EXECUTIVE 27TH OCTOBER 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 27th October 2009.

PRESENT: Councillor A. Woolley (Chairman)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors: K. Armstrong-Braun, R. Baker, J. Falshaw, Ms V. Gay, R. Jones, P. Macfarlane, D. Mackie, Mrs D. Mackie and E.W.Owen.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Lifelong Learning, Director of Environment, Head of Finance, Head of ICT and Customer Services, Principal Solicitor, Head of Committee, Member and Electoral Services and Revenues and Cash Collection Manager.

APOLOGIES: Councillors: N. Phillips and H. Yale.

144. <u>MINUTES</u>

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

145. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by Members

146. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL SETTLEMENT 2010/11 AND BUDGET 2010/11

The Head of Finance presented a joint report with the Chief Executive which provided details of the provisional Welsh Local Government Settlement 2010/11 which had been announced by the Welsh Assembly Government on 13th October 2009. The report also provided an update on the arrangements for the 2010/11 budget.

The Head of Finance referred to a briefing paper on the provisional settlement which had been provided to Members and the Corporate Management Team on 14th October 2009.

At this stage figure were provisional only and it was expected that final details would be received on 8th December 2009. The formal consultation period on the provisional settlement would run from 13th October to 17th November 2009. Arrangements would be made to co-ordinate the Council's formal response to the Assembly which would include comments from both Executive and Overview and Scrutiny.

The Head of Finance referred to Aggregate External Finance (AEF) which across Wales the overall increase, which was made up of Revenue Support Grants (RSG) and National Non-domestic Rates (NNDR) for 2010/11 over 2009/10 was 2.1%. The Assembly had retained a "floor funding" arrangement for 2010/11 which would ensure that all authorities received a minimum increase in AEF of 1%. The two authorities receiving additional funding under this arrangement were Anglesey and Powys and the cost of funding the floor had come from within the RSG settlement. Flintshire's increase in AEF was 1.8% bringing the total AEF to £186.989m. This equated to £1,239 per capita and Flintshire was ranked 18th out of the 22 authorities in Wales. Flintshire's Standing Spending Assessment (SSA) had increased by 2.8% to £241.053m. The Head of Finance reported that the outcome of the provisional settlement was within the planning budget assumptions that had been made.

The Head of Finance then referred to five grants which would transfer into the settlement which has previously been funded by a specific grant. These included Deprivation Grant (£0.225m), Schools Special Grant (£0.496m), Schools Energy Cost Grant (£0.104m), Implementation of Carer Breaks under Section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 (£0.080) and Fairer Charging Grant (£0.731m) which totalled £1.636m. The first four items were expected to transfer in at the same level as in 2009/10 but the fifth item in respect of Fairer Charging Grant and the figure of £0.731m was likely to reduce at the final settlement stage as the distribution of the total amount was still being considered by the Assembly and Flintshire anticipated being a net loser from this transfer.

It was reported that details of specific grant allocations at the all Wales level were still being worked through. Whilst figures have not been published it was stated that there would be further increases in funding to support the foundation stage and waste management. The value of the improvement agreement grant at the all Wales level had been reduced by £0.3m to £31.1m and Flintshire allocation, subject to performance, was £1.482m which was a reduction of £0.014m on the 2009/10 figure.

In relation to the capital settlement across Wales general capital funding had remained at £217.433m. This was unhypothecated funding of which £54.037m was paid as capital grants with the remainder of £163.386m provided a support for borrowing. For Flintshire, general funding had increased by £0.018m to £10.363m and this was divided into general capital grants £2.575m and £7.788m support within the settlement for borrowing. In addition to the general capital funding, there would be specific capital grants of £359.5m across Wales, but no details were available on specific capital grants for Flintshire at this stage.

The timetable for consideration of the budget 2010/11 was set out in Appendix A to the report. The draft budget proposals for the General Fund and the Capital Programme 2010/11 – 2013/14 would be considered by the Executive on 22nd December 2009. Draft budget proposals for the Housing Revenue Account would be considered by the Executive on 26th January 2010. Directorate presentations would be made to all Overview and Scrutiny Committees between 13th and 22nd January 2010 and the final recommendations would be made to Council on 2nd March 2010 having been considered by the Executive on 16th February 2010.

