

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

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

Your Ref /
Eich Cyf

Our Ref / Ein Cyf GC

Date / Dyddiad 19/01/2010

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 **TUESDAY, 26 JANUARY 2010** 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 05/01/2010 (copy enclosed).

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REPORTS

STRATEGIC REPORTS

4. SCHOOL MODERNISATION - CONSIDERATION OF CONSULTATION
Report of the Director of Lifelong Learning - Portfolio of the Executive
Member for Education and Youth Services

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. OVERVIEW OF REPORTS REGARDING THE NORTH WALES RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT (NWRWTP)
Report of the Director of Environment and Chief Executive - Portfolio of the Executive Member for Waste Management and Strategy and Function
6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE - GUIDANCE CONSULTATION AND RESPONSE
Report of the Chief Executive - Portfolio of the Executive Member for Corporate Management and Strategy
7. RESPONSE TO THE WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT'S "A ROAD LESS TRAVELLED - A DRAFT GYPSY TRAVELLER STRATEGY"
Report of the Chief Executive - Portfolio of the Executive Member for Corporate Management and Strategy
8. SUPPORTING PEOPLE STRATEGY 2010-13
Report of the Director of Community Services - Portfolio of the Executive Member for Social Services and Executive Member for Housing Strategy and Planning

OPERATIONAL REPORTS

9. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2010/11
Report of the Head of Finance and Director of Community Services - Portfolio of the Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management and Executive Member for Housing Management and Function
10. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11
Report of the Head of Finance and Director of Community Services - Portfolio of the Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management
11. FOR INFORMATION
A copy of the Executive Forward Work Programme (months 11/09 to 04/10) together with an update are enclosed for information
12. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS
Report of the Chief Executive enclosed

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 the Paragraph(s) listed, of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

STRATEGIC REPORTS

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

13. CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV)
Report of the Director of Lifelong Learning - Portfolio of the Executive Member for Education and Youth Services

EXECUTIVE
5TH JANUARY 2010

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 5th January, 2010.

PRESENT: Councillor A. Woolley (Chairman)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors: J.B. Attridge, R.G. Hampson, R. Jones, R.P. Macfarlane, Mrs D. Mackie, D.I. Mackie, and C.A. Thomas.

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.

APOLOGY: Councillor H. Yale.

The Chairman welcomed Members to the first meeting of the Executive in the New Year and was pleased to report that Councillor Helen Yale had recently given birth to a baby girl.

216. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

217. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by Members.

218. ANNUAL LETTER FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 2008/09

The Executive Member for Corporate Management and Strategy introduced the Chief Executive's report on the Annual Letter of the appointed Auditor and Relationship Manager which summarised the work of Pricewaterhouse Coopers and the Wales Audit Office during 2009. This had been considered at the County Council meeting before Christmas but the Executive Member felt that there were certain aspects of the report which needed to be highlighted to illustrate the significant improvements which had been made in Council governance and performance. He made particular reference to the development control function which the Annual Letter reported as showing substantial improvement since its original review in 2007.

The Chief Executive explained that the Annual Letter had been reported to and accepted by the County Council at its special meeting held on 16th December but the Executive needed to be satisfied with the comprehensiveness of the response to the content and recommendations of the Annual Letter and a copy of

the summary management response was appended to the report. The findings of the Regulators were positive and built on the progress made over recent years.

The Executive Member for Waste Management, Strategy and Function welcomed the regulators' comments that the Council had engaged effectively with and provided leadership for the North Wales Regional Partnerships resulting in good progress being made towards procurement of regional waste treatment facilities.

The Executive Member for Education and Youth Services referred to the regulators' comments on the Estyn inspection and was pleased to report on the considerable progress that had been made including the School Modernisation Strategy, working with schools and the report to be considered later on the agenda in respect of the Pupil Referral Unit developments.

The Executive Member for Social Services referred to the comments on the children safeguarding arrangements and to the significant amount of work that had been completed since the Annual Letter had been received and made particular reference to the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and the management response to the content and recommendations of the Annual Letter be endorsed.

219. DRAFT DISABILITY EQUALITY SCHEME 2009 - 2012

The Executive Member for Corporate Management and Strategy introduced the report which presented the Draft Disability Equality Scheme 2009 – 2012 for approval and thanked the Policy Officer Equalities for the work undertaken in drafting the scheme.

The Chief Executive explained that the report referred to the County Council producing its first Disability Equality Scheme in December 2006 and this report provided details on the progress made on the implementation of the scheme and presented the strategy for the three years 2009 – 2012. In response to a question by the Chairman on the financial implications and that a further report would be submitted to the Executive detailing the cost implications of implementing the scheme, the Chief Executive explained that he expected that a report would be made back to the Executive within three months.

RESOLVED

- (a) That Flintshire's Draft Disability Equality Scheme be approved;
- (b) That the actions contained within the Disability Equality Scheme be approved; and
- (c) That robust systems being in place within each Directorate to further the Disability Equality Scheme, be supported.

220. 2009 RESIDENTS' SURVEY

The Chief Executive presented a report which provided Members with the findings of the 2009 Residents' Survey. He thanked all those residents that had completed and returned the questionnaires and referred to the 37% response rate compared to the 35% rate in 2007. A summary extract of the Flintshire Residents' Survey report was attached as an appendix to the report and the full report was available in the Members' Library and on the Council's website.

The Chief Executive referred to the considerations of the report and made reference to the satisfaction with living in Flintshire which remained unchanged since 2007 with 75% of residents being satisfied. However, the top rating of "very satisfied" had increased from 26% in 2007 to 35% in 2009. Improvement areas that had been identified were the removal of dog fouling, the physical condition of roads and pavements and the provision of more Council litter bins. 88% of residents were either very or fairly satisfied with the collection of their household waste and satisfaction with kerbside recycling ranged from 71% for brown bin collection, 77% for blue bag collection and 80% for blue box collection.

The Chief Executive then referred to the survey which had asked residents for their perceptions of how good they believed the Council was at dealing with its customers. He was pleased to report that the survey showed that satisfaction with the attitude of staff had increased from 72% in 2007 to 84% in 2009; the ability of staff to direct the enquiry to the right area had increased from 67% to 77%; the ease of contact with the Council had increased from 77% to 84%. In response to the question as to how well the Council kept residents informed about services, 65% said they were either very or fairly well informed compared against 59% in 2007.

The Chief Executive welcomed the findings of the survey which would provide valuable information and data to be considered in greater detail to more accurately target areas for future improvement. A press release would be issued on the survey and those residents who had responded to the survey would be written to individually.

RESOLVED

That the findings of the report by BMG research be received.

221. PHYSICAL TRAFFIC CALMING

The Executive Member for Environment and Regeneration and Tourism referred to the Director of Environments' report. He recognised the urgent need for a new policy, however, there was a need for clarification of the terminology in the proposed policy and he therefore proposed that the report be deferred for further review prior to it being submitted to the Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

RESOLVED

That the report be reviewed and referred to the Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

222. DEESIDE LEISURE CENTRE

The Executive Member for Leisure and Public Protection and Clean Team Activity introduced the Director of Lifelong Learning's report which provided an update on the present position regarding Deeside Leisure Centre and the actions taken to seek a development partner. The Executive Member thanked the team for the work undertaken on this project and particularly the Finance Team. The final stage of the process would be the presentation by each of the companies of their proposals to a meeting of Members and Officers scheduled for 21st January, 2010. It had been agreed that the Executive Member for Environment and Regeneration and Tourism together with a Member from the Labour Group be invited to attend this meeting.

The Director of Lifelong Learning referred to the Leisure Strategy which had recognised the importance of Deeside Leisure Centre and the importance of renewing its facilities. This was a major facility for both the County and regionally and this had been recognised by the quality/standing of the companies which had expressed an interest in the project.

The Chief Executive restated the commitment to refurbishment/remodelling Deeside Leisure Centre. He also referred to recent media coverage on the project and confirmed that there had always been an assumption that there would be some use of surplus land at the site to generate a capital receipt.

