

EXECUTIVE
16TH SEPTEMBER 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Wednesday, 16th September 2009.

PRESENT: Councillor A. Woolley (Chairman)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors: B. Attridge, R. Baker, P.T. Heesom, R. Jones, D. Mackie and Mrs D. Mackie.

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 and Customer Services and Head of Committee, Member and Electoral Services.

At the commencement of the meeting, the Leader referred to the recent sad death of Councillor Mel Higham and as a mark of respect a silent tribute was observed.

99. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th August 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

100. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor N. Phillips declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda item number 30 – Review of Democratic Services and the Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

101. GENDER AND RACE EQUALITY SCHEMES ANNUAL REPORT 2008 - 2009

The Chief Executive presented a report on the draft annual report on progress of the implementation of the Council's Gender Equality Scheme and Race Equality Scheme for 2008-2009.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft Gender Equality Scheme annual and draft Race Equality Scheme annual reports be approved before publication; and
- (b) That the areas for improvement set out in the annual reports be noted.

102. PROGRESS UPDATE – NORTH WALES RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PARTNERSHIP

The Executive Member for Waste Strategy and Management introduced a

report to provide an update on progress being made over the North Wales Regional Waste Treatment Partnership and to provide advance notice of critical decision making steps.

The Executive Member referred to the appointment of a Project Director and Project Manager and to Flintshire's Lead Authority role. She reported that Ynys Mon had led the procurement of the technical advisors, Flintshire the legal advisors and Conwy the financial advisors. The next stage would be the preparation of the Outline Business Case (OBC) and decisions would need to be made by Flintshire and its partner Authorities at various stages over the next six months to develop the OBC in tandem. This would include consideration of gate fees, transfer stations and site allocation/reference solution.

The Chairman referred to the site allocation/reference solution and emphasised the importance that the solution satisfied the needs of all the partners and met all financial parameters and that this was critical.

The Chief Executive referred to Flintshire's lead role on this project and to the strong partnership arrangements that now existed. The next steps in the project were critical and the report outlined these. This would be a demanding timetable for Members and Officers as part of the development of the outline business case to be concluded by March 2010.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report and progress made in bringing together the advisors team, be noted;
- (b) that the issues requiring further development around the development of the Outline Business Case, be noted;
- (c) that the timetable for the development and approval of the outline business case be noted;
- (d) that an update be provided to the Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee on progress made.

103. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN ELIGIBLE AREA

The Director of Environment presented a report and referred to the Welsh Assembly Government, which in June 2009, had invited local partnerships and local action groups to review their local development strategies. As part of this review, the Assembly was allowing local partnerships to request changes to the Rural Development Plan Eligible Wards provided they could provide robust supporting evidence for the change.

The Executive was being recommended to request the Assembly Government to reclassify the wards of Holywell Central, Holywell East and Holywell West from service centre wards to rural wards which would enable access to be given to the full Rural Development Plan Programme.

RESOLVED:

That the Welsh Assembly Government be requested to reclassify the wards of Holywell Central, Holywell East and Holywell West as rural.

104. REGIONAL LEARNING DISABILITY PROJECT

The Executive Member for Social Services introduced a report which sought the support of Members for Phase 1 of the Regional Collaboration in Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities and also to enable the view of the Regional Partnership Board to be reflected back to each Authority for consideration.

The Executive Member, whilst supporting this Phase 1 of the project, outlined some of the concerns that she had. She agreed with regional collaboration but sought assurances that services were commissioned and delivered locally. She referred to the reconfiguration of the Health Board and the differences of service provision between, for example, Flintshire and Ynys Mon in terms of hostel based services and supportive living and there was a need to maintain Flintshire's excellent standard of provision.

The Director of Community Services reassured Members that whilst there was regional procurement there was still a clear focus on local service delivery. Denbighshire County Council was the lead Authority and she referred to discussions with Officers from that Council regarding the need to maintain the standard of service delivery.

The Director, in conclusion, referred to the recommendations of the report and the need to correct the wording of the recommendations which should read paragraphs 3.07 – 3.10 and not as stated.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Phase 1 of the Regional Collaboration in Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities, with a focus on regional commissioning and procurement, as set out in paragraphs 3.07 – 3.10, be supported; and
- (b) That it is recommended that the North Wales Social Services Improvement Collective report on progress and the definition of a further phase of improvement and collaboration in response to the report and the establishment of Learning Disability Partnership in January 2010 be agreed.

