	9,138	9,988	850	280
	Engineering Services					
	- Consultancy	46	6	6	-	-
(75)	Highways Strategy	1,047	1,008	933	(75)	-
(20)	Land Drainage Works	229	229	209	(20)	-
(85)	Traffic Services	519	497	412	(85)	-
(15)	Traffic Works	170	192	177	(15)	-
(195)	Sub-Total - Engineering Services	2,011	1,932	1,737	(195)	-
	Planning					
340	Planning Control	12	(18)	332	350	10
	- Service Development and Control	243	242	242	-	-
	- Policy and Implementation	518	752	752	-	-
(10)	Environment and Conservation	293	328	318	(10)	-
190	Land Charges	(234)	(219)	(29)	190	-
	- Countryside Service	359	318	318	-	-
520	Sub-Total - Planning	1,191	1,403	1,933	530	10
	Public Protection					
(5)	Pollution Control	317	285	275	(10)	(5)
	- Environmental Control	341	341	341	-	-
(5)	Food Safety	362	399	394	(5)	-
(20)	Health & Safety	293	255	235	(20)	-
	- Trading Standards	646	646	646	-	-
	- Building Control	261	261	261	-	-
	- Building Regulations Charging Account	-	-	-	-	-
(30)	Sub-Total - Public Protection	2,220	2,187	2,152	(35)	(5)
	Management Support & Performance					
	- Finance & Performance	684	615	615	-	-
(30)	Directorate Support	705	774	744	(30)	-
	Information Services	148	148	148	-	-
	Electronic Services	154	153	153	-	-
(15)	Geographical Information Services	88	88	73	(15)	-
(45)	Sub-Total - Management Support & Performance	1,779	1,778	1,733	(45)	-

ENVIRONMENT**APPENDIX 5****Budget Monitoring as at Month 11****Objective Analysis**

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Final Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Regeneration					
(10)	Economic Development	485	485	475	(10)	-
-	- Tourism	132	132	132	-	-
-	- European Partnership	-	-	-	-	-
-	- Flintshire Business Services	358	358	358	-	-
-	- Communities First	-	-	-	-	-
(10)	Sub-Total - Regeneration	975	975	965	(10)	-

810	TOTAL - ENVIRONMENT	17,089	17,413	18,508	1,095	285
------------	----------------------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	--------------	------------

Subjective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Final Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
-	Employees	17,532	15,125	15,265	140	140
-	Premises	1,574	1,718	1,718	-	-
125	Transport	5,321	2,765	2,890	125	-
20	Supplies and Services	5,439	3,944	3,909	(35)	(55)
70	Third Party Payments	8,577	8,009	8,279	270	200
-	- Transfer Payments	6	6	6	-	-
40	Support Services	454	649	689	40	-
-	- Capital Financing	-	10	10	-	-
555	Income	(21,814)	(14,813)	(14,258)	555	-

810	TOTAL - ENVIRONMENT	17,089	17,413	18,508	1,095	285
------------	----------------------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	--------------	------------

CHIEF EXECUTIVE**APPENDIX 6****Budget Monitoring as at Month 11****Objective Analysis**

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Final Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
17	Management & Administration	440	440	455	15	(2)
(12)	Corporate Communications	332	345	331	(14)	(2)
						-
5	TOTAL - CHIEF EXECUTIVE	772	785	786	1	(4)

Subjective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Final Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
25	Employees	482	482	508	26	1
-	- Premises	1	1	1	-	-
3	Transport	3	3	5	2	(1)
10	Supplies and Services	201	219	228	9	(1)
	- Third Party Payments	-	-	-	-	-
	- Transfer Payments	-	-	-	-	-
(39)	Support Services	96	104	66	(38)	1
	- Capital Financing	-	-	-	-	-
6	Income	(11)	(24)	(22)	2	(4)
5	TOTAL - CHIEF EXECUTIVE	772	785	786	1	(4)

SERVICES WITHIN FORMER CORPORATE STRATEGY

APPENDIX 7

Budget Monitoring as at Month 11

Objective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Final Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Management					
16	Management	294	209	225	16	-
16	Sub-Total - Management	294	209	225	16	-
	Human Resources & Organisational Development					
-	CRB Checks	74	74	74	-	-
(36)	Corporate Training & Development	278	278	241	(37)	(1)
43	Payroll	333	404	451	47	4
(3)	Human Resources	819	874	868	(6)	(3)
(3)	Job Evaluation	78	78	75	(3)	-
-	Temporary HR Projects	54	150	150	-	-
1	Sub-Total - HR & Org Development	1,636	1,858	1,859	1	-
	Occupational Health & Safety					
(23)	Occupational Health & Safety	679	679	643	(36)	(13)
(18)	Counselling Support	60	60	41	(19)	(1)
(41)	Sub-Total - Occupational Health & Safety	739	739	684	(55)	(14)
	Policy, Performance & Partnerships					
(27)	Civil Contingencies	136	136	109	(27)	-
-	Policy Grants	-	2	2	-	-
(83)	Policy, Performance & Partnerships	1,063	1,057	976	(81)	2
(110)	Sub-Total - Policy, Performance & Partnerships	1,199	1,195	1,087	(108)	2
	ICT & Customer Services					
4	Information Communication Technology	3,773	3,801	3,816	15	11
(4)	Customer Services	695	695	682	(13)	(9)
101	Design & Print	-	74	206	132	31
101	Sub-Total - ICT & Customer Services	4,468	4,570	4,704	134	33
(33)	TOTAL - CORPORATE STRATEGY	8,336	8,571	8,559	(12)	21

Subjective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Final Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
(257)	Employees	7,054	6,811	6,560	(251)	6
9	Premises	44	44	53	9	-
7	Transport	83	85	93	8	1
9	Supplies and Services	3,593	3,737	3,795	58	49
(1)	Third Party Payments	173	314	313	(1)	-
-	Transfer Payments	-	-	-	-	-
(49)	Support Services	208	231	182	(49)	-
(8)	Capital Financing	21	106	98	(8)	-
257	Income	(2,840)	(2,757)	(2,535)	222	(35)
-33	TOTAL - CORPORATE STRATEGY	8,336	8,571	8,559	(12)	21

FINANCE AND LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

APPENDIX 8

Budget Monitoring as at Month 11

Objective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Management & Secretariat - Finance					
51	Management & Secretariat	495	309	365	56	5
51	Sub-Total - Management & Secretariat - Finance	495	309	365	56	5
	Financial Management & Audit					
(10)	Corporate & Capital Accounting	314	314	303	(11)	(1)
(40)	Financial Planning	195	195	155	(40)	-
(8)	Service Accounting	571	571	569	(2)	6
(36)	Internal Audit	578	550	514	(36)	-
20	Procurement	154	157	176	19	(1)
(74)	Sub-Total - Financial Management & Audit	1,812	1,787	1,717	(70)	4
	Funds & Customer Accounts					
1	Pensions & Funds	(8)	(8)	(7)	1	-
7	Insurance & Risk Management	18	18	24	6	(1)
(11)	Customer Accounts	1,164	1,179	1,143	(36)	(25)
(36)	Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit	(23)	(23)	(138)	(115)	(79)
(39)	Sub-Total - Funds & Customer Accounts	1,151	1,166	1,022	(144)	(105)
	Management & Secretariat - Legal & Democratic Services					
49	Management & Secretariat	-	190	239	49	-
49	Sub-Total - Management & Secretariat - Legal & Democratic Services	-	190	239	49	-
	Legal Services					
(29)	Legal Services	825	853	812	(41)	(12)
(29)	Sub-Total - Legal Services	825	853	812	(41)	(12)
	Democratic Services					
(2)	Business Development	79	77	74	(3)	(1)
(1)	Committee, Member & Electoral Services	2,160	2,224	2,225	1	2
(12)	Administration	494	499	482	(17)	(5)
(2)	Scrutiny	189	189	188	(1)	1
(17)	Sub-Total - Democratic Services	2,922	2,989	2,969	(20)	(3)
(59)	TOTAL - FLADS	7,205	7,294	7,124	(170)	(111)

Subjective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
(20)	Employees	7,401	7,414	7,372	(42)	(22)
6	Premises	23	60	66	6	-
(13)	Transport	100	100	85	(15)	(2)
(239)	Supplies and Services	2,029	2,266	2,029	(237)	2
-	Third Party Payments	-	-	-	-	-
899	Transfer Payments	32,961	32,961	33,913	952	53
10	Support Services	196	195	201	6	(4)
-	Capital Financing	-	-	-	-	-
(702)	Income	(35,505)	(35,702)	(36,542)	(840)	(138)
(59)	TOTAL - FLADS	7,205	7,294	7,124	(170)	(111)