In conclusion, the Head of Finance referred to the consultation period and to the seminar to be held later in the day when Mr Steve Thomas the Chief Executive and Ms Vanessa Phillips, Director of Resources at the WLGA would be making a presentation on the wider picture on financial forecasts and this would provide the Council with a fuller analysis on which to formulate a response to the Welsh Assembly Government's consultation.

The Chairman, as the Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management, moved the recommendations of the report and said that it was intended to have earlier discussions on the budget than had been the case for the current year's budget. He also expressed his disappointment that Flintshire had lost out on the second round of the applications made to the Strategic Capital Investment Fund (SCIF).

The Deputy Leader seconded the recommendations, and emphasised the need for a special case to be made for Flintshire County Council to be made to the Welsh Assembly Government on the provisional settlement and to assist the Council in making other grant applications in the future. He referred to the unemployment figure of 3% for Flintshire which was being use by the Welsh Assembly Government which was not a realistic figure and he considered should be in the region of 7 - 10%. He therefore asked the Chief Executive to pursue all avenues to ascertain a more realistic assessment of the unemployment figures which could make future applications for other funding streams more fruitful.

The Chairman concurred with these views and asked the Chief Executive to ask the Welsh Assembly Government to revisit the figures which were used for settlement calculations.

The Chief Executive responded and emphasised that experience indicated that there would not be significant changes between the provisional and the final settlement. There were five points which needed to be taken into consideration:-

- most of the settlement was formula driven;
- there was national support for the protection of the "floor funding";
- there was concern on the transparency of specific grants being transferred into the settlement which had been referred to earlier by the Head of Finance;
- the WLGA had indicated that all new initiatives being put forward by the Welsh Assembly Government had to be fully funded; and
- if this funding could not be guaranteed Councils would not be able to guarantee that previous Welsh Assembly Government initiatives would be supported.

The Chief Executive referred to the Strategic Capital Investment Fund and the bids made by Flintshire County Council and expressed his disappointment on the outcome. In relation to the comments made by the Deputy Leader it would be right to ask the Welsh Assembly Government to use the most up to date figures in determining the formula and final settlement and this could be undertaken as part of the consultation response. However, he did advise caution in that any uplift on the unemployment figures would probably apply to most other local authorities. He would be requesting feedback from the Welsh Assembly Government on the SCIF bids.

RESOLVED:

- a) that the 2010/11 provisional settlement information be noted;
- b) that the timetable for establishing budget proposals for 2010/11 be noted; and
- c) that the Head of Finance be provided with any comments on the provisional Welsh Local Government settlement by 9th November 2009 in order that these comments, together with those of Overview and Scrutiny, could be reported to the Assembly by 17th November 2009 at the end of the consultation period.

147. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2008/09

The Chief Executive presented a report which sought endorsement to the draft 2008/09 Annual Performance Report which was to be considered by a special meeting of the County Council later in the day. He explained that the Annual Improvement Plan was a statutory requirement of the Wales Programme for Improvement and had to be published by 31st October each year.

The Report for 2008/09 was based upon performance out turns for 2008/09 and the progress against strategic assessment of risk and challenges. In conclusion, he thanked Karen Armstrong, Vicky Howson and the Policy Team for the work undertaken in preparing the report.

RESOLVED

That the 2008/09 Annual Performance Report be endorsed.

148. COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC PLAN, 2008/11 (VERSION 2)

The Chief Executive presented a report which sought endorsement to the revised version of the Community Safety Partnership's Strategic Plan for 2008/11. This report was now a joint portfolio of the Executive Members for Leisure and Public Protection and Corporate Governance and Strategy.

The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and the subsequent amendments by the 2002 Police Reform Act and 2006 Police and Justice Act placed a statutory duty on the local authority, police authority, police service, Local Health Board, fire authority and fire service to work together to address shared community safety priorities. Collectively, these agencies made up the Community Safety Partnership along with the Probation Service and the Flintshire Local Voluntary Council who represented the voluntary sector. Each year the Partnership was required to produce a strategic assessment and a rolling three year strategic plan which was updated annually. Flintshire had the lead role on the partnership and was working within national priorities of the Home Office. As from October 2009

local authority's scrutiny committees would also have the power to oversee and examine the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

The Executive Member for Social Services welcomed the Overview and Scrutiny committee's involvement and the priorities agreed by the Community Safety Partnership which included domestic abuse.