105. FLINTSHIRE AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELIVERY STATEMENT 2009 – 2011

The Executive Member for Housing Strategy and Planning introduced a report which sought approval for the Flintshire Affordable Housing Delivery Statement.

The Director of Community Services referred to a seminar held on 9th June which had been attended by 31 Members and had received a joint presentation

by Officers from Housing and Planning. An Affordable Housing Delivery Statement had been prepared and circulated as an appendix to the report and subject to Executive approval would be submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government. The statement was based on current intentions but would need a wider statement to be developed. It was also recommended that an Affordable Housing Register be established and the Executive was asked to support this.

The Executive Member for the Environment supported the document being submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government but suggested that it needed to be more clear in terms of differentiating between first time buyers and affordable housing and the appropriate level. He referred to shared ownership and rented properties with housing associations. He emphasised the need for a council housing building programme and asked that reference be made to first time buyers and affordable housing to the statement. The Executive Member also referred to an announcement of £1.7m additional funding which would provide an extra 25 houses in 2009/11 through the Strategic Capital Investment Fund and a partnership arrangement with two housing associations. This would be in addition to the 37 new houses to be provided through the Welsh Assembly Government's Social Housing Programme and would provide a total of £4.4m.

The Director of Community Services emphasised that the statement was based on the current situation and the Executive Member's comments related to future intentions. However, the Director of Environment agreed to speak to the Executive Member to establish whether his suggestions could be incorporated in the statement.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations be agreed and that the Officers agree to amend the statement in consultation with the Executive Member.

106. INTEGRATED TRANSPORT DELIVERY

The Chairman of the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor P. Macfarlane, presented a report of the Head of Overview and Scrutiny. The report advised the Executive of the recommendations from the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee to request that the Executive ensures that Directorates were committed to working together on transport arrangements for service areas.

Councillor Macfarlane referred to the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4th September 2008 which had agreed that a working group be established to look at school and college transport issues and the working group had reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30th July 2009. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had received a report from the School and College Transport Sub-group and had unanimously agreed to make a recommendation to the Executive which was set out in the report.

The Director of Environment reported that he and the Directors of Community Services and Lifelong Learning had met with the Chief Highways and Transportation Officer and Mr Peter Daniels (who had replaced Mr D. Blainey,

Corporate Management Team) the previous day and was pleased to report that good progress was being made and a report would be prepared for consideration by Corporate Management Team prior to being submitted to the Executive. The Director also explained that Mr Peter Daniels was in a shared post with Denbighshire County Council.

The Executive Member for Education and Youth welcomed the information provided and the coordinated approach with Denbighshire County Council.

The Chairman referred to the Integrated Transport Update which had been circulated with the agenda which made reference to a further meeting being planned for September 2008 which should be corrected to 2009.

RESOLVED:

That the Executive would ensure that Directorates were committed to working together on transport arrangements for service users and were open to new ways of working to ensure the best possible outcomes for the citizens of Flintshire.

107. NEW SPECIALIST SCHOOL SITE VISITS

The Chairman of the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor P. Macfarlane, presented a report to advise the Executive of the recommendations from the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee which included a request that funding be made available for completion of the additional work required.

Councillor Macfarlane referred to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30th July 2009 which had considered a report on the outcome of site visits to the new Specialists Schools. Members had been very impressed with the facilities that had been provided but had also been concerned that some of the key integration areas had not been completed within Flint High School due to financial constraints and could not meet the specialist needs of pupils from Ysgol Maes Hyfryd.

The recommendations from the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee were set out in paragraph 4.01 of the report and Councillor Macfarlane suggested an amendment to the first recommendation that external funding should be sought to enable the completion of the outstanding work.

The Executive Member for Education and Youth welcomed the comments made and paid tribute to the work undertaken by the current and previous administration and was pleased to report that the school would be opened officially on 25th September by the First Minister of the Welsh Assembly Government. In relation to the specific points raised it was important that the new special schools complemented the existing schools and work needed to be undertaken and this needed to be externally funded.

The Chairman referred to the financial implications of the report and that a financial appraisal needed to be carried out to ascertain the additional funding needed to enable the outstanding work to be completed.

The Director of Lifelong Learning referred to the comments of Members and said that the two special schools represented significant projects and achievements for the County Council. He was pleased to report the sense of excitement and enjoyment of the children since they had attended the new school. He emphasised the importance of any capital project to recognise issues which had gone well and issues that needed to be learned from and in this regard he welcomed the Overview and Scrutiny views. For future similar projects it was important that Head Teachers were involved in the project planning.