Budget Monitoring as at Month 11**Objective Analysis**

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Clwyd Theatr Cymru					
(148)	General Administration	(164)	(164)	(262)	(98)	50
(18)	Production Overheads	828	828	810	(18)	-
166	Clwyd Theatr Cymru Productions	497	497	613	116	(50)
-	Other Art Forms	(16)	(16)	(16)	-	-
-	Other Earned Income	(144)	(144)	(144)	-	-
-	TOTAL - CLWYD THEATR CYMRU	1,001	1,001	1,001	-	-

Subjective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
51	Employees	2,966	2,966	3,017	51	-
-	Premises	268	268	268	-	-
(5)	Transport	31	31	26	(5)	-
147	Supplies and Services	1,636	1,636	1,769	133	(14)
-	Third Party Payments	-	-	-	-	-
-	Transfer Payments	-	-	-	-	-
-	Support Services	-	-	-	-	-
-	Capital Financing	-	-	-	-	-
(193)	Income	(3,900)	(3,900)	(4,079)	(179)	14
-	TOTAL - CLWYD THEATR CYMRU	1,001	1,001	1,001	-	-

CENTRAL & CORPORATE FINANCE

APPENDIX 10

Budget Monitoring as at Month 11

Objective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Central & Corporate Finance					
(40)	Coroners	210	210	170	(40)	-
-	Central Services - Other	3	-	-	-	-
(913)	Central Loans & Investment Account	12,323	12,223	11,275	(948)	(35)
(4)	Financing & Funding (insurance, banking etc.)	3,611	3,711	3,638	(73)	(69)
-	Development Grants	292	279	279	-	-
(14)	Corporate Discretionary Rate Relief	95	95	78	(17)	(3)
(869)	Corporate Other	7,109	6,947	5,771	(1,176)	(307)
(1,840)	Sub-Total - Central & Corporate Finance	23,643	23,465	21,211	(2,254)	(414)
	Levying Bodies					
-	North West/Wales Sea Fisheries Committee	27	27	27	-	-
-	Fire Service	6,739	6,739	6,739	-	-
-	Sub-Total - Levying Bodies	6,766	6,766	6,766	-	-
	Other					
(250)	Central Service Recharges	(1,618)	(1,618)	(1,868)	(250)	-
869	Contribution to / (from) Balances	(2,876)	(3,924)	(3,055)	869	-
619	Sub-Total - Other	(4,494)	(5,542)	(4,923)	619	-

(1,221)	TOTAL - CENTRAL & CORPORATE FINANCE	25,915	24,689	23,054	(1,635)	(414)
----------------	--	---------------	---------------	---------------	----------------	--------------

Subjective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement between Periods
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
(374)	Employees	7,529	7,487	7,113	(374)	-
-	Premises	49	1,044	710	(334)	(334)
(490)	Transport	-	490	-	(490)	-
(219)	Supplies and Services	3,410	1,902	1,749	(153)	66
(40)	Third Party Payments	7,771	7,758	7,679	(79)	(39)
-	Transfer Payments	-	-	-	-	-
(250)	Support Services	(1,618)	(1,618)	(1,868)	(250)	-
(166)	Capital Financing	15,518	15,418	15,221	(197)	(31)
318	Income	(6,744)	(7,792)	(7,550)	242	(76)

(1,221)	TOTAL - CENTRAL & CORPORATE FINANCE	25,915	24,689	23,054	(1,635)	(414)
----------------	--	---------------	---------------	---------------	----------------	--------------

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

APPENDIX 11

Budget Monitoring as at Month 11

Objective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Income					
106	Rents (Council Houses & Garages)	(22,074)	(22,074)	(21,971)	103	(3)
92	Capitalised Salaries	(443)	(443)	(344)	99	7
-	Interest	(4)	(4)	(4)	-	-
198	Sub-Total - Income	(22,521)	(22,521)	(22,319)	202	4
	Expenditure					
266	Building Maintenance Trading Account	300	300	614	314	48
(303)	Housing Subsidy (Deficit)	6,688	6,688	6,385	(303)	-
(214)	Estate Management	1,017	1,017	764	(253)	(39)
34	Home Ownership (Right to Buy)	(4)	(4)	31	35	1
(46)	Allocations and Welfare	347	347	300	(47)	(1)
133	Repair and Maintenance	8,059	8,059	8,145	86	(47)
174	Capital Financing	2,411	2,411	2,585	174	-
171	Finance and Support	2,125	2,125	2,293	168	(3)
-	Capital Expenditure from Revenue Account (CERA)	1,340	1,340	1,340	-	-
-	Supporting People Transitional Costs	330	330	330	-	-
215	Sub-Total - Levying Bodies	22,613	22,613	22,787	174	(41)
413	Net Expenditure before use of/to balances	92	92	468	376	(37)
418	Contribution to / (from) Balances	92	92	468	376	(37)
-	Net Expenditure after use of/to balances	-	-	-	-	-
	Balances					
(1,342)	Opening Balance	(1,078)	(1,342)	(1,342)		
505	Contribution to / (from) Balances	92	92	468	376	(37)
413	TOTAL - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT	(986)	(1,250)	(874)	376	(37)

Subjective Analysis

Month 10 Variance		2008/09 Budget Monitoring				Movement
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance	
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
(420)	Employees	6,687	6,687	6,248	(439)	(19)
86	Premises	7,595	7,595	7,673	78	(8)
12	Transport	788	788	798	10	(2)
646	Supplies and Services	3,888	3,888	4,529	641	(5)
-	Third Party Payments	-	-	-	-	-
(30)	Transfer Payments	229	229	199	(30)	-
95	Support Services	1,449	1,449	1,542	93	(2)
172	Capital Financing	3,811	3,811	3,983	172	-
(148)	Income	(24,355)	(24,355)	(24,504)	(149)	(1)
413	TOTAL - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT	92	92	468	376	(37)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 9

REPORT TO: **EXECUTIVE**
DATE : **13 MAY 2009**
REPORT BY: **HEAD OF FINANCE**
SUBJECT : **BUSINESS RATES/COUNCIL TAX LIABILITY ON**
 COMMERCIALY LET PROPERTIES

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To provide members with background information on Welsh Assembly Government proposals to close a potential loophole whereby owners of properties could reduce their local taxation liability by having properties listed for Business Rates instead of Council Tax without letting on a commercial basis.
- 1.02 To recommend that Members support the proposals as set out by the Welsh Assembly Government.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 Property considered to be domestic but let commercially can become liable to pay Business Rates instead of Council Tax if the owner states that the property is available to be let for short periods totalling 140 days or more in a year, even if it is actually let for fewer days or not at all.
- 2.02 The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) is responsible for deciding whether commercially let property should be liable to pay either Council Tax or Business Rates, however in practice, the VOA is often unable to verify statements by an owner that a property is available for 140 days or more.
- 2.03 The Business Rates liability for a property may often be less than its Council Tax liability, especially now that the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme offers discounts up to 50% whereas Council Tax policies for most local authorities across Wales, including Flintshire, have removed discounts on long term empty and second homes.
- 2.04 The VOA rating list across Wales has shown that between the 1st April 2005 and 31st December 2008 1,835 additional properties were listed as commercially let property and therefore switched from Council Tax to Business Rate liability. The VOA also confirm that 33% of these properties switched from Council Tax to Business Rates in 2007-08, the year that the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme came into operation.

Date: 06/05/2009

- 2.05 The Assembly Government is therefore proposing to bring forward new regulations that are designed to close the potential loophole whereby owners of properties that are predominately unoccupied, used as second homes, or occupied for most of the time by the owner, can effectively reduce the taxation liability on their properties by becoming liable to pay Business Rates instead of Council Tax. This can currently happen by declaring that a property is available for let for short periods totalling at least 140 days in a year, but making little or no realistic effort to do so, by, for example, not actively marketing the property, asking for unrealistic rents, or restricting the dates that the property is actually available for let.
- 2.06 There are currently only 9 properties in Flintshire that are designated as 'commercially let accommodation' and are therefore subject to liability for Business Rates instead of Council Tax.