RESOLVED

That the report be received and that the procurement process leading up to the identified presentations on 21st January, 2010 be approved.

223. SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2011

The Executive Member for Education and Youth Services introduced the Director of Lifelong Learning's report which sought authority to commence the Statutory Annual Consultation on the admission arrangements to apply from September 2011. He reminded the Executive that the Local Authority was required each year to undertake an annual statutory consultation exercise on its admission arrangements for the following year. He referred to the Council's policy regarding nursery admissions which was amended by the Council the previous year. This would take effect for September 2010 nursery admissions and the impact of the changing policy would be monitored.

The Executive Member referred to some Members concerns on the County Council's Transport Policy which although separate from admissions could be an influential factor in determining parental preference. The implementation of the Transport Policy was currently being examined in detail with the Members concerned in order to resolve these issues.

The Director of Lifelong Learning referred to the school admission arrangements and the statutory annual consultation before submission of a report to the Executive and then the County Council to approve admission arrangements by 15th April, 2010. As mentioned by the Executive Member, work was being undertaken with individual Members on transport issues. In conclusion, he reported that Flintshire was very successful in meeting parental preferences first choice.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the proposed admission arrangements for September 2010 as set out in the report, be used as the basis for consultation; and
- (b) That a report on the outcome of the consultation be presented to the Executive and subsequently to the County Council in order that the admission arrangements are determined by 15th April, 2010.

224. PROPOSED FLINTSHIRE HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

The Leader welcomed Councillor David Mackie to the meeting of the Executive and explained that he was “standing in” for Councillor Helen Yale. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services explained the position and provisions in the Constitution. The Constitution was silent on the provision of deputies for Executive Members. Accordingly, he explained that only Members appointed by the Leader could make executive decisions. He indicated that Councillor David Mackie had been asked by the Leader to assist the Executive Member and the Executive and to attend meetings which would normally be attended by Councillor Helen Yale.

The Director of Community Services presented the report with an update on the proposed establishment of a Flintshire Housing Partnership. She referred to a contribution of the Executive Member for Environment and Regeneration and Tourism as there was a strong connection between his portfolio and the Housing Management and Function Portfolio.

The establishment of a Flintshire Housing Partnership would close a key gap in partnership arrangements in place within the County and the formation of a Partnership would assist both the County Council and the wider Local Service Board (LSB) to meet their responsibilities. The establishment of a Partnership would create a forum for consultation on a broad range of strategic housing matters including the provision of affordable homes, housing renewal and regeneration and would provide opportunities for constructive dialogue with key representatives of the housing and related sectors active in Flintshire.

The Director emphasised that the membership of the Partnership would be extended to include the key representatives of the housing sector within Flintshire. The proposed membership was set out in paragraph 3.04 of the report and this would include participation from other appropriate organisations where particular expertise may be required. The draft terms of reference was attached as an appendix to the report.

The Executive Member for Environment and Regeneration and Tourism moved the recommendations of the report. He also reported that he would be meeting with the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council following the meeting of the Executive to progress the partnership.

The Chairman in seconding the recommendation referred to the anti-poverty impact in the report and the need to give consideration to affordable housing.

RESOLVED

That the establishment of the Flintshire Housing Partnership be supported.

225. HOUSING RESIDENT WARDENS IN SHELTERED HOUSING

Councillor D. Mackie introduced the Director of Community Services report which presented further work on the implementation of the County Council's recent decision on the practice of contracting resident wardens as service tenants. He reminded the Executive that a previous report had been considered at its meeting on 17th November and had been the subject of a Scrutiny Call-In with further consideration at the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1st December. This was then considered by the County Council on 17th December and had resolved that "the practice of contracting resident wardens as service tenants is ended, were appropriate, with full consultation on all alternative models of service delivery with Members who are affected".

The Executive Member for Social Services formally moved the recommendations of the report and thanked the Director for a report which clarified any concerns that Members may have had. It was also intended that the sheltered housing wardens role would be developed and improved; that their right to housing be maintained; that residents to have an enhanced service and to expand the service eventually.

The Director of Community Services thanked the Executive Members for their support and emphasised that the report was as a result of a committed team and contained the best professional advice on how to implement the County Council's decision. She reported that there were 69 designated sheltered housing schemes in Flintshire, 43 of which were supported by resident wardens living on site and it was these 43 schemes which now need to be considered in the light of the County Council's decision.

The Director reported that a consultation process would be undertaken and this would be on a scheme by scheme basis to ensure that the needs of each local situation were taken into account. A report on the outcome of the individual scheme consultation would be provided by the respective Neighbourhood Housing Manager. The outcome report would be considered by the Head of Housing and the Executive Member and a decision made on the service model to be followed. The appendix to the report provided a draft policy on defining employees rights to housing following cessation of a service tenancy arrangement; this was being discussed with Human Resources and set out what had been undertaken informally for a number of years.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the approach outlined in the report to the review of service tenancies following consultation as set out in the report be endorsed;
- (b) That the proposed procedure for dealing with housing needs of former service tenants be endorsed; and
- (c) That the Executive receives regular progress reports on the outcomes being achieved.

226. PLAYGROUPS IN FLINTSHIRE

The Chairman of the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Councillor R.P. Macfarlane) presented a report on the findings and recommendations of the Playgroup Funding Task Group. He referred to the work of the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Task Group and the support received from Officers. The report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees Playgroup Funding Task Group was appended to the report and whilst this was shown as “draft” it had in fact been adopted by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Macfarlane referred to the changing role of playgroups and to the benefits to young children who attended them. There was a question over their sustainability as they operated in a number of properties and there was a need for certainty on funding and security of tenure. He had pleasure in moving the recommendations of the report which sought Executive approval to the 12 recommendations contained in the Funding Task Groups report.

The Chairman thanked Members of the Task Group for the work undertaken. The Executive Member for Education and Youth Services also welcomed the report and expressed his appreciation of the work undertaken. He was prepared to accept the recommendations but with a caveat in relation to recommendation (II) to the effect that accommodation charges should not be subsidised through the Youth Service.

The Director of Lifelong Learning recognised the importance of early years education and the recommendations linked with the wider work of the School Modernisation Strategy. The Executive Member for Social Services referred to the role of the Children and Young Peoples Partnership and suggested that the report should be submitted for their perusal and the Director, as Chairman of the Partnership, agreed to undertake this request.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations be approved with a caveat in relation to recommendation (II) to the effect that accommodation charges should not be subsidised through the Youth Service.

227. IMPROVEMENT TARGETS REVIEW

The Executive Member for Corporate Management and Strategy introduced the Chief Executive's report and referred to work undertaken the previous day by the Policy, Performance and Partnership Manager and the Vice Chairman of the People and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Councillor R. Jones) which the Chief Executive would make further reference to.

The Chief Executive explained that the report summarised the current position. He referred to the Annual Letter which had been considered earlier in the meeting which had made reference to business processes and the report set out the reclassification of the Council's Improvement Targets. The following targets were included within the Improvement Agreement with the Welsh Assembly Government and these remain as Improvement Targets and were HLS/010a; SCA/007; SCA/042a and SCA/042b. There was also a need to develop specific action plans with end dates for each improvement target. This was recognised as work in progress.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations be agreed subject to the addition of the words "in a consistent format included in the service plans for 2010/11" at the end of the six bullet points in recommendation (a).

228. MID YEAR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE – SUMMARY

The Chief Executive presented a report for the Executive to receive a mid year overview of the progress of the Strategic Partnerships and the priorities for each of the Strategic Partnerships and the key milestones for the year ahead. The report provided a summary of the aims and achievements and he referred to the Flintshire Housing Partnership considered earlier in the meeting which would be included in future performance reports.

RESOLVED

That the mid year review of the Strategic Partnerships be noted and the key priorities and the work programmes to achieve them be supported.

229. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10 (MONTH 7)

The Head of Finance presented a report which provided the most up to date revenue budget monitoring information at month 7 for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account in 2009/10. The details of the month 7 report had been taken into account as a base for the budget proposals for the financial year 2010/11.