The Chairman suggested that arrangements be made for Members of the Executive to visit the schools and this was agreed. Councillor Peter Macfarlane supported this suggestion and also indicated that the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be reviewing further progress in approximately 12 months time.

The Chief Executive emphasised the importance of this project and the excellent facilities that had been provided. The Assembly Government had been approached for additional funding and estimated costs had been shared with the Assembly who had indicated support would be provided if funding became available.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That consideration of the first recommendation be deferred;
- (b) that Officers identify potential external funding available to enable the completion of outstanding work;
- (c) a financial appraisal of the costs involved be undertaken; and
- (d) that the Executive Members visit the schools.

108. TARGET SETTING REVIEW

The Chief Executive presented a report to seek endorsement of the way in which targets were set and used to measure the performance of services against performance indicators. He thanked Councillor Richard Jones for the contribution he had made as Vice Chairman of People & Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee. There was now a clear procedure for reporting and reviewing targets and a specific timetable was set out in paragraph 3.04 of the report which was intended to be concluded with endorsement by the Executive in November. Changes in categorisation of targets must be supported by an explanation/reason for change to be agreed by Members.

RESOLVED:

That the systematic and disciplined approach to target setting and reporting procedures set out in paragraph 3.14 be agreed.

109. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10 (MONTH 3)

The Head of Finance presented a report which provided Members with the most up to date Revenue Budget Monitoring information at month 3 for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account 2009/10. She referred to work undertaken over the Summer to provide a new format for the report and it was hoped that this would give more clarity on reporting the budget, the variances that existed and the actions being taken. She welcomed feedback from Members on the new format.

The projected position at month 3 was a net under spend of £0.380m on the General Fund and a net overspend of £0.267m on the Housing Revenue Account. Section 3.05 of the report provided information on risks and assumptions and particular reference was made to the 2009/10 pay award and to potential savings that could be forthcoming as the pay award was likely to be settled at less than the provision within the budget.

The Head of Finance responded to a question as to whether savings on the Housing Revenue Account in respect of an under spend of capitalised salaries could be utilised to employ temporary resources to clear backlogs and explained that although there were some savings within the HRA there were also some negative variances within the HRA with the overall position being a projected overspend. However, she was aware of the need to undertake administrative work relating to the HRA which would be on an "Invest to Save" basis and supported these works being undertaken. She referred to the net effect of the revised balance brought forward and the projected outturn and that this meant that there were projected balances in hand at the end of the year of £1.012m which at 4.4% of budget expenditure was greater than the minimum level of 3% recommended, this would provide the necessary resources to fund the "Invest to Save" works.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the overall report be noted;
- (b) that the General Fund contingency sum available as at 31st March 2010 be noted; and
- (c) that the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account be noted.

110. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2008/09 TO 2010/11

The Head of Finance presented a report which updated the Executive on progress made with the Procurement Strategy 2008/09 to 2010/11 and in particular actions to be worked on in 2009/10 including some which had scheduled completion dates during the year. Secondly, to report on staff resources available to take the actions forward.

The Procurement Strategy sat alongside the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy 2007/08 – 2010/11 which identified the need for a corporate

approach to procurement linked to the drive for efficiencies and also responded to the risks identified in the Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges.

The report set out the work that had been developed in the five main project areas of procurement strategy, efficiency savings, increased procurement awareness, sourcing strategy and technology development.

The Head of Finance updated the report in that since the last meeting of the Procurement Board, the Head of Procurement had now left the Authority and arrangements were being made to fill this post on an interim basis.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted; and
- (b) the Executive to provide any feedback on the report and action plan update.

111. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2008/09

The Head of Finance presented the Annual Treasury Management Report 2008/09 and recommended a response to a consultation being carried out by CIPFA on a revised treasury management code and guidance notes. A similar report would be submitted to the Audit Committee.