3.00 SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSALS

- 3.01 The Assembly Government recognises the important contribution to the economy made by the short term holiday letting industry and these proposals are designed not to adversely affect the taxation liability of genuine businesses but to simply close a potential tax avoidance loophole.
- 3.02 The Assembly is therefore proposing to amend the condition to bring the definition of commercially let accommodation for Business Rates more closely into line with the definition, for local taxation purposes, of such a property used in the Income and Corporation Tax Act 1988, whereby as property must:-
- o For the financial year or 12 months **prior** to the assessment be available for commercial letting to the public for periods which amount, in the aggregate, to not less than 140 days and be let for periods which amount, in the aggregate, to at least 70 days; and
 - o For a period of at least 12 months **following** the assessment, be available for commercial letting to the public for periods which amount, in the aggregate, to not less than 140 days.
- 3.03 The Assembly is consulting on the proposals as set out above. The consultation period ends on 30th June 2009.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That Members support the proposals as set out by the Welsh Assembly Government and that this be communicated as the Council's response to the consultation.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 There are no direct financial implications to the Council.
- 5.02 Should properties currently designated as 'commercially let accommodation', and therefore liable to Business Rates, be re-designated under the proposals and become liable to pay Council Tax, there would be an increase in the Authority's Council Tax Base and a reduction in its contribution to the Business Rate Collection Pool.
- 5.03 The Council Tax Base is used to calculate the amount of Council Tax payable. The Business Rate Collection Pool is re-distributed based on an authority's 18 plus population.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 None.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 Properties that are unoccupied for much of the year can adversely affect the sustainability of local communities as they do not have occupants to use and pay for local goods and services. Additionally, unoccupied property can impact on the shortage of available domestic accommodation.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 None.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 None.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

- 10.01 As part of the consultation process the views and endorsement of the Executive are sought.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

- 11.01 The Assembly Government are managing the wider consultation exercise across Wales.

12.00 APPENDICES

- 12.01 None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Welsh Assembly Government Consultation Paper - Non Domestic Rating/Council
Tax Liability for Commercially Let Properties

Contact Officer: David Barnes
Telephone: 01352 703652
E-Mail: david_barnes@flintshire.gov.uk

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 10

REPORT TO: **EXECUTIVE**
DATE : **13 MAY 2009**
REPORT BY: **HEAD OF FINANCE**
SUBJECT : **BUSINESS RATES - EMPTY PROPERTY RELIEF**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To provide members with an update on changes to the Business Rates Empty Property Relief Scheme that were implemented on the 1st April 2009.

2.00 BACKGROUND TO EMPTY PROPERTY RELIEF

2.01 In 2007, as part of the national budget proposals, The Chancellor of the Exchequer amended the system of business rate relief on empty properties. The following changes took effect from 1st April 2008:

- Empty 'Industrial' properties would be limited to a 100% rate relief for the first six months of becoming empty, after which time the full business rates would become payable. Previously, the 100% rate relief was available indefinitely.
- Empty 'Non Industrial' properties would be limited to a 100% rate relief for the first three months of becoming empty, after which time the full business rates would become payable. Previously, the 100% rate relief was available for the first three months but thereafter, rates would be charged at 50% of the full rate.
- Both 'Industrial' and 'Non Industrial' empty properties with a 'Rateable Value' of less than £2,200 would be exempt from liability to pay business rates.

2.02 The proposals were originally seen to provide a strong incentive to bring empty property back in use, to increase the supply of premises to let, and so reduce business rents and improve the market competitiveness.

3.00 TEMPORARY CHANGES TO EMPTY PROPERTY RELIEF

3.01 As part of the 2008 pre-budget report on 'Facing Global Challenges : Supporting people through difficult times', the Chancellor announced further temporary changes from 1st April 2009 to the rules that apply to empty business property.

Date: 06/05/2009

3.02 As part of the temporary measures that were implemented in April 2009, the Government has now increased the rateable value threshold at which an empty property becomes liable for business rates from £2,200 to £15,000. Therefore for the financial year 2009-10, empty properties with a rateable value of less than £15,000 are now exempt from business rates.

3.03 This one year relief is designed to award rate relief to lower-value properties and is targeted at helping small businesses manage short-term pressures due to difficult market conditions.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That members note the temporary changes.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 The authority collects Business Rates on behalf of the Assembly. The amount collected is paid into the National Collection Pool for Wales and then re-distributed based on an authority's 18 plus population. The amounts are redistributed as part of an authority's Standard Spending Assessment (Council Tax and Revenue Support Grant being the other two elements).

5.02 By temporarily amending empty property relief it is anticipated that there will be a reduction in the National Collection Pool for Wales in 2009/10. However, this will not result in reduced funding for the Council as the Standard Spending Assessment has already been confirmed by the Assembly Government in the Local Government Settlement 2009/10.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

The Non Domestic Rating (Unoccupied Property) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2009

Contact Officer: David Barnes
Telephone: 01352 703652
E-Mail: david_barnes@flintshire.gov.uk

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 11

REPORT TO: **EXECUTIVE**
DATE : **13 MAY 2009**
REPORT BY: **HEAD OF FINANCE**
SUBJECT : **INVESTMENT IN LANDSBANKI**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To provide the Executive with an update in relation to the Council's investment in Landsbanki.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 Flintshire has a total of £3.7m invested in Landsbanki.

2.02 As reported to Council on 28th October 2008 and updated subsequently, the total sum was invested in three instalments as follows:

£m	Date Invested	Maturity Date
1.2	22.07.08	17.10.08
1.5	01.09.08	14.11.08
1.0	08.09.08	18.11.08
3.7		

2.03 All of the investments were made in accordance with the Council's approved Treasury Management Policy and were made prior to the downgrading of Landsbanki's credit rating by the leading credit rating agencies on 30th September 2008.

2.04 On 7th October 2008, Landsbanki was placed in receivership, which gave it protection from payment of debts and obligations as they fell due. As a consequence, none of the investments have been repaid on their due dates.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 Attached as Appendix 1 is a letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Local Government Association to the Leaders and Chief Executives of all Councils with exposure to Icelandic Banks.

3.02 The letter provides specific detail in relation to Landsbanki and Glitner banks on the second page.

Date: 06/05/2009

- 3.03 The letter highlights that there has been recent press coverage on expected recovery rates from the Icelandic Banks. There are four banks affected by the Icelandic banking crisis which are Heritable, KSF, Landsbanki and Glitner. The press reports referred to relate to Heritable and KSF Banks which are the subject of UK insolvency law. Landsbanki and Glitner banks are Icelandic based banks and no announcements have been made in relation to these two banks at this stage.
- 3.04 The Council continues to be advised and represented by the Local Government Association (LGA) which is working on behalf of local authority creditors, along with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) who also provide advice and guidance.
- 3.05 Whilst no details are available yet about recovery rates for investments in Landsbanki, the LGA remains confident in its legal advice that local authorities are preferential creditors under Icelandic Law. However it is likely to be early next year before issues are resolved.
- 3.06 The LGA, with officials from authorities across the UK, have been working with the relevant audit bodies and CIPFA to seek to confirm an agreed position on how each of the banks should be treated in authorities 2008/09 accounts. It had been hoped that this work would be completed by the end of April. It is now expected that notification will be received in early May. This will reported in future updates and in reports relating to the 2008/09 accounts.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 Members are asked to note the report.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 The return of the investment of £3.7m is outstanding.
- 5.02 In accordance with the amended Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations 2009 no provision was made in the 2009/10 budget for potential losses on the investment.
- 5.03 Budget monitoring in 2008/09 and the budget for 2009/10 assume that no interest will be received on the investment from 7th October 2008.
- 5.04 The accounts for 2008/09 will be closed taking account of the guidance from the Wales Audit Office and CIPFA as referred to in 3.06 above.
- 5.05 Affected local authorities have agreed to pay a share of the legal costs of the LGA. Flintshire's contribution to date is £855.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None directly as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None directly as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None directly as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None directly as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None directly as a result of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None directly as a result of this report.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 – Letter from Local Government Association

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

Contact Officer: Kerry Feather
Telephone: 01352 702200
E-Mail: kerry_feather@flintshire.gov.uk

promoting better local government

*From the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Association
Councillor Margaret Eaton
John Ransford*

To Group Leaders and Chief Executives
All councils with exposure to Icelandic banks

23 April 2009

Dear Colleague

Recent reports on prospects for recovery

Many of you will have seen recent press reports commenting on expected recovery rates from the Icelandic banks. These reports relate to statements to creditors required to be published by administrators under UK insolvency law. The statement in relation to Heritable was published on Friday 17 April, and in relation to KSF on 21 April. There will not be further information at this stage about the two Icelandic-based banks, Glitnir and Landsbanki, because they are not subject to UK insolvency law. Although Heritable is linked to Landsbanki because it was a subsidiary of Landsbanki, there is no link between the information published about Heritable and the position in relation to Landsbanki.

Individual bank update

The statement by the administrators of **Heritable** (a copy of is attached with this briefing) estimates a base case return of 70-80p in the pound (page 16). The return to creditors is expected to improve if the run-off of Heritable's business takes place over a longer period, with a projected 70p return to the end of 2010 and 80p to the end of 2012. It is hoped that an initial 15p payment to creditors will be made in July / August 2009.