Members were asked to note the projected position at month 7 which provided a net overspend of £0.322m for the General Fund which compared to an overspend of £0.260m at month 7. The Housing Revenue Account was showing a net overspend of £0.434m which compared with £0.550m at month 6. Section 3.05

of the report provided details of the risks and assumptions that had been taken into consideration and provided further information on each area.

The Head of Finance referred to un-earmarked reserves and to work on the financial effects of phase 1 of the organisational redesign which had been completed and had resulted in additional requirement of £0.091m from the contingency reserve. Work had also been undertaken to assess the initial impact of the phase 2 reviews that were underway. Based on current information the one off costs identified totalled £0.888m and the efficiencies resulting from these one off costs would be built into the overall base budget from 2010/11 and beyond. It was recommended that an allocation of £0.025m was made to enable a feasibility study to be undertaken in relation to Clwyd Theatr Cymru Service Review. Appendix 6 to the report detailed the movements to date on un-earmarked reserves and the level of contingency sum available for allocation by the Executive. As a result of these movements, the current estimated amount available in the contingency reserve at 31st March 2010 was £0.718m. This reserve was specifically set aside to meet organisational redesign and modernisation of services, Invest to Save initiatives and additional costs on ringfenced and/or volatile budgets.

The Head of Finance referred to the programme of efficiencies and that the 2009/10 budget contained a number of specific efficiencies and an unspecified £1.0m efficiency target. Appendix 8 to the report showed the progress made against the achievement of and inclusive of this target. The total amount of efficiencies to be achieved in 2009/10 was £4.441m of which £4.046m had either already been achieved or was projected to be achieved at this stage. The £4.441m was made up of £2.803m in the original budget and a further £1.638m identified in a report to Executive on 21 April 2009. The £1.638m provided detail of the £1m which was unspecified in the 2009/10 budget plus a further £0.638m of efficiencies. From the remaining efficiencies of £0.395m, £0.274m had been included as a pressure in the budget proposals reported to the Executive on 22nd December, 2009 with the remaining £0.121m of efficiencies deemed achievable in 2010/11 through Service Reviews and other management action. It was explained that the figures in appendix 8 demonstrated that £1m efficiency target had been exceeded by £0.541m in year and this was in the base budget.

The Chief Executive referred to appendix 8 of the report and to the achievement of exceeding £1m efficiency targets. He then referred to the reference to winter maintenance and that the cost of this service would be met with no budget "cap" imposed.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the overall report be noted;
- (b) That the allocation of £0.025m in respect to the Clwyd Theatr Cymru review be approved;
- (c) That the General Fund contingency sum available as at 31st March, 2010 be noted; and

- (d) That the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account be noted.

230. FLINTSHIRE'S PORTFOLIO PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT – DEVELOPMENTS

The Executive Member for Education and Youth Services introduced the Director of Lifelong Learning's report, on developments with the structure and management of Flintshire's Portfolio Pupil Referral Unit.

The Executive Member referred to the inspection of the Unit in December 2008 and to a number of recommendations which were being addressed and further reports would be made to the Executive in due course but the report made reference to two recommendations which needed to be addressed at this stage. Particular reference was made to inconsistencies in the quality of accommodation identified by the inspection team which were as a result of the closure of the Llwyn Onn site in Holywell and the Referral Unit temporary location to Arosfa, Mold and the inadequacies of the room hired at the Daniel Owen Centre, Mold. The unit had been temporarily relocated to the site of the now closed Ysgol Delyn, Mold pending the Pupil Referral Unit Commissioning Strategy envisaged in the wider School Modernisation Strategy.

The Director of Lifelong Learning referred to the School Modernisation Strategy and work being undertaken to provide adequate environments and the new special schools had provided excellent facilities. Further work was needed for other user groups such as the Pupil Referral Units and this was an interim report before the first Commissioning Strategy was reported.

RESOLVED

That the temporary use of the Ysgol Delyn site as an element of the Flintshire Portfolio Pupil Referral Unit, pending completion of the wider Commissioning Strategy, be approved.

231. NOMINATIONS PROCESSES FOR LEA GOVERNORS

The Executive Member for Education and Youth Services presented the Director of Lifelong Learning's report, the purpose of which was to consider the Nomination Processes for LEA Governor appointments in schools. However, in view of a number of concerns expressed he asked that this report be withdrawn, reviewed and referred to the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration purposes and for a further report to be made back to the Executive in due course.

RESOLVED

That the report be withdrawn, reviewed and referred to the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration purposes.

232. 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 set out below:-

Chief Executive – approval of application to the Community Chest 2009/10 – Round 2.

Lifelong Learning – Greenfield Valley Heritage Park – charges for 2010 season.

Community Services – approval of a temporary post of Accounts Payable and Received Officer to undertake duties arising from the transfer of responsibilities from the former Education, Children’s Services and Recreation Directorate (temporary post pending the outcome of the Corporate Finance Review).

233. 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 exempt information by virtue of paragraphs 12 and 15 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

234. NORTH EAST WALES SCHOOLS LIBRARY SERVICE – PROPOSED NEW STAFFING STRUCTURE

The Executive Member for Education and Youth Services presented the Director of Lifelong Learning’s report which advised on the need to restructure the North East Wales School Library Service and to seek approval to declare two posts redundant and to create one new post.

RESOLVED

- (a) That authority be given to the proposal to restructure the North East Wales Schools Library Service as outlined in the report;
- (b) That approval be given to declare two posts redundant; and
- (c) That approval be given to create one new post.

235. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and ended at 11.05 am.

236. 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: 5th JANUARY 2010
------------------	--

MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
NO DECLARATIONS WERE MADE		

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4

REPORT TO: **EXECUTIVE**
DATE : **26 JANUARY 2010**
REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING**
SUBJECT : **SCHOOL MODERNISATION - CONSIDERATION OF**
 CONSULTATION

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To inform members of the response to the consultation on the draft School modernisation Strategy.
- 1.02 To approve the School Modernisation Strategy for Flintshire.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The Executive approved the draft School Modernisation Strategy for consultation at the meeting held on 27 October 2009. One recommendation of the report was the commissioning of a period of consultation on the school organisation policy and decision making criteria.

A series of consultation meetings has been held for stakeholders, including Elected Members, Schools, Governors, Trades Unions, Diocesan Authorities and Council staff. Town and Community Councils were also asked for their comments. The strategy has been widely available and published on the Flintshire website as a consultation document.

The November meeting of the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee focused solely on the draft strategy, and made specific recommendations. Further consideration was given to issues raised during consultation meetings at the December meeting.

Responses at the meetings were noted and consultees informed that written responses could be received until mid-January 2010.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 At the consultation events, consultees were broadly in support of the principles and strategy to review, renew and rationalise current educational provision.

Comment was made in a number of meetings that the existing strategy had been drawn up in 2004, but had not been fully implemented. A key observation was that implementation of a new strategy document should involve early review and action to rationalise and improve educational

Date: 19/01/2010

provision. It should also bring about stability and sustainability for the education system going forward.

Few written comments have been received to date. However, all written responses have been placed in the members' library. The common themes of the responses relate to the challenge of providing schools that are 'fit for purpose', the issues surrounding the improvement of the learning environment at a time when financial uncertainties exist for the future, and the need to factor in any demographic changes into the review process.

Clearly this stage of consultation relates to the generic strategy document, and not to the more focused reviews of specific schools. It is recommended that members commission local area reviews in line with the practice outlined in the draft School Modernisation Strategy.