The Head of Finance reported that although changes in policy during 2008/09 had not been major, the current implementation of the policy was very different to that envisaged when it was drawn up and aimed at minimising risk. This did have an impact on investment returns that could be achieved and this had been reported in Budget and Budget Monitoring reports. She reminded Members that the Council had historically undertaken a periodic review of its Treasury Management Function and that accordingly, the Council's advisors, Stirling Consultancy Services, had been asked to undertake a full review of the Treasury Management Function. The Head of Finance referred to two national reports on the operation of Treasury Management by Councils, one by the Audit Commission and the other by the Department of Communities and Local Government. Following the publication of the Revised Treasury Management Code it was intended to update the guidance notes for all sectors and CIPFA had launched a period of consultation on the proposed changes. It was recommended that the Executive supported the proposed changes to the CIPFA Treasury Management Code, and in principle, the responsibility for scrutiny of the Treasury Management strategy and policies be vested in the Audit Committee. A further report would be brought back to the Executive on this when the definitive guidance from CIPFA had been received.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the annual report for 2008/09 be noted;
- (b) that the proposed changes to the CIPFA Treasury Management Code be supported and the Head of Finance be authorised to respond accordingly

by the response date of 18th September 2009; and

- (c) that the Executive support in principle;
 - i) the proposed changes to the CIPFA Treasury Management Code;
 - ii) in principle that responsibility for scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and Policies be vested in the Audit Committee, which would make any recommendations which it has to the Executive for resolution. A further report would be brought back to the Executive on this when the definitive guidance from CIPFA was received.

112. BUSINESS RATE – DEFERRED PAYMENTS SCHEME 2009 -10

The Head of Finance presented a report which provided Members with an update on the introduction of an Assembly Government scheme to defer part of this year's annual increase in Business Rates.

The Head of Finance reported that on 21st August 2009 the Council had written to all businesses that could qualify under the scheme giving a personalised calculation of the potential deferment that could be offset over the next two years. Applications had been limited and these were now being processed in order to assist businesses

RESOLVED:

That the introduction of this scheme be noted.

113. MAKING THE CONNECTIONS – MAKING THE MOST OF OUR RESOURCES

The Head of Finance presented a report which provided details of the efficiency gains achieved in 2008/09 as set out in the "Making the Connections" Agenda.

She referred to the value of efficiency gains achieved in 2008/09 which was £8.452m and whilst this was £0.148m below the year 4 target, the cumulative actual for the four period of £22.464m was £0.964m over target.

The Chief Executive emphasised the importance of the efficiency gains for Local Government collectively for discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government which indicated how Local Government was achieving targets. He referred to announcements to be made by the Welsh Assembly Government on 6th October 2009 in respect of the overall national financial position and to the provisional Local Government settlement to be announced on the 13th October in support of visionary projects such as this.

RESOLVED:

That the efficiency gains achieved by the Authority be noted.

114. PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF DEE ROAD INFANTS AND CUSTOM HOUSE LANE JUNIORS – APPROVAL TO CONSULT WITH RELEVANT GROUPS

The Executive Member for Education and Youth introduced a report which sought approval for Officers to undertake consultation meetings related to this proposal. He explained that there seemed to be total support for this project but there was a statutory consultation procedure to go through and the report set out the next stage of the process. He referred to representations he had received and as a result he wished to amend the recommendations to the report in relation to the consultation which should explicitly include the Local Members and the Connah's Quay Town Council. In conclusion, the Executive Member reported that this project was generating interest elsewhere for similar amalgamations.

The Director of Lifelong Learning referred to the report and the national trend towards amalgamated infants and junior schools in to all-through primary schools and the benefits that were provided and were set out in paragraph 3.01 of the report. He paid tribute to the leadership provided by the two school governing bodies on this project. He also referred to the opportunity the amalgamation would provide to create a special project to renew the facilities on site through a capital bid.

The Chief Executive referred to the earlier report on Special Schools and emphasised the work undertaken to provide an evidence base to enable the County Council to compete for Welsh Assembly Government funding which would come through the School Modernisation Strategy.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That approval be given to the infants and junior schools being considered for future amalgamation and that individual reports be brought to the Executive for consideration when an amalgamation is considered appropriate; and
- (b) That approval be given for Officers to consult with the relevant groups of staff, Governors, Local Members, Connah's Quay Town Council and parents of both Dee Road Infants and Custom House Lane Juniors, the outcome of which would be reported back to the Executive.

115. SPORT FLINTSHIRE – QUEST ACCREDITATION AWARD

The Director of Lifelong Learning presented a report which informed Members of the outcome of the submission made by Sport-Flintshire to the Quest Accreditation national award for continuous improvement in sports development.

The Executive Member for Leisure and Public Protection congratulated Sian Williams and her team for this achievement and referred to the Quest Accredited score of 74% which fell within the "commended" category and was only 1% from the "highly commended".