The statement by the administrators of **KSF** (also attached with this briefing) refers to a minimum recovery of 50p in the pound (page 17). As we have stated in previous briefings, KSF was a significantly more complex bank than Heritable. Whereas Heritable and its subsidiaries operated just four main books of business, KSF provided a range of services including corporate and investment banking services, wealth and asset management services and internet deposit accounts, as well as having a large number of subsidiary companies operating across a number of different areas. The administrators have advised that there are several factors that could significantly impact the estimated dividend percentages (such as uncertainty

E-mail margaret.eaton@lga.gov.uk

Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ DX 119450 Clerkenwell 3
Chief Executive: *John Ransford*
Tel 020 7664 3000 Fax 020 7664 3030 Information Helpline 020 7664 3131 <http://www.lga.gov.uk>

Date: 06/05/2009

2

about expected recovery rates from KSF's commercial property, private banking and corporate loan books and about the prospects of selling KSF's asset finance subsidiaries given current market conditions, as well as uncertainty regarding the recoverability of funds from the parent company Kaupthing). These factors are not possible to model in the same way as the largely property based assets held by Heritable, which is why they have produced an estimated minimum rather than a range of likely recovery rates.

Local authorities invested significantly less funds in KSF (£86m) compared to Heritable (£319m).

The LGA's view is that the news from the administrators is a welcome boost to councils that invested in the banks. Earlier reports that council's money was lost have been shown to be wide of the mark, and we are starting to see the results of the work of councils and the LGA with administrators and others over the last six months. Through bringing together local authority creditors, we were able to secure representation on the statutory creditors committees', enabling authorities to influence the administrator's strategies. This means that the total amount councils will recover will be higher than it might otherwise have been, although we may have to wait rather longer for the money.

In relation to the two banks in Iceland, **Glitnir** and **Landsbanki**, our legal and financial advisers are continuing to work on the two key issues of whether depositors such as local authorities have preferential creditor status under Icelandic law and the valuation of the bond to be issued by the new Icelandic banks to creditors of the old banks. We have worked closely with other depositors, such as Dutch local authorities. This has helped ensure that the interests of local authorities are reflected in new legislation and the terms of compensation to be provided from the new banks to the old.

Legislation has recently been passed in Iceland amending the insolvency procedures under which the banks are being administered. The amendments will enable the old banks to commence the claims process from creditors, which will bring us closer to resolution of the creditor preference issue. We remain confident in our legal advice, which is that local authorities are preferential creditors under Icelandic law, and believe that there is support for this view within Iceland. However, it is likely to be a minimum of 6 months before the claims filing procedure will be finalised and early next year before the depositor issue is resolved.

Dialogue with government

We have had valuable dialogue with Treasury regarding work in relation to Landsbanki, for whom government is a major creditor. We are continuing to lobby CLG for flexibility that will allow councils to manage Icelandic deposits in the most pragmatic way possible.

3

Audit Commission report

Many of you will have seen the Audit Commission's recent report '*Risk and return: English local authorities and the Icelandic banks.*' The LGA wrote to the Commission in the strongest possible terms, criticising its handling of the publication of the report and the naming of individual councils as well of the differences in the judgements reached on councils compared to the Commission's internal audit report of its own Icelandic investments. We will be pursuing this further with the Commission.

Treatment of Icelandic banks in accounts

The LGA with officials from English, Scottish and Welsh authorities have been working with the relevant national audit bodies and CIPFA to seek to confirm an agreed position on how each of the banks should be treated in authorities' 2008-9 accounts. We hope to complete this work by the end of April, and will write to authorities about this as soon as possible.

Costs of the legal and other support

We have issued invoices in relation to the legal support provided from November to February. It is anticipated that future costs will relate mainly to Landsbanki and Glitnir, with minimal other costs expected.

If you have any queries about any of the information in this update, please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Eaton
Chairman

John Ransford
Chief Executive

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 12

REPORT TO: **EXECUTIVE**
DATE : **13 MAY 2009**
REPORT BY: **HEAD OF FINANCE**
SUBJECT : **FINANCE FUNCTION REVIEW - MANAGEMENT OF**
 INTERNAL AUDIT

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To advise the Executive of the outcome of the meeting of the Audit Committee on 15th April 2009 which discussed the future management of Internal Audit.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 A report to Executive on 10th March 2009 provided an overview of the Finance Function Review and progress to date. The review of the Council's Finance Function was included in the list of services to be reviewed as part of Phase II of Organisational Change and Re-design agreed by the Executive on 29th October 2008.

2.02 One of the areas included within the review is consideration of the Management of Internal Audit. Since 2002, management of Internal Audit has been provided externally. The current contract with RSM Bentley Jennison ended on 31st March 2009 with provision in the contract to extend for up to two further years.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The management of Internal Audit had been discussed by Audit Committee on 19th January 2009. In the report to Audit Committee, it was proposed that the management of Internal Audit be brought back in house and that the Internal Audit Manager be appointed as a permanent employee on the establishment.

3.02 At Audit Committee on 15th April 2009 Members considered that the draft minutes of the 19th January 2009 meeting did not reflect the decision at that meeting. It was resolved that the minute of the 19th January 2009 meeting be:-

- a. That the draft scope for the Finance Function Review be supported.
- b. That it be recommended that the proposal to bring the management of Internal Audit back in-house be not proceeded with at present but be reviewed in 12 months.

Date: 06/05/2009

- 3.03 It was requested that this amendment be reported to the Executive to correct the information in the report to the Executive on 10th March 2009 which stated that at Audit Committee, Members agreed with the principle of bringing the management of Internal Audit back in-house but were concerned at the timing of this and recommended that this not proceed at the present time but be reviewed within 12 months. Corporate Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee had also been advised of this at their meeting on 21st January 2009 and so this report will be taken to the Corporate Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 8th June 2009 to advise them of the correct minute.
- 3.04 The Audit Committee are aware that the ultimate decision regarding the management of Internal Audit rests with the Executive.
- 3.05 In a report to Audit Committee, also on 15th April 2009, it was proposed that a workshop be held for Members of the Audit Committee on the morning of 16th June 2009 to provide a forum to explore the risks envisaged by Members from a transfer in-house. This was agreed by the Audit Committee.
- 3.06 In view of the roles of Audit Committee and the Executive in this specific matter and the role of Corporate Management Overview & Scrutiny in the overall finance review, it is proposed that the workshop be extended to include Members of the Audit Committee and substitutes, past Chairs of Audit, the Executive Members for Finance & Asset Management and Corporate Governance and Strategy and the Chair/Vice of Corporate Management Overview & Scrutiny. It will be attended by the Chief Executive, Head of Finance, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, External Audit and Bentley Jennison.
- 3.07 The detailed programme for the workshop is being developed and Members will be invited to input to the preparatory work to ensure that the session is able to cover all issues which need to be considered.
- 3.08 At this stage, the contract with Bentley Jennison has been extended for six months to 30th September 2009 with the possibility of a further six months. Subsequent to the Audit Committee, I have agreed with Bentley Jennison that this position will be reviewed in the light of the workshop session and have held an update session with the staff in the Audit Section.
- 3.09 It is important that whilst we work through the options for the future that as much stability and certainty as possible is maintained for all stakeholders (which includes the Audit Service to the Council, Audit Committee, staff members, the Audit Manager and Bentley Jennison) so that audit work and development of the service is not jeopardised.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 Members are asked to:-

- a. Note the report.
- b. Note the resolution of the Audit Committee on 15th April 2009 (3.02).
- c. Support the outline arrangements for the workshop on 16th June 2009 (3.06).

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None directly as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None directly as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None directly as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None directly as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None directly as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None directly as a result of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None directly as a result of this report.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

Contact Officer: Kerry Feather
Telephone: 01352 702200
E-Mail: kerry_feather@flintshire.gov.uk

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 13

REPORT TO: EXECUTIVE
DATE : 13 MAY 2009
REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
SUBJECT : ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE AND RE-DESIGN PHASE II

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To provide an interim report on the progress of the set of reviews commissioned as Phase II of Organisational Change and Re-Design.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The Executive has commissioned a set of reviews, of selected service and functional areas, as Phase II of Organisational Change and Re-Design following the remodelling of the directorate and chief officer structure under Phase I. 36 service reviews were first listed. This list has been expanded to 39 reviews to include Occupational Health and Health and Safety, a review of Corporate Services Business Development and Administration and a review of the North East Wales Schools Library Service.