In conclusion, the Chief Executive referred to the partnership sub-groups and made particular reference to the Eastern Contest Group and Flintshire Prevent Panel which was a national Home Office initiative.

RESOLVED:

That the Community Safety Partnership's strategic plan be endorsed.

149. UPDATE REPORT ON THE REGIONAL FOOD WASTE PROJECT AND THE PROPOSALS FOR A FOOD WASTE COLLECTION PILOT

The Executive Member for Waste Strategy and Management introduced a report which updated members on the regional food waste project and proposals for a food waste collection pilot. The Executive Member referred to the partnership arrangements with Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council and the targets for the management of municipal waste including specific targets in relation to the kerbside collection of food/kitchen waste. The table at paragraph 2.03 of the report showed the targets for each local authority for food and kitchen waste which would increase from 12% in 2012/13 to 16% in 2024/25.

The Executive Member reported that during the current financial year 2009/10 it was proposed to use the £429,417 ring-fenced Sustainable Waste Management Grant to procure food waste collection vehicles ready for a pilot to be introduced in the early part of 2010/11. It was proposed to have a food waste plant in place by 2012 and the pilot for food waste collections was intended to cover approximately one third of the county in 2010. Further reports would continue to be made to the Executive on regional waste management.

The Director of Environment referred to the financial implications of the report and that councils had been given an indicative allocation £1.059m Sustainable Waste Management Grant ring-fenced for food waste in 2010/11 the actual allocation for 2010/11 was to be confirmed later in the month.

RESOLVED:

- a) that a pilot scheme for the collection of food waste be approved and that further reports be received on progress;
- b) that the work being done in the development of the food waste treatment procurement process be noted:
- c) that the work to develop the inter-authority agreement be noted.

150. FLINTSHIRE REGENERATION STRATEGY 2009-2020

The Director of Environment presented a report which sought approval for the Flintshire Regeneration Strategy 2009-2020. He emphasised that the strategy was particular importance at a time of economic uncertainty. The strategy set out the actions that would be taken to facilitate recovery, to ensure that Flintshire was prepared for the challenges to be faced as the economy emerged from recession and to ensure that a focussed and co-ordinated approach brought together the actions and resources of all development partners for maximum local benefit.

The Director referred to the late Councillor Mel Higham, who as the Executive Member for Regeneration and Tourism, had played a key role in the development of the strategy and had set a challenging timetable for its preparation and it was with regret that he was not able to present the strategy at this meeting of the Executive.

The Director referred to the strategy which comprised a number of strategic objectives including a competitive Flintshire, sustainable communities and employment and skills. Once the strategy had been approved an action plan would be developed.

The Chairman thanked everyone involved in the work undertaken as part of the recently held Business Week. These comments were supported by the Executive Member for Environment, Regeneration and Tourism and reported that the Business Week would continue next year, but in a different format. He also concurred with the Strategic Objective 3, in relation to employment skills and a need to develop a range of initiatives aimed at local people who were suffering poverty, disadvantage and hardship, and residents in the most deprived communities would be helped to provide them with an equal opportunity of benefiting from the future economic success of Flintshire.

The Chief Executive emphasised the importance of the strategy linking in with the Mersey Dee Alliance and Spatial Plan.

RESOLVED:

That the Flintshire Regeneration Strategy be approved.

151. TRANSFORMING EDUCATION for 14-19 YEAR-OLDS IN FLINTSHIRE

The Executive Member for Education and Youth introduced a report which provided Members with an update on the progress on transforming education and training provision for Flintshire for 14-19 year-olds. The Executive Member reported that in response to the strategy an outline business case and draft work programme on longer term governance organisation issues was produced for consideration by DCELLS. Receipt of feedback and endorsement from DCELLS in the Summer had been positive. This was also accompanied with the availability of development funding from DCELLS to commission further work to produce a strategic business case. During the Autumn term 2009, officers and providers would be further developing the draft strategy and would be presenting a short progress submission for DCELLS consideration by December 2009. In conclusion, the Executive Member emphasised the links to the School Modernisation Strategy which was to be considered as the next agenda item.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the progress made with the submission on transforming education provision for 14-19 year-olds in Flintshire be noted.