Scrutiny comments are contained in the minutes of the meeting of 5th November 2009, and include recognition of the need to review and renew school infrastructure, and:

- (a) that when areas are set for review, a prioritised area list should be compiled with cost per pupil and surplus places included in the mix of triggers for review ;
- (b) that areas should be reviewed through a more flexible rolling programme than two distinct phases;
- (c) That local groups be commissioned to assist with the development of a pattern of schooling as part of area reviews and that all local Members be involved in the process; and
- (d) That all secondary schools be included in the first phase of the review to address pressing challenges with regard to post 16 education.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee suggested that in place of the two distinct phases for proposed reviews, a 'rolling programme' of review should be implemented. This would allow greater flexibility within an overall programme to match available capital and revenue resources with need. It would reduce the risk of identifying necessary work without resources for completion. This recommendation has received support in subsequent discussions with partner organisations.

The draft School Modernisation Strategy has been updated to include recommendations from Scrutiny and consultation with service partners. The revised strategy is set out at Appendix 1.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That the Executive receive the comments made in response to the draft School Modernisation Strategy document and the recommendations from the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

4.02 Executive approve the amended Strategy; and

4.03 Executive commissions further local area review or school change reports in line with the School Modernisation Strategy.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 There are no financial implications relating to the approval of the document, however, individual projects brought forward as a result of area reviews will have a financial appraisal in line with the School Modernisation Strategy.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 Improvement in learning environments will have a positive impact on those schools which serve areas of deprivation. Compliance with local and national anti-poverty approaches will be part of the assessment of individual school change proposals.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 Any capital project brought about by the area reviews will be assessed individually in accordance with the Strategy.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 N/A

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 Personnel issues will be addressed with in accordance with Flintshire County Council HR policies.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Recommendation 4.03 and the Strategy set out arrangements for commissioning local consultation on school modernisation issues.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 See main report.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1: School Modernisation Strategy

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

Contact Officer: Tom Davies
Telephone: 01352 704180
E-Mail: tom_davies@flintshire.gov.uk

SCHOOL MODERNISATION STRATEGY

Content

Introduction

Part 1 Responsibility & Vision

1.1 School Modernisation Responsibility

1.2 School Modernisation Vision

Part 2: Modernisation of Schools

2.1 Learning & Achievement

2.2 Inclusion & Wellbeing

2.3 Workforce Development

2.4 Improved Learning Environments

2.5 Working in Partnership

Part 3 School Organisation Policy

3.1 Primary Education: All-through Schools

3.2 Primary Education: Small Schools

3.3 Primary Education: Federations

3.4 Primary Education: Area Schools

3.5 Secondary Education: 11-16

3.6 Secondary Education: Sixth Forms

3.7 Surplus Places

3.8 Underperforming Schools

3.9 Key Considerations in Decision making

Part 4: Programme Management & Phasing

4.1 Programme Governance

4.2 Programme Phasing

4.3 Programme Management

4.4 Financial Issues

Appendices:

1. Ministerial Decision Making Checklist

2. School Place Planning Areas in Flintshire

3. Revenue Resources

4. Background Documents

5. Performance Indicators

Introduction

Flintshire is committed to securing high quality learning opportunities for all.

Today's children have access to a wider range of educational experiences than ever before. We must ensure that our resources are deployed to prepare every child and young person with the skills and knowledge for today's world.

We face a challenge. The challenge is to ensure that our schools continue to provide an appropriate 'fit for purpose' environment at a time when there is limited money to deliver increasing expectations. Too many of our schools are also in inappropriate buildings that cannot meet the needs of current or future pupils and staff. Key issues that inform the debate are:

- the duty to provide sufficient school places in the right places;
- population forecasts indicating demographic changes affecting both urban and rural communities;
- raising educational standards through high quality teaching and learning and improving the learning environment;
- seeking to minimise the impact of transitions between different stages of education;
- local and national initiatives to make all school buildings "fit for purpose" and removing excessive surplus places;
- future financial settlements leaving decreasing financial room for manoeuvre;
- significant differences in the way schools were funded, with very small provision being disproportionately expensive;
- the breadth of educational and extra-curricular provision very small schools can provide;
- schools and their buildings being important to their communities, and being able to do more than provide education for children; and
- the challenge of refurbishment and renewal without sufficient money to replace, remodel or improve all adequate school buildings.

In its 2009 report on the strategic management of education in Flintshire, ESTYN identified tackling school modernisation as a key recommendation. Estyn recognised that considerable preparatory work had been undertaken over the last year, but that this needed to be followed through with key decisions in relation to some school communities.

The purpose of this document is to provide a policy framework in which schools and communities can engage in discussions to help identify solutions and options for change.

Part 1: Responsibility & Vision

1.1 School Modernisation Responsibility

All Local Authorities (LA) have a statutory responsibility under the Education Act 1996 '...to ensure that schools in its area are sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide education suitable for the different ages, abilities and aptitudes and special educational needs of pupils of school age.' The way in which the Council discharges this duty is crucial in ensuring that limited financial resources are spent to best effect. An effective educational infrastructure is vital to realise the Council's aims to improve educational standards and attainment.

The task involves:

- forecasting pupil numbers;
- managing the supply of school places;
- managing demand through admissions and appeals procedures;
- ensuring that a framework is in place to secure improvement through school organisational change;
- being prepared to take difficult decisions; and
- monitoring and evaluating the impact of decisions.

The current pattern of school provision is largely based on the demographic patterns of the past. There have been significant changes in recent years that have resulted in some schools being over-subscribed, whilst others have significant numbers of unfilled places.

The challenge for the Council is to provide the right number of places in the right locations. In responding to this challenge, the Council needs to make the best educational provision for its area, taking into account current provision, community issues, demographic factors, the conditions of schools buildings, surplus places and the quality of the teaching and learning environment.

Key issues that inform the debate are:

- the duty to provide sufficient school places in the right places;
- population forecasts indicating demographic changes affecting both urban and rural communities;
- raising educational standards through high quality teaching and learning and improving the learning environment;
- seeking to minimise the impact of transitions between different stages of education;
- local and national initiatives to make all school buildings “fit for purpose” and removing excessive surplus places;
- future financial settlements leaving decreasing financial room for manoeuvre;
- significant differences in the way schools are funded, with very small provision being disproportionately expensive;
- the breadth of educational and extra-curricular provision very small schools can provide;
- schools and their buildings being important to their communities, and being able to do more than provide education for children; and
- the challenge of refurbishment and renewal without sufficient money to replace, remodel or improve all inadequate school buildings.

An initial way forward to address the challenges would be to establish the Council's policy position on 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, considering the following options:

- removing temporary or unused accommodation;
- developing new school uses of surplus accommodation;
- developing community use of premises;
- non-school use of surplus accommodation;
- closure of part of a school; and
- federations, merging/amalgamating schools, and where appropriate, school closure.

1.2 School Modernisation Vision

Flintshire's educational vision is to secure high quality lifelong learning opportunities for all throughout life.

Our aspirations for learners consist of nine statements which form a coherent framework for learning which has been endorsed by schools and the local authority.

We aspire that all learners will:

- work in a physical and emotional environment, which enhances learning;
- learn with their mind, body and emotions;
- have fully meaningful learning experiences;
- experience learning in a variety of different situations, both structured and unstructured;
- experience learning which matches their academic, emotional and social needs;
- have lifelong learning attitudes and skills integrated into their learning;
- have opportunities to be involved as partners in learning with the wider community;
- have the broadest range of their achievements valued and recognised; and
- have their range of achievements assessed in a constructive way.

The vision and aspirations serve to provide:

- a shared sense of direction for learning providers and partners in Flintshire;
- a challenge to move learning from 'good' to excellent; and
- a foundation for future policy and strategy development.

In order to deliver the vision and aspirations we have developed the School Modernisation Strategy. The Strategy requires delivery of five key themes. They are summarised as follows:

Learning & Achievement

Children and young people in Flintshire will develop essential life skills, a strong desire for lifelong learning and be very well prepared for the world of work. All children and young people will be supported to progress through transition between different phases and settings. Every child and young person will be entitled to a learning programme that will be personalised to make the most of his or her abilities. Children and young people will learn in an exciting and innovative range of

styles and settings. These will include vocational, enterprise, voluntary, spiritual, cultural and sporting learning experiences. School organisation will provide opportunities for Welsh and English medium provision, and also faith provision.