2.02 The dual purpose of Phase II is to complete organisational change and re-design which arose in Phase I, and to remodel the organisation in the interests of performance and efficiency. It is essential as part of the business case first presented to Council in late 2007 to support organisational change that council structures, business processes and practices and working practices are modernised to assure and improve performance in a context of reducing public sector resources.

2.03 The original list of 36 reviews is appended (Appendix A). Each review was selected against five criteria:--

- the objective of an improvement in performance;
- the objective of securing efficiency and productivity;
- as a (natural) consequence of phase 1 of organisational re-design;
- due to political and/or public expectation; and
- due to national or regional policy or opportunity.

2.04 Occupational Health and Health and Safety has been added by mutual agreement with the Manager of the function on the first, third and fifth criterion. The loss of the contract to provide occupational health services to the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service to a competitor following a competitive tendering exercise has given urgency to this review. A review of

Date: 06/05/2009

the Corporate Services, Business Development and Administration function has been added by mutual agreement with the Corporate Heads of Service on the first, second and third criterion. A review of the North East Wales Schools Library Service has been added by mutual agreement with the Director of Lifelong Learning on the first and second criterion.

- 2.05 The reviews range in scale and complexity. Some are urgent and some are not urgent. The Corporate Management Team has committed to project manage the reviews within existing and internal resources wherever possible, noting that larger and more complex reviews can be demanding in skill and capacity in the areas of project management, service review and re-design, consultation and human resources advice. It has been noted that several of the larger reviews will require time-limited external and expert support, notably the Finance Function and StreetScene reviews.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 Each review follows the following broad stages:-

Stage 1: Selection

Stage 2: Scoping and initial consultation

Stage 3: Detailed project planning and resourcing

Stage 4: Project implementation including staged consultation

Stage 5: Review reporting and decision-making

- 3.02 A resume of the stage each review has reached is set out below. Each review, as it develops, has a project plan with supporting paperwork. Those reviews which are higher-profile and have a greater impact on public services and resources are reported to Members, of Executive and Overview and Scrutiny, at key stages particularly stages 2, 4 and 5.

3.03 Stage 1: Selection (and not yet scoped/actioned)

- 6. Youth Justice
- 7. Welfare Rights Advice and Advocacy Service (dependant on the national work of the Legal Services Commission)
- 11. Car parking facilities & services
- 20. Archives Service (dependant on the outcomes of a regional collaboration feasibility study)
- 30. Internal Catering Services (linked to review 18. below)
- 39. Review of North East Wales Schools Library Service

3.04 Stage 2: Scoping and initial consultation

9. Regeneration and Economic Development (as part of the developing Regeneration Strategy and the new Environment Directorate Service Plan for 2009/10 onwards)
10. Business Centres/Support (as part of the developing Regeneration Strategy and the new Environment Directorate Service Plan for 2009/10 onwards)
12. Communities First/Communities Next (as part of the developing Regeneration Strategy and the new Environment Directorate Service Plan for 2009/10 onwards, and following the publication of new Welsh Assembly Guidance. Communities First is the subject of local consultation currently)
13. Countryside Services (as part of the new Environment Directorate Service Plan for 2009/10 onwards)
14. Public Protection (as part of the new Environment Directorate Service Plan for 2009/10 onwards)
16. Design Consultancy (as part of the new Environment Directorate Service Plan for 2009/10 onwards)
19. Facilities Management (noting that decisions on additional capacity for County Hall Campus Management and CCTV have been made)
21. Youth Service (as part of the Youth Service Strategy Review)
28. Corporate Training
33. Theatre Clywd (through the Theatre Board of Governors/Trustees)
34. Chief Executive and Directorate Management Support and Personal Administration Services
36. Contracting Functions (in response to the commissioned and received report from PWC)
37. Occupational Health and Health and Safety
38. Review of Corporate Services Business Development and Administration

3.05 Stage 3: Detailed project planning and resourcing

3. Housing Grants, Renewal and Disability Adaptation Grants (as part of on-going housing improvement plan)

4. Wardens Services (as part of on-going housing improvement plan)
8. StreetScene
15. Planning (as part of the on-going planning improvement plan and as part of the new Environment Directorate Service Plan for 2009/10 onwards)
18. Leisure Services Management (as part of the adopted Leisure Strategy)
26. Democratic Services
27. Human Resources Operations
29. Policy, Performance and Partnerships Unit (PPPU)
32. Community Safety (as part of the work of the Community Safety Partnership with the objectives of having an integrated multi-agency team in one location)

3.06 Stage 4: Project implementation including staged consultation

1. Housing Management (as part of on-going housing improvement plan)
2. Housing Maintenance (as part of on-going housing improvement plan)
17. Waste Strategy and Management (as part of the on-going/revised Waste Strategy, to accommodate the new challenges of recycling and food waste collection and operations, the demands of the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Consortium and the transfer of AD Waste in-house, and as part of the new Environment Directorate Service Plan for 2009/10 onwards)
25. Finance Function

3.07 Stage 5: Review reporting and decision-making

5. Children's Services (as part of the Phase I of structural change and the transfer of Children's Services from Life Long Learning to Community Services and not a formal review)
23. Emergency Planning (complete and actioned with cashable efficiency savings and an improved service level agreement with Denbighshire County Council as a partner)

24. Payroll Phase I (complete and actioned with cashable efficiency savings)

31. Design and Print (complete and actioned with cashable efficiency savings)

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That the Executive notes the progress of Phase II of Organisational Change and Re-Design.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 The project management costs of the individual reviews are being met within existing resources with several exceptions. Specialist Support was acquired for the Finance Function review at a cost of £25,000. Specialist support will be acquired for the StreetScene review, in the form of a 12 month fixed term project manager, at an estimated cost of £50,000. Many of the reviews will generate financial efficiencies, both 'cashable' and 'non-cashable'. Cashable efficiencies have been generated in the three service reviews completed thus far.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None directly.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None directly.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None directly.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 Each review requires initial consultation with employee teams and trade unions, according to the standard project approach, and formal and intensive consultation with individual employees affected and 'at risk' due to change proposals which emerge within each review.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Each review requires initial consultation with elected Members, employee teams and trade unions, according to the standard project approach, and formal and intensive consultation with individual employees affected and 'at risk' due to change proposals which emerge within each review.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Consultation is being undertaken with elected Members e.g. Overview and Scrutiny Committees at the review scoping stage, employee teams and trade unions, according to the standard project approach and formal and intensive consultation with individual employees affected and 'at risk' due to change proposals which have emerged.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix A - Original List of Organisational Change and Re-Design Phase II Reviews.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

The background papers are held by the relevant lead officer for each review. Please contact Sharron Jones, Chief Executive's ext 2107 for information.

Contact Officer: Colin Everett
Telephone: 01352 702101
E-Mail: colin_everett@flintshire.gov.uk

**Organisational Review Phase II
Organisational Re-Design: Selected Services**

(v4 24th Nov 08)

No.	Title	New/ On-going	Priority (H/M/L)	Complexity (H/M/L)	Capacity	Timetable	Lead
1	Housing Management	On-going	H	H	Specialist support (e.g HR) will be required	Draft scope for 12/08 Completion 06/09	SL
2	Housing Maintenance	On-going	H	H	Specialist support (e.g HR) will be required	Draft scope for 12/08 Completion 06/09	SL
3	Housing Grants, Renewal & Disability Adaptation Grants	On-going	H	M	In-house resource available	Draft scope for 12/08	SL
4	Wardens' Services	On-going	H	M	In-house resource available	Dependent on Sheltered Housing Project Plan	SL
5	Children's Services (integration with/from Lifelong Learning)	On-going	H	M	In-house resource available	On-going	SL
6	Youth Justice	On-going	M	M	In-house resource available	As part of Budget process for 2009-10	SL/ CE
7	Welfare Rights Advice & Advocacy Services	New	M	M	Dependent on work programme of Community Legal Services	Dependent on work programme of Community Legal Services	SL/ CE
8	Street Scene (Integrated services)(including Enforcement)	New	H	H	Project Manager Required	Draft scope for 12/08 Completion 12/09	CL
9	Regeneration & Economic Development	New	H	M	No-one readily identifiable	Draft scope for 03/08 Completion 10/09	CL
10	Business Centres/Support	New	H	M	In-house resource available with support	Draft scope for 03/09 Completion 10/09	CL
11	Car parking facilities & services	New	H	M	No-one readily identifiable	Draft scope for 02/09 Completion 07/09	CL
12	Communities First/Communities Next	New	H	H	In-house resource available with support	Draft scope for 12/08 Completion 06/09	CL
13	Countryside Services	New	M	M	In-house resource available	Draft scope for 12/08 Completion 04/09	CL
14	Public Protection	New	H	M	In-house resource available	Draft scope for 02/09 Completion 07/09	CL