RESOLVED:

That Members noted and applauded the successful outcome of the inspection and assessment with the achievement of the Quest Accreditation for the Sport-Flintshire service.

116. TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER – ICT

The Director of Lifelong Learning presented a report, the purpose of which to create a post of an additional Technical Support Officer for ICT. This employee would be working for the Flintshire 14-19 Network in supporting key developments in Flintshire Schools.

The Director referred to developments for Flintshire Schools in recent years which had been the introduction of virtual learning environments. This technology required a full-time Technical Support Officer to maintain the systems for the schools on servers provided by the Education ICT Unit. As a 14-19 network partner, the Council work closely with Deeside College and schools on this project.

The Executive Member for Education and Youth referred to the financial implications of the report and explained that the post was fully funded by the Welsh Assembly Government via the 14-19 Network Grant.

RESOLVED:

That a new fixed term appointment post be created for the remaining 18 months of the funding to replace the seconded position with any cost implications for the termination of the fixed term appointment to be met from the 14-19 Network.

117. GREENFIELD VALLEY TRUST LIMITED – ACCOUNTS FOR 2008

The Director of Lifelong Learning presented a report which submitted to the County Council the accounts of the Greenfield Valley Trust Limited for the period 1st January – 31st December 2008 which was a requirement under the terms of the Management Agreement.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

118. HIGHWAY SWEEPING AND GULLEY EMPTYING POLICY AND HIGHWAY INSPECTIONS POLICY

The Director of Environment presented a report which sought approval for a formal adoption of the Council's Highway Sweeping and Gulley Emptying Policy and for the frequency of the formal highway inspections. He explained that whilst the Highways/Neighbourhoods Service presently undertook maintenance operations to set frequencies, these had not received formal approval by Members and a recent audit of the service by the Wales Audit Office had reported the lack of approved policies.

The Executive Member for the Environment endorsed the report and the recommendations and also referred to the reference in the report that during inclement weather conditions, an ad-hoc inclement weather inspection could be implemented at the discretion of the Head of Service. He also referred to the rural areas and the need for hedge/grass cutting to maintain the safety of road users and made particular reference to chevron signs in hedges which needed to be manually maintained to ensure their visibility.

The Executive Member for Waste Strategy and Management asked if the frequencies could be made available to Ward Members and the Director confirmed that Town and Community Councils had also asked for this information at the last County Forum and this would be undertaken.

RESOLVED:

That the gully emptying, highway sweeping and Inspection frequencies as set out in the report, be approved.

119. SPONSORSHIP OF HIGHWAY ROUNDABOUTS

The Executive Member for the Environment introduced a report, the purpose of which was to establish a Policy with regard to the sponsorship of and advertising on adopted highway roundabouts and was pleased to support the recommendations.

The Director of Environment referred to the extensive consultation that had been undertaken with other authorities and legal and planning officers and the report set out the risks. The conclusion was that Flintshire County Council was not the first Local Authority in the UK to introduce sponsorship on roundabouts and the proposal would provide an opportunity to increase the maintenance frequency and to improve the environment in specific locations.

RESOLVED:

That having considered the issues surrounding the sponsorship of highway roundabouts, the implementation of an associated policy was agreed.

120. PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT GLAN-Y-MORFA COURT

The Executive Member for Estate Management introduced a report which sought approval for a proposal to undertake improvement works to the Glan-y-Morfa Sheltered Housing Scheme.

The Director of Community Services welcomed this improvement programme and that research had indicated a demand in the area and this was the first project of a number of similar schemes that could be used to deal with void properties.

RESOLVED:

That the proposal for major improvement works to be undertaken at Glan-y-Morfa Court, be approved.

121. NATIONAL SERVICE FRAMEWORK FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN WALES – PROGRESS REPORT 2009

The Executive Member for Social Services introduced a report, the purpose of which was to inform the Executive of Flintshire's progress in relation to the National Service Framework for Older People.

The Executive Member referred to the Framework which had been published in March 2006 as a ten year strategy which was a set of ten standards for health and social care services for older people in Wales. Progress on the ten standards was measured using a self-assessment audit tool. There was an expectation that the actions within the Framework were addressed by a partnership approach and Flintshire had a local implementation team which consisted of representation from Flintshire County Council, Flintshire Local Health Board, Betsi Cadwaladar University Health Board, Countess of Chester Foundation Trust and the voluntary sector.