Inclusion & Wellbeing

Partners will work together to deliver sufficient excellent provision for all children and young people. Barriers to learning will be addressed to enable all to achieve to their potential. Schools and other learning providers will provide a range of well planned community focused services for families. They will play an important role in promoting community cohesion, wellbeing, inclusion and diversity. Partners will be committed to ensuring that the emotional, social and physical needs of children are fully met.

Workforce Development

The high quality of Flintshire's learning provision will be secured through attracting and retaining the best professionals. Flintshire will be a leader in the professional development of its learning workforce. Creative succession planning will inspire talented professionals to become senior leaders. Governors will be supported to fulfil their key leadership role in shaping the future of learning in their communities.

Improved Learning Environments

Our modernisation programmes will deliver high quality environments that inspire users to learn. In new school buildings and refurbishments we will endeavour to deliver:

- buildings and grounds that are welcoming to both the school and the community whilst providing adequate security;
- good organisation of learning spaces that are easily “legible” and fully accessible;
- internal spaces that are well proportioned, fit for purpose and meet the needs of the curriculum;
- flexible design to allow for short-term changes of layout and use, and for long-term expansion or contraction;
- good environmental conditions throughout, including optimum levels of natural light and ventilation for different activities;
- well-designed external spaces offering a variety of different settings for leisure, learning and sport;
- a sustainable approach to design, construction and environmental servicing; and
- good use of the site, balancing the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and cars and enhancing the school's presence in the community.

Working in Partnership

The School Modernisation Strategy will provide a common sense of direction among partners. It will enable them to embrace change and engage effectively with government at all levels. The Local Authority will ensure that there are local opportunities to discuss school modernisation with a clear focus on ensuring sustainable high standards. Parents, children and young people will play a key role in decision making, and in the delivery of high quality learning across the county. Partners will work together to find innovative ways of providing mentoring to ensure that children and young people benefit from the wide range of individual and group learning opportunities available.

Part 2: Key Considerations

2.1 Learning & Achievement

Our aim is that children and young people in Flintshire will develop essential life skills, a strong desire for lifelong learning and be very well prepared for the world of work. All children and young people will be supported to progress through transition between different phases and settings. Every child and young person will be entitled to a learning programme that will be personalised to make the most of his or her abilities. Children and young people will learn in an exciting and innovative range of styles and settings. These will include vocational, enterprise, voluntary, spiritual, cultural and sporting learning experiences. School organisation will provide opportunities for Welsh and English medium provision, and also faith provision.

Standards

Figures show that the education system is performing at or above most key national indicators. They also show an improving trend over the tabulated period. There are, however, some significant differences in outcomes between individual schools. The schools and the Council are working effectively in partnership to improve outcomes.

In order to continue to progress, schools and the Council need to:

- in a context of annual budget pressures, ensure that all resources available to schools are focused on improving outcomes for children and young people;
- implement an agreed consistent approach to the collection, analysis and usage of information (knowing where every child is in terms of their learning);
- share consistent guidance on the range of support available (bespoke packages dependent on need) with rigorous monitoring to ensure that advice and support is acted upon and is achieving the desired outcome;
- use consistent and effective tracking systems so that any amendments in support can be made as quickly as possible (knowing the progress of every child);
- value learners and learning by improving learning environments that are “fit for purpose” and capable of supporting children’s future educational needs; and
- continuing commitment to the professional development of school staff.

	CORE SUBJECT INDICATOR RESULTS 2000-2008						5+ GCSE A* - C	
	KS1		KS2		KS3		KS4	
Year	Flintshire	Wales	Flintshire	Wales	Flintshire	Wales	Flintshire	Wales
2000	80.2	80.0	65.5	63.8	51.6	49.1	50.4	49.1
2001	80.4	80.9	71.2	68.1	51.2	50.8	47.4	49.8
2002	80.3	80.4	69.8	69.6	54.6	52.5	50.9	56.5
2003	79.6	79.4	69.6	70.6	56.0	54.4	53.0	51.1
2004	79.9	80.1	73.5	71.9	63.1	56.9	53.4	51.4
2005	81.1	80.9	72.1	74.3	64.7	58.3	55.2	52.2
2006	82.4	80.6	75.1	74.2	60.7	58.2	56.8	53.8
2007	81.6	80.1	73.3	74.1	62.4	56.7	53.0	54.2
2008	80.7	80.0	77.9	75.5	64.6	59.6	57.0	56.0

2008 RESULTS BY SUBJECT

Subject	KEY STAGE 1 2008		KEY STAGE 2 2008		KEY STAGE 3 2008		5 GCSE A*-C 2008	
	Flintshire	Wales	Flintshire	Wales	Flintshire	Wales	Flintshire	Wales
English	84.8	82.4	81.9	79.8	75.7	69.5	62.0	61.0
Welsh	92.7	88.5	81.7	77.0	61.4	72.3	37.0	41.0
Maths	87.0	86.8	84	81.3	76.7	72.5	50.0	51.0
Science	90.6	89.7	88.6	85.6	78.2	73.7	63.0	59.0

At Key Stage 1 the CSI (Core Subject Indicator) for Flintshire over the past four years has been consistently above the All Wales averages. At Key Stage 2 the trend is in the main above the All Wales % average.

In 2008 the % of pupils achieving at least the expected level in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 was higher than the All Wales averages in all core subjects of English, maths, science and the CSI (Core Subject Indicator).

In Key Stage 1 this placed Flintshire in =9th position for the Core Subject Indicator out of the 22 Local Authorities in Wales and in 5th position in Key Stage 2 moving the Local Authority into the Upper Quartile. KS1 and KS2 has improved over time, but with the greatest improvement at KS2.

General improvement priorities for the Primary phase include:

- developing basic and key skills across the curriculum;
- promoting the wellbeing of children, including Children and Young People's Plan implementation, Healthy Schools and Appetite for Life agendas);
- implementation of the School Effectiveness Framework; and
- developing community focused schooling and out of school activities.

These are all a key part of School Modernisation. Specific priorities for improving outcomes in the Primary phase fall under three priority areas:

- improving attainment;
- improving pedagogy; and
- improving leadership and management.

Improving attainment involves:

- raising standards in the Foundation Phase/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2;
- monitoring, supporting and challenging school improvement plans;
- increasing the value added for all pupils in terms of attainment; and
- increasing the number of schools in the top two quartiles for outcomes.

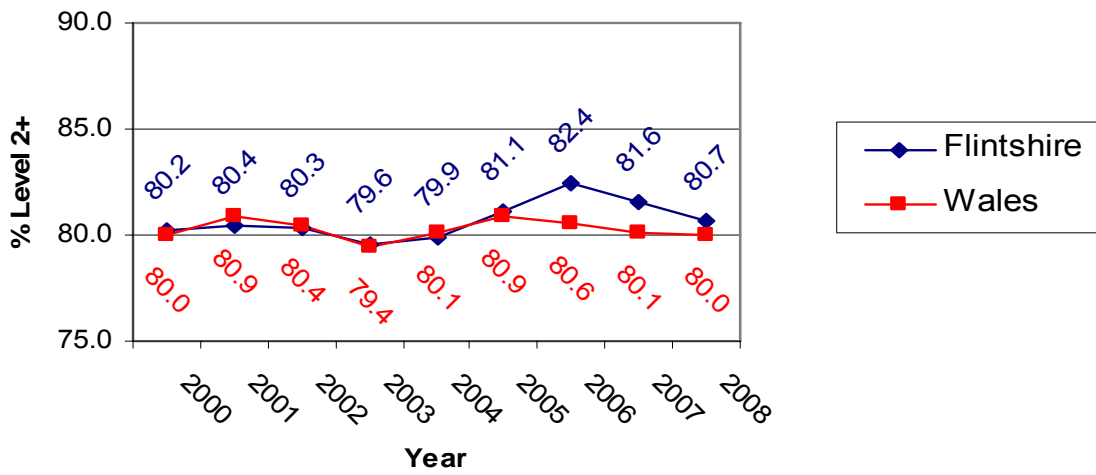
Improving pedagogy involves:

- introducing curriculum content and pedagogy that will raise attainment and at the same time increase pupils' wellbeing and self-esteem (including Foundation Phase and the Skill-based Curriculum for Key Stage 2);
- facilitating effective transition from the Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2 and from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3;
- ensuring that schools are "fit for purpose" to meet changing educational needs;
- further development of the more able and talented programme;
- increasing bilingualism through the Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2; and
- monitoring of the accuracy of end of Key Stage data and the use of data by schools.