15	Planning Services	On-going	H	H	In-house resource available	Continued review and implementation. Completion 07/09	CL
16	Design Consultancy	New	M	M	External consultancy support required	Draft scope 04/09 Completion 10/09	NC
17	Waste Strategy & Management	On-going	H	H	In-house resource available	Continued review and development. Completion 07/09	CL
18	Leisure Services Management	On-going	H	M	Technical support (HR, Finance, Premises, legal, ICT)	Overall service strategy in advanced draft. Due to be considered by Executive 12/08. Need to engage unions over staffing issues.	IB
19	Facilities Management (a) and (b)	New	M	M	Some limited technical input (HR, Finance and ICT)	Draft paper 12/08	IB
20	Archives Service	On-going (joint work with neighbouring authorities)	L (although opportunity to link corporate data management)	L	None required	Progress report 12/08	IB
21	Youth Service	On-going	H	M	Technical support (HR, Finance, Premises)	Overall service strategy in first draft. Need to engage unions over staffing issues.	IB
22	Support Services (to Directorates) Phase I - Identification of posts & Second Tier Officer Review Phase II - Details of centralisation	On-going	H	M	No additional capacity required. HR/IT and Finance support will be required.	Completion by 03/09	SMT/ PW
23	Emergency Planning	On-going	H (SLA with DCC)	L	None required	Completed for report	CE
24	Payroll (Phase I and II)	On-going	H	L	Project resource available	Draft scope for Phase II 02/09. Completion 08/09 (as part of HR Operations - Review No 27)	PW
25	Finance Function (Phase I and II)	New	H	H	Project Manager capacity required	Draft scope 11/08 Phase I (Senior Management Structure) Complete 03/09 Phase II (Finance operations) Complete 06/09	KF

26	Democratic Services	New	H	M	None required	Draft scope 01/09 Completion 06/09	BD
27	Human Resources Operations	New	M	L	Project resource available	Draft scope 02/09 Completion 08/09	PW
28	Corporate Training	New	M	M	Specialist support required	Draft scope 02/09 Completion 08/09	PW
29	Policy, Performance & Partnerships Unit (PPPU)	On-going	H	M	In-house resource available with support	Some initial work undertaken on role and function. Draft scope 12/08. Completion 06/09	CG/ CE
30	Internal (Workforce & Elected Member) Catering Service (19 (b))	combined with 19(a) above					IB
31	Design & Print	On-going	H	M	External assistance with review but implementation project managed internally	Competition 03/09	CG
32	Community Safety	On-going	M	M	In-house resource available	Draft scope 11/08 Completion 03/09	CE
33	Theatre Clwyd	New	M	H	Specialist external support required	Draft scope 03/09 Completion TBC	CE
34	Chief Executive & Directorate Management Support Services (including PA Support)	On-going	H	L	Internal	Draft scope 12/08	CE
35	Customer Contact & Support Services	New	M	H	Dependent on scope and timing, could be managed internally	Work commenced as part of Customer Reception project. Mobile office review underway, due to report in 03/09. All reviews will need to consider Customer Service as an integral part of review. Draft Scope 03/09	CG
36	Contracting Functions	New	H	H	No-one readily available. Link to Street Scene	Draft scope with Street Scene? Completion 12/09	SMT

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 14

REPORT TO: **EXECUTIVE**
DATE : **13 MAY 2009**
REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**
SUBJECT : **WELFARE RIGHTS UNIT - PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To provide the Executive with an update on the performance of the Welfare Rights Unit during the period April 2008 to March 2009, and to advise on the positive benefits that are derived from successful welfare rights interventions.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The Welfare Rights Unit comprises of six welfare rights caseworkers {five full-time equivalent posts}, a money advice caseworker and a caseworker support post {part-time}. The council's Community Services Manager manages the Welfare Rights Unit.

2.02 The aim of the Welfare Rights Unit is to assist members of Flintshire's communities to maximise their entitlement to Social Security benefits and Tax Credits and in doing so lessen their likelihood of experiencing poverty and increase their ability to remain living independently within their own home.

2.03 The services provided by the Welfare Rights Unit are as follows:

Provision of a casework service: applying for Social Security benefits and Tax Credits can be a complicated and stressful process. Often a potential claimant requires advice and support from a person who has specialist knowledge of Social Security and Tax Credit legislation and who is skilled in representation before Appeal Tribunals. The Welfare Rights Unit casework service provides advice and support to residents throughout the whole application process, including representing them before Social Security and Tax Credit Appeal Tribunals. The outcomes from the casework service during the period April 2008 to March 2009 are covered in points 3.01 - 3.03.

Consultancy and support: many internal Council services and provided by partners and external services actively support Flintshire residents to claim Social Security benefits and Tax Credits. The Welfare Rights Unit provides advice and support to staff within these services to enable them to manage their welfare rights casework more effectively. This includes providing advice on the merits of their client's application, drafting letters, submissions, and providing training.

Date: 06/05/2009

Welfare Rights training: to the untrained eye, the Social Security and Tax Credit systems look to be a confusing maze and as a result, each year an estimated £5 billion pounds remains unclaimed by people within the United Kingdom who have a legal entitlement to this money. However, the Social Security and Tax Credit systems do have a structure and being able to understand this structure is essential knowledge for anyone involved in guiding a potential claimant through the Social Security and Tax Credit maze. The Welfare Rights Unit offers various training courses that aim to develop the welfare rights skills and knowledge of staff from internal and external services. During the period April 2008 - March 2009 the Welfare Rights Unit designed and delivered nine training sessions that were attended by over 150 participants.

Development of social welfare advice services: the effective planning, coordination and targeting of social welfare advice services within Flintshire has positive benefits for many within Flintshire's communities, particularly those who are most vulnerable and least able to speak up for themselves. The Welfare Rights Unit has led the development of two advice strategies within Flintshire {in 2001 and 2005} and both strategies have resulted in more residents being able to enforce their legal rights. The Unit is currently working with the Older People's Planning Network on plans to develop the third advice strategy for Flintshire.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 During the period, April 2008 to March 2009, the Welfare Rights Unit casework service provided specialist advice and support to over 800 Flintshire residents and as of the 31 March 2009, 559 resident's cases had been concluded.
- 3.02 From the 559 closed cases, positive outcomes were obtained for 384 residents who, as a direct result of the support they received from the Welfare Rights Unit specialist casework service, made 481 successful applications for Social Security benefits and Tax Credits.
- 3.03 The additional income generated by these successful Social Security benefits and Tax Credits awards exceeds £1.3 million for the period 2008/09. This comprises of £1,157,826 in annual on-going Social Security benefits and Tax Credits payments, and £192,718 in one-off lump sum payments.
- 3.04 The positive outcomes that are derived from successful welfare rights intervention are briefly explained in points 3.05 to 3.10.
- 3.05 Numerous studies have concluded that the outcome of successful welfare rights intervention on the recipient and their household is significant and has a sustained positive impact. These studies demonstrate that the extra financial resources obtained by the recipient from the Social Security and Tax Credit systems is spent on fuel, food, education, recreation and

transport, all factors that reduce the likelihood of the recipient's household falling into poverty or social exclusion. Further research carried out into the health benefits of welfare rights advice, advocates that an improvement in the recipient's physical and mental health follows successful welfare rights interventions.

- 3.06 The impact of increased Social Security benefit and Tax Credit take-up amongst lower income households may also bring a positive economic effect for the wider community as the higher incomes, enjoyed by previously non-claiming recipients, is spent locally on the purchase of goods and services.
- 3.07 The New Economics Foundation (NEF) established, from the results of two surveys undertaken by Newham Council Social Regeneration Unit and Lancashire County Welfare Rights Unit, that it is reasonable to use a multiplier figure of 1.7 when calculating the cash benefit to the local economy from any additional Social Security benefit and Tax Credit income generated by successful welfare rights interventions. Applying the NEF local multiplier to the additional income generated by the Welfare Rights Unit during the previous 12 months, the direct gains to the Flintshire local economy will be in the region of £2.2 million.
- 3.08 The Welfare Rights Unit also plays an important role in the prevention of homelessness through its partnership work with the council's Housing Options Team and Housing Estates Management Service.
- 3.09 For example, the Unit is half-way through a nine-month pilot project providing pro-active welfare rights advice and support to council tenants who are experiencing difficulty in maintain their rent payments. The ethos of the project is the earlier the intervention the better as this will reduce the likelihood of a tenant's rent {and Council Tax arrears} building up to significantly high levels. At the end of March 2009, specialist advice and support had been provided to 43 tenants. Positive outcomes have so far been obtained for 21 tenants, who have made 28 successful claims for Social Security benefits and Tax Credits. These awards have generated additional income of £63,549. {This figure comprises of, £49,393 in on-going Social Security benefit and Tax Credit payments and £14,156 one-off lump sum payments}.
- 3.10 This additional income will obviously assist these tenants to overcome the financial difficulties that they were experiencing in maintaining their rent payments. A more detailed report on the outcomes from this project will be presented to members later this year.
- 3.11 The Welfare Rights Unit is viewed as an effective and respected service that is provided by the council to assist those within Flintshire who are least able to help themselves. This assertion can be verified by the feedback that is received from residents who have accessed the specialist casework service.