151. SCHOOL MODERNISATION STRATEGY

The Executive Member for Education and Youth introduced a report for Members to consider the next steps in the development and implementation of the School Modernisation Strategy. He emphasised that this was one of the most important reports for the Council to consider and all political groups on the Council had been offered briefings. Whilst most had taken advantage of this offer, he hoped that those who hadn't would do so as he emphasised the document's importance. The report would be submitted to the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Director of Lifelong Learning referred to one of the Council's key education functions, which was to secure access for pupils to a sufficient number and a variety of school places. He referred to the Estyn 2009 Report on the strategic management of education in Flintshire, which had identified tackling this issue as a key recommendation, whilst recognising that considerable preparatory work had been undertaken during the previous year. Key issues included the duty to provide sufficient school places in the right places and local and national initiatives to make all school building "fit for purpose" and removing excessive surplus places. Future financial settlements would lead to decreasing financial room for manoeuvre and there were significant differences in the way schools were funded with very small provision being disproportionately expensive. Schools and their buildings were important to their communities and were able to do more than provide education for children.

The Director referred to an initial way forward to address the challenges and address the Council's policy position in key issues. This was last undertaken in 2004. A key second step would be to undertake a programme of individual school and local area reviews, involving pupils, parents, carers, staff, governors, service partners and other interested parties.

The Executive Member for the Environment, Regeneration and Tourism referred to the strategy document and to the reference that the Welsh Assembly Government did not have a presumption against closing rural schools.

The Executive Member for Education and Youth referred to the six points set out in paragraph 2.04 of the report which would be taken into account before any decision was made on a school closure. This would consider removing temporary or unused accommodation; develop new school uses of surplus accommodation; develop community use of premises; non-school use of surplus accommodation; closure of part of a school and federations, merging/amalgamation of schools and where appropriate school closure. In view of the time scale required to develop the strategy it was not anticipated that there would be any school closure within the life of the current Council.

RESOLVED:

- a) that the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee be commissioned to scrutinise and make recommendations in relation to the School Modernisation Strategy;
- b) that in common with the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee the Executive recognises the need to review and subsequently renew and rationalise current educational provision;
- c) that the indicative timetable set out at Appendix 1 to the report be supported; and
- d) that the overall surplus places in primary and secondary phases be maintained at around 10% to facilitate parental preference and to meet WAG and WAO guidelines with no school with over 25% surplus capacity being unreviewed; and that consultation on School Organisation Policy and decision making criteria be commissioned.

152. FLINTSHIRE HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2009 – 15

The Executive Member for Social Services introduced a report which sought approval for the Flintshire Homelessness Strategy 2009 – 15. In presenting the Strategy the Executive Member referred to the strategic objectives which were set out in the report and to the consultation undertaken which had included a homelessness workshop for elected members. Strategic Objective 1 included the establishment of a Flintshire Homelessness Forum and she suggested that Councillor Helen Yale be the elected member representative.

RESOLVED

That the Flintshire homelessness Strategy 2009 – 15 be approved.

153. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10 (MONTH 5)

The Head of Finance presented a report which provided the most up to date Revenue Budget monitoring information at Month 5 for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account in 2009/10.

The Executive Member referred to the Executive Summary and to the General Fund which was showing a net overspend of $\pounds 0.467m$ compared with an overspend of $\pounds 0.310m$ at Month 4, and the Housing Revenue Account which was showing net overspend of $\pounds 0.571m$ compared with $\pounds 0.500m$ at Month 4.

The Head of Finance referred to the significant in year projected variances which were detailed in Appendices 1 - 5 of the report for the General Fund and Appendix 7 for the Housing Revenue Account. The appendices also provided the

reasons for the variances and the actions required to address each variance. The main variance was in respect of out of county placements and this was a volatile budget item due to the uncertainty of lengths of current placements, the cost and the difficulty in predicting number of new placements.

The Head of Finance then referred to risks and assumptions which were set out in section 3.05 of the report and Appendix 6 detailed the movements to date on unearmarked reserves and the level of contingency sum available for the allocation by the Executive. The estimated amount currently available in the contingency reserve was £1.562m.