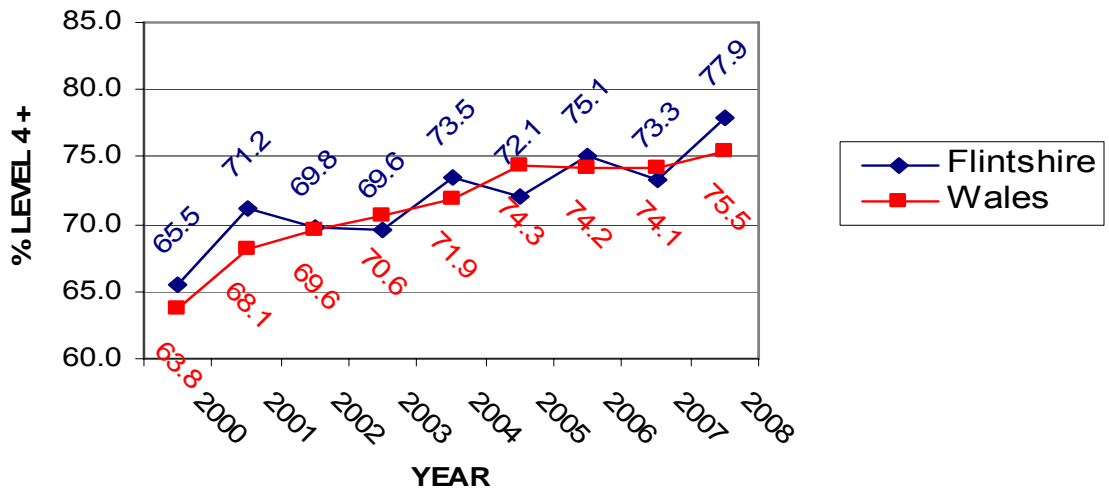
Improving school leadership and management involves:

- continuing induction arrangements for new headteachers through the PHIP programme;
- continuing leadership training through Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher Conferences and Inset;
- developing programmes and methods which will prepare headteachers and aspiring headteachers for leadership and management in the 21st century;
- supporting effective liaison between schools, school improvement, business support services and school organisation functions; and
- developing the strategic management capacity of Governing Bodies.

KEY STAGE 1 CSI RESULTS 2000 to 2008



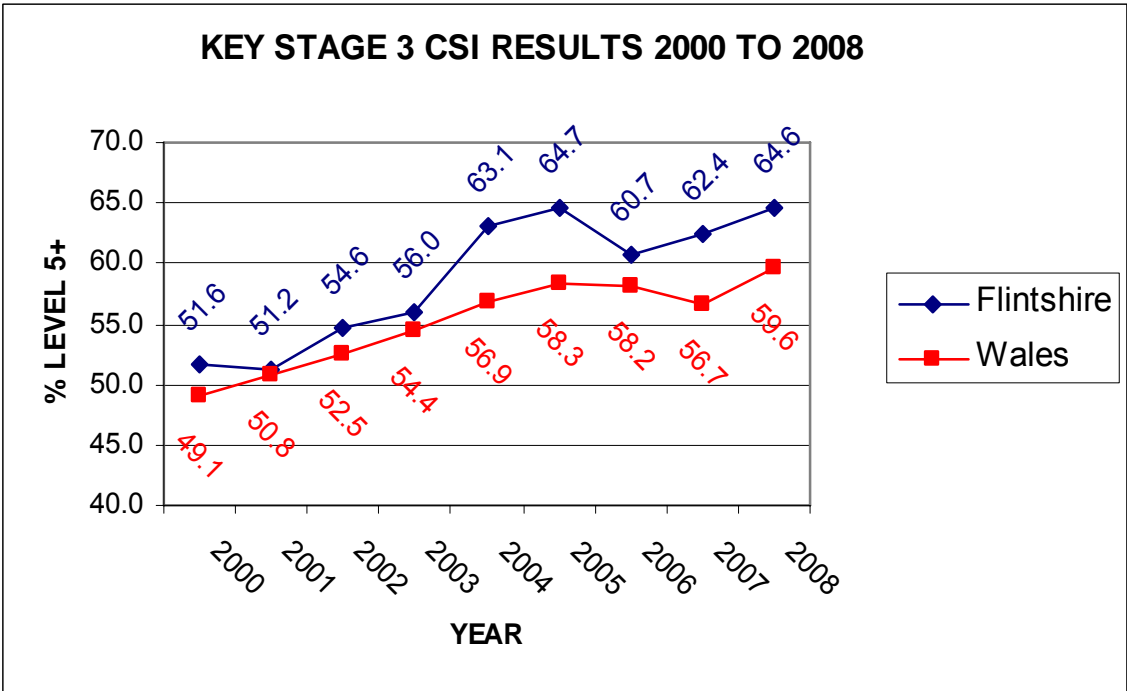
KEY STAGE 2 CSI RESULTS 2000 TO 2008



At Key Stage 3 the CSI (Core Subject Indicator) for Flintshire has been consistently above the All Wales average in recent years, with the Flintshire figure of 64.6% of learners achieving the CSI in 2008 compared to 59.6% across the whole of Wales.

The trend of performance of learners in Flintshire schools has also been upward, with a temporary downturn in performance only in 2006 and 2007 when figures reflected Teacher Assessment rather than results of tests for the first time.

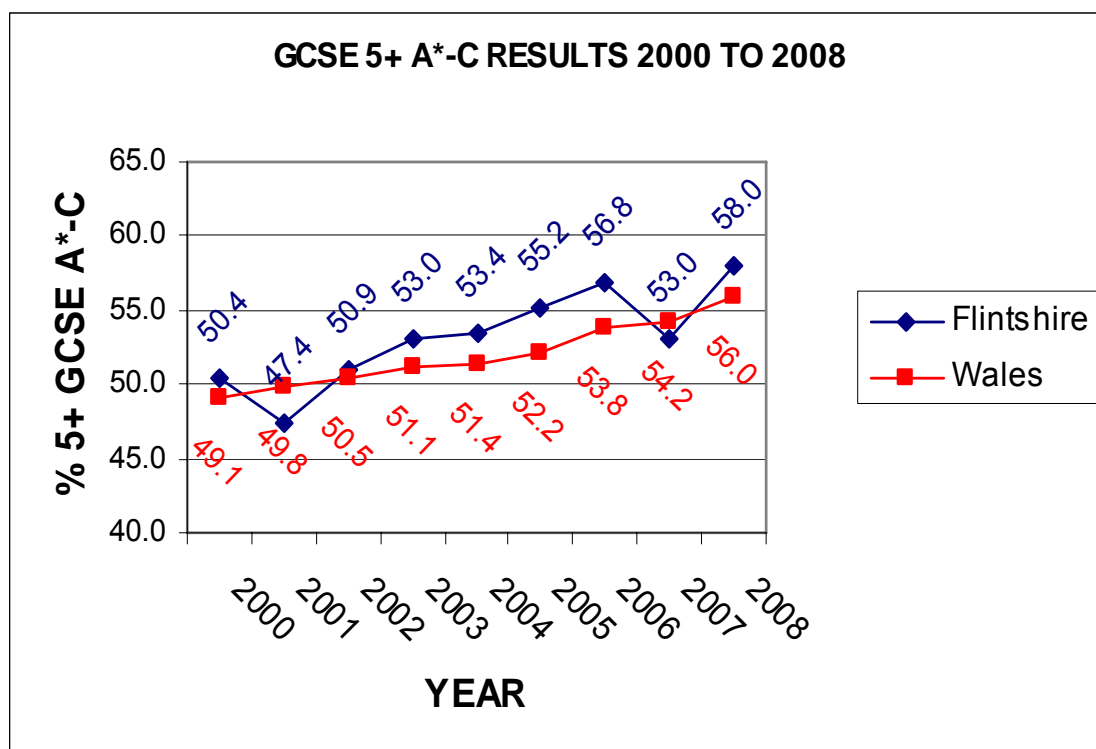
Results in the individual Core subjects at Key Stage 3 are also above All Wales averages with 75.7% of learners achieving Level 5 or above at Key Stage 3 in English in 2008 compared to an All Wales figure of 69.5%. In Mathematics, 76.7% of learners in Flintshire achieved Level 5 or above in 2008, compared to 72.5% for Wales and in Science the equivalent figures were Flintshire 78.2% and Wales 73.7%.