This feedback is always very positive even from residents whose application for a Social Security benefit or Tax Credit was unsuccessful.

- 3.12 A user feedback questionnaire is sent to residents around two-months after the conclusion of their case. The delay in sending out the feedback questionnaire is linked to questions on the questionnaire that attempt to quantify how any additional income that a resident may have obtained is being used, e.g., to enjoy a better diet or to keep their home warmer, etc.
- 3.13 During the period April 2008 to March 2009, 236 questionnaires were sent out and by the end of March 2009, 116 had been returned. {This represents a 49% return rate}. The analysis of the returned feedback questionnaires established that 105 respondents described the overall service that they had received from the Welfare Rights Unit as being excellent with 9 respondents describing the overall service as good. A more detailed report on the analysis of the service user's feedback will be produced and distributed to all members in June 2009.
- 3.14 Members will appreciate from the positive outcomes that are derived from successful welfare rights intervention, that the Welfare Rights Unit's specialist casework service plays an important role in the aim of eradicating child and pensioner poverty. The demand for access to a specialist caseworker is steadily increasing and current resources are becoming stretched. In an attempt to increase its specialist caseworker resources the Welfare Rights Unit has submitted an application to the Macmillan Trust to fund a specialist Welfare Rights Advisor for a three year period who will provide advice and support to Flintshire residents living with cancer and to their families and carers. In addition, the Unit is engaged in discussions with Warm Wales regarding the funding for a Welfare Rights Advisor who will provide advice and support to Flintshire residents who are experiencing fuel poverty.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That Members note the performance of the Welfare Rights Unit during the last twelve months and the positive outcomes that are derived from successful welfare rights interventions.
- 4.02 That Members support the efforts being made by the Welfare Rights Unit to increase the specialist welfare rights casework resources to enable this service to be delivered to more Flintshire residents, particularly important in the current economic climate.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 None arising from this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 The Welfare Rights Unit assists Flintshire residents to claim Social Security benefits and Tax Credits, thus increasing their available income and lessening their likelihood of experiencing poverty.

6.02 Since 1996, the Welfare Rights Unit has assisted Flintshire residents to claim more than £10 million in additional income from Social Security benefits and Tax Credit awards.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None arising from this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 The majority of residents who access the Welfare Rights Unit are from low-income households and are vulnerable due to a physical or mental health disability or age. However, the services provided by the Welfare Rights Unit are open to all Flintshire residents irrespective of their financial status or tenure, etc.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None arising from this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None arising from this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None arising from this report.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

Contact Officer: Paul Neave
Telephone: 01352 703802
E-Mail: paul_neave@flintshire.gov.uk

FOR INFORMATION

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: EXECUTIVE
DATE: 13 MAY, 2009
REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
SUBJECT: EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To inform Members of action taken under delegated powers.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 At the Executive Meeting held on 31st October, 2000 it was agreed that one of the standard agenda items at each Executive should be a report on the "Exercise of Delegated Powers".

3.00 RECOMMENDATION

3.01 Members note the details of actions taken under the "Exercise of Delegated Powers".

4.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.01 As detailed in each report.

5.00 ANTI-POVERTY IMPACT

5.01 As detailed in each report.

6.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

6.01 As detailed in each report.

7.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

7.01 As detailed in each report.

8.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.01 As detailed in each report

9.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

9.01 Not applicable

10.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

10.01 Not applicable

11.00 APPENDICES

11.01 Summary of Decisions taken under Delegated Powers.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background documents: See individual report.
Contact Officer: See individual report.

APPENDIX 1

EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS – DECISIONS TAKEN

Directorate

Subject

Community Services

Accountancy support for 3 months for the former Community and Housing accounts team

Environment

Sale of the former public conveniences, Holywell Bus Station, Coleshill Street, Holywell

Copies of the Delegated Powers reports are on deposit in the Members' Library

EXECUTIVE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME **MONTHS 05/09 to 10/09**

The following reports are included in the Forward Work Programme for submission to this meeting of the Executive. However, the reports are not included on the agenda for the reasons stated:-

Human Resources & Organisational Development Update

- Workforce Information Report
(The full year, 2008/09, will be deferred until Executive on 2 June 2009)

ICT/Customer Services Update

- Customer Service Strategy Update Report
(The outcome of the Mobile Office review needs to be included in this report. The review should be complete by mid May which will enable the report to be submitted to the next cycle)

Community Services Update

- Housing Renewal Policy
(This report is deferred until 2 June)
- Community Service Equipment Integration
(Further work is being undertaken with partners and it is anticipated the report may be available for the meeting on 2 June)
- Housing Repair Service Update
(Further work is being undertaken and it is hoped the report will be available for the meeting on 2 June)

Environment Update

- Update on Depot Relocation
(The funding for the relocation needs to be agreed through the Capital Programme before this is reported to Executive)
- Taith Transport Grants
(There is no requirement at the present time to submit this report to the Executive. The Taith Transport Grant is being discussed with the Executive Member who will decide whether the outcome of the Grant needs to be reported to Members at a later date)
- Appointment of Deputy Manager for the All Wales Road Casualty Reduction Partnership
(The Manager for the Partnership has only just taken up his post and the details of the job description for the Deputy Manager are still being looked at. An Establishment Control Forum will be completed prior to it being considered by Executive)
- Cardboard Collection Pilot – Update and Way Forward
(This report was submitted to Executive on 21 April)

Lifelong Learning Update

- Deeside Leisure Centre
(This is deferred and will be reported in June or July)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
May 2009 to October 2009

MEETING DATE	DIRECTORATE/DIVISION	TOPIC	REPORT TYPE	PORTFOLIO
13 May 2009	Chief Executive	❖ Community Strategy	Strategic	Corporate Governance & Strategy
		❖ Organisational Redesign Phase II Update	Strategic	Corporate Governance & Strategy
	Finance	❖ Capital Programme 2009/10 to 2012/13	Operational	Finance & Asset Management
		❖ GF/HRA Revenue Budget Monitoring 08/09 (Month 11)	Operational	Finance & Asset Management
	ICT/Customer Services	❖ Customer Service Strategy Update	Strategic	Corporate Governance & Strategy
	HR & Organisational Development	❖ Workforce Information Report – Full Year 2008-09	Operational	Corporate Governance & Strategy
	Community Services	❖ Homelessness/Affordable Housing	Strategic	Estate Management
		❖ Housing Renewal Policy	Strategic	Housing Strategy
		❖ Community Equipment Service Integration	Operational	Social Services
		❖ Housing Repair Service Update	Operational	Estate Management
		❖ Welfare Benefits	Operational	Housing Strategy
	Environment	❖ Taith Transport Grants – Update	Strategic	Environment
		❖ Implications for FCC of the Public Inquiry Report Chaired by Professor Hugh Pennington into the	Strategic	Leisure & Public Protection