The Housing Revenue Account was showing an in year projected overspend of £0.571m and the reasons for the significant variances and actions planned to deal with them was set out in Appendix 7 to the report. The net effects of the revised balance brought forward and the projected overspend was that there would be balances in hand at the end of the year of £0.708m (budget £1.292m) which at 3.1% of budget and expenditure was greater then the minimum of 3% recommended by the Head of Finance.

The Executive Member for Social Services referred to the out of county placements expenditure and emphasised the difficulties in planning for this budget due to the uncertainty on placements and the difficulties in predicting the number of new placements that might come into the County. In this regard, the Chief Executive explained that considerable work was being undertaken on long term solutions.

RESOLVED:

- a) that the overall report be noted;
- b) that the General Fund contingency sum available as at 31st March 2010 (Section 5) be noted; and
- c) that the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account (paragraph 6.05) be noted.

154. COUNCIL TAX HELP FOR PENSIONERS

The Head of Finance presented a report which provided Members with background information about the Assembly Government Grant Scheme in relation to Council Tax Help for Pensioners and the report set out two potential options to administer the grant and to recommend to Members the best way forward. The Head of Finance also introduced Mr David Barnes, the Council's Revenue and Cash Collection Manager who was present to answer any specific questions raised by members.

The Head of Finance referred to the 2008 – 2013 Assembly Government "Strategy for Older People in Wales" which gave a commitment that the Assembly had continued to develop and implement a range of policies and programmes to combat the poverty and exclusion faced by disadvantaged groups and those living in the most deprived communities. The aim was to increase income, encourage better financial management and stimulate wealth creation. The Welsh Assembly had a commitment in One Wales to provide extra help to pensioners with Council Tax.

A grant scheme had been announced by the Assembly on 4th August 2009 following extensive discussions over several months between the Welsh Local Government Association and the Assembly Government to determine a workable scheme. A total of £2m has recently been made available to all authorities in Wales and had been distributed on the Older Adults formula used in the calculation of the Standard Spending Assessment for 2009-10. As a result, the amount of grant received by Flintshire was £84,654. The way in which the grant was administered and distributed was entirely at the discretion of each local authority given that the grant conditions stipulated no predefined criteria to assist local authorities in formulating their local schemes. However, the purpose of the scheme was to provide assistance to people with payment of the council tax but only to pensioners whom the authority considered it appropriate to assist.

The Head of Finance referred to the considerations of the report and an options appraisal and two options were highlighted in the report and recommendation was that option one be accepted as the preferred scheme and this would provide direct financial assistance to certain pensioners.

RESOLVED:

- a) that the report be noted and that Option One be confirmed as the preferred scheme; and
- b) that officers be authorised to accept £84,564 grant from the Assembly Government and to administer the grant in line with option one.

155. LOCAL TAXATION POLICIES 2010-11

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report the purpose of which was for Members to approve the various policies for the administration of Council Tax and Business Rates for the financial year 2010/11. He also referred to the media coverage the previous day on the effects of the latest rateable value listings which might affect business rates payable by businesses within the County.

The Revenue and Cash Collection Manager outlined the position in relation to the publication of the new list for businesses in Flintshire and the changes to rateable values. The total rateable value had increased from £120m to £139m which was an increase of 16.82% across Flintshire and this would result in the rates of some small businesses increasing and others having a reduction.

The Executive Member for the Environment, Regeneration and Tourism referred to the explanations given by the officer and asked if an explanatory note could be provided to Members to assist them in offering explanations to businesses, and this was agreed. The Head of Finance then referred to the report and to the policies which were required by statute to be approved each year in respect of Council Tax discounts on second and long term empty homes; Council Tax discretionary discounts; discretionary rate relief for charities and discretionary rate relief for small businesses. In addition some policies were detailed in the report for information purposes only and these were the payment dates for precepting/levying bodies and for council tax and business rates. The recommendations of the report proposed no changes except on the payment dates for council tax. In this regard, and order to promote payment of bills by direct debit for those customers who worked to weekly budgets, an additional facility would be implemented from April 2010 to enable customers to pay weekly by direct debit.