At Key Stage 4, the trend of performance of learners in Flintshire in the key GCSE 5A*-C indicator is upwards in recent years and with only one exception, in 2007, the performance of learners in Flintshire is above that of learners in Wales as a whole in all years since 2002.

Flintshire learners have also performed well in recent years within the GCSE 5A*-G indicator, with the figure of 90% of learners achieving in this indicator in 2008 being in line with performance in recent years and comparing to a Wales average of 86% in 2008.

Figures for the percentage of learners achieving the CSI at Key Stage 4 also show a generally upward trend in recent years, with the Flintshire figure of 43% in 2008 compared to 41% for Wales as a whole.



Priorities for improvement in the secondary sector include:

- supporting schools, including implementing the School Effectiveness Framework (SEF), local authority partnership agreements, the new inspection framework, measuring the impact of school improvement support and developing the schools' intranet;
- supporting partnership working, by developing collaborative working between schools;
- supporting workforce remodelling, including the implications of school modernisation and implementing "rarely cover" requirements;
- developing school self-evaluation, through common approaches, identifying good practice and boosting use of data;
- developing teaching and learning, through developing skills, the Key Stage 3 strategy, the more able and talented programme and the pedagogy framework;
- developing inclusion, through reviews of the Behaviour Support Service and funding for children with additional learning needs;
- extending opportunities through the Children and Young People's University and the review of the School Library Service;
- developing curriculum themes of wellbeing, respecting others and bilingualism;
- supporting middle leader development; and
- making progress is ensuring that more school environments are "fit for purpose", value learning and are capable of meeting curriculum delivery needs in the 21st century;
- developing provision in accordance with the agreed 14-19 strategy to ensure effective delivery of the Curriculum offer; and
- to examine the delivery of Key Stages in schools to ensure efficient delivery of a broad curriculum to students.

Post 16

Analysis of A level results in Flintshire over the past six years has shown that the percentage of students achieving at least two passes is at or above the Welsh average. The percentage of students achieving at least two passes at A* to C is lower than the Welsh average. The average points score is also slightly lower in Flintshire than the Welsh average.

Preliminary analysis for 2009 indicates improvement on 2008, with 98.7% passes compared to 98.3% in Flintshire in 2008 and 97.6% across Wales in both years. 79.4% of all Flintshire entries resulted in top (A-C) grades, a significant increase on the figure of 75.2% at the same stage last year. 23.7% of Flintshire WJEC entries resulted in A Grades compared to 18% in 2008, but just below the 2009 figure of 25.0% across Wales as a whole. The improvement trend is greatest amongst the larger sixth forms in Flintshire.

The Council has a work programme agreed with the Welsh Assembly Government focused on transforming education and training provision in Flintshire. Key challenges include:

- widening the options available for students;
- reducing unnecessary duplication of provision by increased levels of collaborative working and reorganisation; and
- moving to excellence across all providers, by improving the quality of provision and students' learning experience.

Transformation work needs to focus on:

- an improvement in levels of basic skills;
- an increase in the rate of participation in education, training and employment of 16 to 18 year olds;
- an increase in the rate of participation in education, training and employment of 19 to 24 year olds;
- an increase in overall learner success rates, reflecting higher levels of learner completion as well as the achievement of qualification aims; and
- an increase in progression to higher level learning and employment.

These challenges are being addressed at a time in which the funding mechanism for post 16 education is coming under particular pressure.

Progress can be achieved through:

- undertaking local area reviews to ensure that local provision is sustainable and meets learner needs in terms of breadth of opportunity and quality;
- building on developing federated and collaborative arrangements to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of delivery where appropriate, including developing governance models for post-16 delivery;
- increasing the vocational offer available to all learners across the County, without creating new duplication of provision;
- engaging employers to secure access to work based learning and apprenticeships;
- developing commissioning arrangements that improve efficiency in delivery; and
- developing improved access to educational provision through the medium of Welsh.

Strategic ICT

Earlier School Modernisation papers did not always address the transformative role of ICT in delivery of the modern curriculum and in providing personalised learning opportunities matched to learners' progress. There are significant implications from this in terms of design of the County-wide and individual school infrastructure for learning.

County-wide infrastructure challenges are acknowledged in the recent Estyn Inspection and the post-inspection Action Plan. Individual school implications are addressed in School Improvement Plans, and will be a specific focus in planning for any school refurbishment or building projects. The specific focus will include:

- the critical contribution that improved school design and use of new technologies can play in personalising learning;
- how the school will develop flexible approaches to learning that meet the individual needs of learners;
- how the school will develop assessment for learning that includes the use of data to set and review personal targets;
- how the school will support the development of innovative approaches to learning including the use of ICT;
- how ICT will enable the school to provide greater and more flexible access to a range of learning environments; and
- how technology will be able to help to encourage and enable greater parental awareness and involvement in their children's learning.

Small Schools

The WAG policy position on small schools is set out in "School Organisation Proposals" which states that in the case of rural and small schools particular considerations include:

- the educational challenges faced by small schools, such as:
 - teaching mixed age classes containing more than 2 or 3 age groups;
 - the restricted size of peer groups and sufficiency of challenge;
 - limited opportunities for social interaction;
- difficulties with recruitment and retention of staff;
- excessive burdens on staff ;
- increased expertise required to support pupils with additional educational needs;
- limited choice of options for learners aged 14 and over;
- the additional cost per pupil of keeping small schools open in a sparsely populated area; and
- older school buildings which need substantial investment or which are less energy efficient.

These factors need to be weighed against other considerations such as:

- the home to school transport implications, including the impact on emissions, and increased journey times;
- the overall effect on the community of closure, and the extent to which the school is serving the whole community as an important resource for lifelong learning or other services e.g. childcare or services that meet the particular needs of older people (findings of community impact appraisal);
- the potential impact on the Welsh language in educational and community terms (findings of language impact appraisal);
- suitability of and distance to alternative schools;

- availability and cost of public transport to alternative schools, and potential impact on private travel;
- impact on local services and shops;
- effect on young people in the area in terms of accessibility to after school activities, which help to broaden children and young people's experiences and promote healthy lifestyles;
- any impact on child poverty in the communities affected.
- effect on potential future workforce; and
- potential impact on vocational and other training providers in the area.

The Welsh Assembly Government does not have a presumption against closing rural schools. The Government position is that there is not a presumption in favour for or against closing rural schools. Any case for closure must be robust. Proposals must be in the best interests of educational provision in the area. An assessment should be undertaken so as to establish whether the case for closure outweighs other considerations.

The Welsh Assembly Government also notes that Local Authorities identifying the need to retain primary schools with fewer than 90 pupils must accept that such schools require additional support so as to ensure that pupils have, as far as possible, access to similar opportunities as pupils in larger schools.

2.2 Inclusion and Wellbeing

Our aim (in accordance with Flintshire's Children and Young People's Plan) is that partners will work together to deliver excellent provision for all children and young people. Barriers to learning will be addressed to enable all to achieve to their potential. Schools and other learning providers will provide a range of well planned community focused services for families. They will play an important role in promoting community cohesion, wellbeing, inclusion and diversity. Partners will be committed to ensuring that the emotional, social and physical needs of children are fully met.