		<p>September 2005 Outbreak of E.Coli 0157 in South Wales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Update on Depot Relocation ❖ Cardboard Collection Pilot – Update and Way Forward ❖ Appointment of Deputy Manager for Wales Road Casualty Reduction (WAG Funded) 	<p>Operational</p> <p>Operational</p> <p>Operational</p>	<p>Finance & Asset Management</p> <p>Waste Strategy & Management</p> <p>Environment</p>
	Lifelong Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Deeside Leisure Centre 	<p>Strategic</p>	<p>Leisure & Public Protection</p>
2 June 2009	Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges (SARC) Quarterly Review (Jan – March) ❖ Target Setting – Improvement Targets ❖ Directorate Planning Overview – Summary of 3 Directorate Plans as part of Council’s Business Planning Arrangements 	<p>Strategic</p> <p>Operational</p> <p>Operational</p>	<p>Corporate Governance & Strategy</p> <p>Corporate Governance & Strategy</p> <p>Corporate Governance & Strategy</p>
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ MTFS and Budget Planning 2010/11 ❖ Procurement Strategy Update ❖ Efficiency Programme Update 	<p>Strategic</p> <p>Strategic</p> <p>Operational</p>	<p>Finance & Asset Management</p> <p>Finance & Asset Management</p> <p>Finance & Asset Management</p>
	Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Affordable Housing Delivery Statement 	<p>Strategic</p>	<p>Housing Strategy</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Learning Disability Service Integration ❖ National Services Framework Children's Services 	Operational Operational	Social Services Social Services
	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ New National Waste Targets ❖ Advertising on Roundabouts ❖ Highways Maintenance Policies ❖ Food Service Plan 2009/10 	Strategic Operational Operational Operational	Waste Strategy & Management Environment Environment Leisure & Public Protection
	Lifelong Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Education Asset Management Plan ❖ Leisure Strategy 	Strategic Strategic	Education & Youth Leisure & Public Protection
23 June 2009	Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Governance Framework ❖ Strategic Partnership Performance – Summary ❖ Regulatory Plan Mid-Year Review ❖ 2008/09 Performance Reporting 	Strategic Operational Operational Operational	Corporate Governance & Strategy Corporate Governance & Strategy Corporate Governance & Strategy Corporate Governance & Strategy
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ GF/HRA Revenue Budget Monitoring 08/09 (Month 12) 	Operational	Finance & Asset Management
	ICT/Customer Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Revised ICT Strategy 	Strategic	Corporate Governance & Strategy
	HR & Organisational Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Revised People Strategy ❖ HRMIS Phase 2 Progress 	Strategic Operational	Corporate Governance & Strategy Corporate Governance & Strategy

	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Holywell Communities First Outcome Fund Regeneration Project ❖ Enforcement Against Dog Fouling ❖ Air Quality Review 	Operational Operational Operational	Regeneration & Tourism Leisure & Public Protection Leisure & Public Protection
	Lifelong Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 14 – 19 Strategy Submission ❖ LEA Estyn Inspection Report (Jan 09) 	Strategic Strategic	Education & Youth Education & Youth
14 July 2009	Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Equalities Schemes Annual Reports ❖ Welsh Language Schemes – Annual Reports 	Strategic Strategic	Corporate Governance & Strategy Corporate Governance & Strategy
	HR & Organisational Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ New Employee Relations Policies ❖ Workforce Information Report First Quarter 2009 – April to June 	Operational Operational	Corporate Governance & Strategy Corporate Governance & Strategy
	Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Fostering Inspection 	Operational	Social Services
	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ERDF Priority 4 Bid ❖ Flintshire Regeneration Strategy ❖ Asset Management Plan and Capital Strategy ❖ UDP Progress Report ❖ Food Waste Project – Update 	Strategic Strategic Strategic Strategic Strategic	Regeneration & Tourism Regeneration & Tourism Finance & Asset Management Housing Strategy & Planning Waste Strategy & Management

	Lifelong Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Youth Service Strategy ❖ School Modernisation: Post Consultation Report 	Strategic Strategic	Education & Youth Education & Youth
4 August 2009	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Medium Term Financial Strategy & Budget Planning for 2010/11 ❖ Procurement Strategy Update ❖ GF/HRA Revenue Final Outturn ❖ GF/HRA Interim Revenue Budget Monitoring 09/10 (Month 2) ❖ Capital Programme Final Outturn 2008/09 ❖ Efficiency Programme Update ❖ Prudential Indicators Actual 2008/09 	Strategic Strategic Operational Operational Operational Operational Operational	Finance & Asset Management Finance & Asset Management Finance & Asset Management Finance & Asset Management Finance & Asset Management Finance & Asset Management Finance & Asset Management
16 September 2009	Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Housing Options – Progress Report ❖ Update on North Wales Waste Treatment Partnership (joint report) ❖ Changing Climate, Changing Places ❖ Gypsies and Travellers – Unauthorised Encampments Protocol - Final 	Strategic Strategic Operational Operational	Housing Strategy and Strategy Waste Strategy and Management Corporate Governance & Strategy Corporate Governance & Strategy
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ GF/HRA Revenue Budget Monitoring 09/10 (Month 3) 	Operational	Finance & Asset Management

		❖ Treasury Management Outturn 2008/09	Operational	Finance & Asset Management
	HR & Organisational Development	❖ People Strategy Quarterly Progress ❖ Workforce Information Report Second Quarter – July to September	Strategic Operational	Corporate Governance & Strategy Corporate Governance & Strategy
	Community Services	❖ Housing Strategy ❖ Mental Health Substance Misuse Service Integration	Strategic Operational	Housing Strategy Social Services
	Environment	❖ Car Parking Management Study ❖ Regional Transport Plan ❖ StreetScene Update	Strategic Strategic Strategic	Environment Environment Environment
	Lifelong Learning	❖ School Modernisation: Phase 1 Outline Proposal ❖ School Modernisation: Personnel & Staffing Protocols	Strategic Strategic	Education & Youth Education & Youth
6 October 2009	Chief Executive	❖ Q1 Performance Reporting	Operational	Corporate Governance & Strategy
	Finance	❖ Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget Planning for 2010/11 ❖ Procurement Strategy Update ❖ GF/HRA Budget Monitoring 2009/10 (Month 4) ❖ Capital Programme Monitoring 2009/10 (Month 4) ❖ Making the Connections Return 2008/09 and 2009/10	Strategic Strategic Operational Operational Operational	Finance & Asset Management Finance & Asset Management Finance & Asset Management Finance & Asset Management Finance & Asset Management

		❖ Efficiency Programme Update	Operational	Finance & Asset Management
	ICT/Customer Services	❖ Customer Services Strategy Update	Strategic	Corporate Governance & Strategy
	HR & Organisational Development	❖ HRMIS Phase 2 Progress	Operational	Corporate Governance & Strategy
	Environment	❖ Update on Depot Relocation	Operational	Finance and Asset Management
	Lifelong Learning	❖ School Modernisation: Phase 1 Detail Project Proposal	Strategic	Education & Youth
27 October	Chief Executive	❖ Organisational Redesign Phase II – Update ❖ Annual Performance Report 2008/09	Strategic Strategic	Corporate Governance & Strategy Corporate Governance & Strategy
	Finance	❖ Provisional Welsh Local Government Settlement 2010/11 ❖ GF/HRA Budget Monitoring 2009/10 (Month 5)	Strategic Operational	Finance & Asset Management Finance & Asset Management
	ICT/Customer Services	❖ ICT Strategy Update	Strategic	Corporate Governance & Strategy
	Environment	❖ Food Waste – Update ❖ Town Action Plans	Strategic Operational	Waste Strategy & Management Regeneration & Tourism

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - EXEMPT INFORMATION SHEET

COMMITTEE: Executive

DATE: 13/05/2009

AGENDA ITEM NO: 17

REPORT OF: (Director of originating Department)

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

SUBJECT:

AD WASTE

The report on this item is NOT FOR PUBLICATION because it is considered to be exempt information in accordance with the following paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

	<u>Para</u>	
Information relating to a particular individual *	12	
Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual *	13	
Information relating to financial/business affairs of a particular person * See Note 1	14	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Information relating to consultations/negotiations on labour relations matter *	15	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Legal professional privilege	16	
Information revealing the authority proposes to:	17	
(a) give a statutory notice or		
(b) make a statutory order/direction *		
Information on prevention/investigation/prosecution of crime *	18	
<u>For Standards Committee meetings only:</u>	Sec.	
Information subject to obligations of confidentiality	18a	
Information relating to national security	18b	
The deliberations of a Standards Committee in reaching a finding	18c	
<u>Confidential</u> matters which the County Council is not permitted to disclose	Sec. 100A(3)	

PLEASE TICK APPROPRIATE BOX

* Means exempt only if the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Note 1: Information is not exempt under paragraph 14 if such information is required to be registered under Companies Act 1985, the Friendly Societies Acts of 1974 and 1992, the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965 to 1978, the Building Societies Act 1986 or the Charities Act 1993.

**SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS**

REPORT: AD WASTE
AUTHOR:
MEETING AND DATE OF MEETING: Executive on 13/05/2009

I have considered grounds for exemption of information contained in the report referred to above and make the following recommendation to the Proper Officer:-

Exemptions applying to the report:

Paragraphs 14 and 15.

Factors in favour of disclosure:

Transparency of decision making.

Prejudice which would result if the information were disclosed:

Disclosure of confidential information concerning the Company would be likely to undermine trust and confidence between the Company and the Council and jeopardise negotiations and the decision making process.

My view on the public interest test is as follows:

The need to maintain trust and confidence is paramount.

Recommended decision on exemption from disclosure:

That the report be exempt from disclosure.

Date: 06/05/2009

Signed:



Post: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

I Accept the recommendation made above.



Proper Officer

Date: 06/05/2009