RESOLVED:

- a) that the continuation of the current local taxation policies for 2010/11 be approved as follows:
 - i) not to award Council Tax discounts on any prescribed class and this applied to the whole of the County area (2.02)
 - ii) for the Head of Finance and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management to consider discretionary discounts (section 13A) through the use of delegated powers only in the cases of civil emergencies and national disasters (3.03)
 - iii) discretionary rate relief for charities as set out (4.02)
 - iv) not to award discretionary "top up" discounts to small businesses (5.03)
- b) that the payment dates for precepting/levying bodies (6.01) and payment date of Council Ttax and business rates, giving support to the introduction of weekly direct debits from April 2010 (7.01 7.04) be noted; and
- c) that an explanatory note be sent to Members, setting out details of the revised rateable valuations.

155. <u>ANNUAL COUNCIL REPORTING FRAMEWORK (ACRF) FOR SOCIAL</u> <u>SERVICES</u>

The Director of Community Services presented a report which advised on the progress in implementing the new Welsh Assembly Government Reporting Framework for Social Services.

The Director referred to the previous system for reporting on Social Services performance which was overseen by the CSSIW on behalf of the Assembly Government which was the Annual Performance Evaluation Framework (PEF), the five yearly joint reviews and the ad hoc themed inspections. The ACRF replaced the PEF and Joint Review but ad hoc inspections would continue. This aimed to improve the timeliness and relevance

of public reporting on Social Services performance across Wales and to meet the requirements for the Annual Report from the Director of Social Services contained in recent guidance. The Director explained that the ACRF was to introduce a new approach to performance management in Social Services and would seek continuous improvement, and respond to regular feedback from service users and carers and be more evidence based. Guidance from the WLGA was outlined in paragraph 3.02 of the report.

The output would be the annual report which would include the overview report, and analysis current effectiveness, the evidence trail and service improvement plans. A project board had been established and the representation was set out in paragraph 3.04 of the report and would include the Policy, Performance and Partnerships Manager. The proposed timetable was set out in paragraph 3.05 and the briefing of Members and partners was currently being undertaken.

The Director then referred to the challenge phase which would be undertaken during February 2010 and this would include consultation with a broad spectrum of stakeholders and would include the Social and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Executive was asked to note that wider corporate involvement in the ACRF was needed and this included related services such as Lifelong Learning and Housing to contribute to performance information and to minimise duplication of effort by aligning the ACRF activity with the corporate performance management framework where possible. There would be planned involvement of the CSSIW during the development of the annual report and final approval of the report would be sought from CSSIW.

The Executive Member for Social Services welcomed the new framework and referred to previous comments made by Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Executive that the previous evaluation framework had been considering historic information from previous years. She also welcomed the wider corporate involvement and made reference to the Project Board and suggested that there should be Member involvement. In this regard, the Executive Member for Leisure and Public Protection proposed that Councillor Carol Ellis as the Executive Member for Social Services should be a Member of the project board, and this was agreed. In this regard, the Director of Community Services suggested that if the Executive Member was unable to undertake this role it was important that an Executive Member should be her replacement.

RESOLVED:

- a) that the new arrangements for reporting on Social Services performance be supported;
- b) that the proposed arranged for delivering the annual report be supported; and
- c) that Councillor Carol Ellis as the Executive Member for Social Services be nominated to be the Member representative on the Project Board.

156. 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:-

Corporate Services - award of insurance tender 2009

- Environment declaration of Dobshill Depot as surplus to requirements for depot accommodation
 - transfer of freehold of land 0.1 acres of public open space (at Elfed Drive, Buckley) from the current owner to the County Council

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

RESOLVED:

That to allow the consideration of a report which was considered to be exempt by virtue of paragraphs 12 and 15 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

157. REVIEW OF PERSONAL ASSISTANTS

The Chief Executive presented a report to seek agreement of the deletion of a post in Finance following the Finance Function Review and in order to progress with the review of personal assistants (PA) across the Authority.

RESOLVED:

That the deletion from the establishment of the post of Personal Assistant to the former Assistant Directors in Finance be approved.

158. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and ended at 11.22 am.

143. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were two members of the press in attendance.

Chairman

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

EXECUTIVE	DATE: 27 th October 2009	
MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
NO DECLARATIONS WERE MADE		