The Executive Member referred to the Appendix to the report and made particular reference to stroke services in Wales and expressed her concern that thrombolysis was currently only available to residents of Flintshire admitted to Chester.

In conclusion, the Executive Member congratulated everyone involved in the Llys Elinor project which had recently won a prestigious award in Cardiff.

The Director of Community Services reported that the previous week, Llys Elinor had won an ABSE Award in the UK as the Best Housing Regeneration Initiative.

The Chairman congratulated all staff involved in this project and the Chief Executive confirmed that the award would be presented at the next meeting of the County Council. The Chief Executive also referred to arrangements that were in hand for the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Betsi Cadwalader Health Board to meet key Members and officers at the end of October on the transition to the new Boards.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the progress of Flintshire County Council and partners in relation to the National Service Framework for Older People, be noted; and
- (b) That the interim action plan to address areas for further development, be supported.

122. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS

An Information Report of the Chief Executive was submitted, the purpose of which was to inform Members of the actions taken under delegated powers. The actions taken were as set out below:-

Community Services

Declaration as surplus to requirements and disposal of Jasmine Crescent, Mold to enable the construction of an extra care scheme.

Management Review of the Infrastructure required for the provision of short-term care services for people with learning disability.

Continuing Health Care Grant funded post.

Corporate Services

Application for Hardship Rate Relief.

Establishment Control – Re-design of existing position.

New temporary fixed term positions to create a new team to implement the Single Status agreement.

Additional temporary post of Pension Officer to enable Pension and Payroll to merge with Pensions Administration.

Additional temporary post of Pension Officer to assist with the reduction of backlogs within the Pension Section and training of more junior staff.

Environment

Disposal of 15 square meters of land at the head of Maes-y-Dre Avenue, Flint to enable developer to comply with the requirements of highways/planning and the construction of a cul-de-sac.

Proposed traffic signals A550/B5373 Hope Junction.

123. 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 remainder of the meeting to allow the consideration of reports containing exempt information by virtue of paragraphs 12, 14, 15 and 16 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

124. AD WASTE TRANSFER UPDATE

The Director of Environment presented a report to update Members on the progress made in transferring AD Waste into the Council since the last report to the Executive on 14th July 2009.

RESOLVED:

That the update report to appraise Members of the current situation, be noted.

125. MORTGAGE RESCUE SCHEME – APPLICATION TO WAIVER REPAYMENT OF DISCOUNT CHARGE

The Director of Community Services presented a report to seek Members approval to waive repayments of the Council's Discount Charge and to give consideration as to how any future applications under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme be dealt with.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That delegated authority be given to the Head of Housing to authorise the waiving of the repayment of the Discount Charge in the circumstances as set out in the report and enable the matter to proceed under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme; and
- (b) That delegated authority be given to the Head of Housing in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Executive Member for Housing in relation to any future cases that may arise for consideration to be given as to whether the Discount Charge repayable to the Council may be waived. These cases to be considered upon the merits of each individual case and upon the basis that they satisfied the criteria for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme.

126. HOUSING SERVICES RE-STRUCTURE PHASE 2

The Director of Community Services presented a report to update the Executive on progress to-date from the first phase of the Housing Services restructure and to advise on the proposed second phase of the planned change.

RESOLVED:

That the restructuring of the management of operational service delivery as outlined in the report, be noted.

127. REVIEW OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services presented a report to inform the Executive of the outcome of the review of Democratic Services and to seek approval for the proposed new structure for Democratic Services as set out in the report.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That a Democracy and Governance Manager with Deputy Monitoring Officer designation leads the section;
- (b) That groupings within the section should be as follows:

- i. Committee Services
 - ii. Overview and Scrutiny and Member Services/Civic Support
 - iii. Electoral/Election Services
 - iv. Administration (pending review)
 - v. Business Development (pending review)
- (c) That each of the above groupings have its own Team Leader managed by the proposed post of Democracy and Governance Manager;
- (d) That the two existing posts of Head of Committee, Member and Electoral Services and Democratic Services Manager be deleted from the establishment;
- (e) That a new Committee Officer be appointed into the Committee Services team to alleviate the capacity problems arising from the deletion of the two managerial posts; and
- (f) That one of the Committee Officers be re-designated as Senior Committee Officer to support the work of the Team Leader, Committee Services

128. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and ended at 12.20 pm.

129. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There was one member of the press in attendance.

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Chairman

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

EXECUTIVE	DATE: 16th September 2009
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
Councillor N. Phillips	Review of Democratic Services	127