Additional Learning Needs and Those Who Are Vulnerable or At Risk

All schools in Wales are likely to have some children on roll who have Additional Learning Needs (ALN). Every school or area review therefore has an implication for ALN provision, whether in terms of access to the curriculum or physical access to school premises.

School modernisation provides the opportunity to consider the most effective ways of ensuring that appropriate ALN support is provided for pupils. This may be in mainstream schools, in specialist resource bases attached to mainstream schools, or where appropriate, in Flintshire's recently modernised special schools. The modernisation of Flintshire's special schools, in itself, provides opportunities for new ways of configuring outreach provision to sustain young people in local educational provision.

Individual school and local area reviews should consider strategies to deliver:

- appropriate provision and smooth transitions for children with ALN;
- appropriate disabled access, and enable inclusion of children with ALN;
- proposals that will help in improving attendance and behaviour, and in reducing bullying; and

- proposals capable of delivering improved achievement for underperforming groups and for those who are at risk or vulnerable.

There will also be consideration given to the size, location, nature and environment of Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) provision through a separate but linked modernisation strategy.

Children and Young People’s Plan

Area reviews provide the opportunity to ensure that services and physical accommodation support the goals of the Children and Young People’s Plan in relation to the wellbeing of children and young people.

As part of area reviews, work will be undertaken within and with external partners (including Health) to ensure that we have joined-up planning, funding and delivery of integrated services for children, particularly through community focused schools provision. Work will also be undertaken to ensure that area plans consider the opportunities to support relevant corporate priorities (e.g. neighbourhood renewal and regeneration) as well as community cohesion.

Most schools are under utilised, yet they are an expensive investment in the community. Community focused schools expand the range of activities that take place in a school as they seek to provide a range of services and activities, often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of pupils, their families and the wider community. There is no blueprint for the types of activities that schools might provide, or how they might be organised, however, working with local partners, schools can develop the community they serve. Working in this way schools can provide a base for delivery of:

- lifelong learning;
- childcare;
- health and social services;
- cultural and sporting activities; and
- others e.g. Police etc.

The Council’s Community Focused Schools and Healthy Schools programmes will prioritise capacity to support area reviews. Plans for community use will be based on a realistic audit and assessment of need, taking into account the views of children, parents and the wider community. Local plans may be reflected in redeployment of partners’ financial and staffing resources, or in work commissioned as part of physical refurbishment or rebuild. Efforts will be made to “join up” available funding streams to maximise the potential for offering sports, leisure or community use. Area reviews will also consider the opportunities for better ways of delivering service provision (see also Leisure Strategy for alternative models of delivering sports facility provision).

Support During School Organisational Change

The County Council recognises that times of school organisational change are times of uncertainty for children, young people, parents and carers. This is often heightened for vulnerable students. During any school organisational change it is important that the local authority takes steps to protect the most vulnerable children in schools. This support will include looked-after children, those with additional learning needs and attention to other potential factors of vulnerability such as pupils with English as a second language or those from minority ethnic backgrounds.

As part of any reorganisation implementation, the Council will:

- identify the number of children and young people with Additional Learning needs attending mainstream schools;
- consider the type/range of need experienced by the pupils;
- identify patterns/profiles of need;
- identify the risk factors involved in school reorganisation as they impact upon vulnerable children;
- draw up a protocol for monitoring and managing any proposed change of school for vulnerable children;
- establish a mechanism whereby the voices of both the young person and their families can be listened to and their views recorded and addressed;
- identify a key person in each area to be a Link Person for the young people and their families to ensure they are fully informed and involved in any proposed change;
- develop a model of working that can be transferred to other Areas as necessary.

2.3 Workforce Development

As stated earlier in the vision statement, our aim is that the high quality of Flintshire's learning provision will be secured through attracting and retaining the best professionals. Flintshire will be a leader in the professional development of its learning workforce. Creative succession planning will inspire talented professionals to become senior leaders. Governors will be supported to fulfil their key leadership role in shaping the future of learning in their communities.

Change Management to Deliver the School Modernisation Vision & Aims

A key focus of the Workforce Remodelling Partnership, school improvement professionals and training providers during the School Modernisation Programme would be develop the change management programme to prepare all staff (in schools and the authority) to implement new policies and teaching/learning practices.

Implementation Support

It is important that Governors and Headteachers receive support in the following areas during the implementation of school reorganisation proposals:

- curriculum and Assessment;
- staffing;
- finance;
- governance; and
- inspections.

It is also important that support is available to all members of the workforce in affected schools, which would need to include:

- helping schools to audit their existing skills and identify where and when additional support is needed;
- maintaining a focus on school leadership, ensuring we retain high quality leaders who feel confident leading change;

- disseminating good practice, including training and development opportunities for school staff to support them in delivering new methods of teaching and learning, encompassing ICT, 14-19 etc;
- acting as a signposting agency helping schools to identify additional support or expertise;
- providing expertise and programmes to meet identified needs at both a County and local level;
- providing advice and guidance to staff; and
- encouraging change teams in schools, representing all staff roles

This support will be offered through prioritising the work programme of relevant school support professionals. Additional capacity may be required at key points in the implementation of proposals. This is not yet possible to map as the number of specific school reorganisation proposals is not agreed.

2.4 Improved Learning Environments

The School Modernisation Programme aims to deliver sufficient high quality environments that inspire users to learn. In new school buildings and refurbishments we will endeavour to deliver:

- buildings and grounds that are welcoming to both the school and the community whilst providing adequate security;
- good organisation of learning spaces that are easily “legible” and fully accessible;
- internal spaces that are well proportioned, fit for purpose and meet the needs of the curriculum;
- flexible design to allow for short-term changes of layout and use, and for long-term expansion or contraction;
- good environmental conditions throughout including optimum levels of natural light and ventilation for different activities;
- well-designed external spaces offering a variety of different settings for leisure, learning and sport;
- a sustainable approach to design, construction and environmental servicing; and
- good use of the site, balancing the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and cars and enhancing the school’s presence in the community.

Sufficiency

The Welsh Assembly Government in its policy paper “School Organisation Proposals” stated that “It is important that funding for education is used cost effectively. Some spare places are necessary to enable schools to cope with fluctuations in numbers of pupils, but excessive numbers of unused places, with consequentially excessive numbers of schools, mean that resources are tied up unproductively.”

Local Authorities are recommended to review individual schools where they have “significant” levels of surplus places (defined as 25% surplus and a minimum of 30 places), require significant investment or have a catchment area which is unlikely to provide sufficient numbers of pupils to make it sustainable for the future. Local Authorities are recommended to ensure that schools to be retained are of an appropriate number and are located so as to maximise potential engagement with the community. Local Authorities are also recommended to retain no more than

10% surplus places overall, although levels in individual schools may be higher than this. The current level of surplus places in Flintshire is 15.8%* in the Primary phase and 12.55% in the Secondary phase, although the highest percentages in individual schools are 75% in Primary and 28.7% in Secondary.

* Primary figures based on full-time pupils.

As an important “building block” for School Modernisation decision making the County renewed its pupil forecasting system in 2008-09 to take into account:

- current projections of the number of pupils in the school system overall;
- population projections and forecasts of inward or outward migration;
- birth rates within the area;
- changes in demand for a particular schools and types of provision e.g. Welsh medium schools;
- plans for economic or housing development;
- for post-16 proposals, student demographics and participation rates, economic and labour market data and skill shortages information.

School capacity information and projections have also been agreed with schools. The agreements will be renewed prior to commissioning of any individual school or local area organisation review.

A demand study (2009) has also been undertaken into Welsh Medium Education across Flintshire.

The Authority is now well placed to begin a programme of individual school or local area reviews focused on matching pupil numbers and future demand estimates to provision of places.

Admissions

The recent Estyn Inspection of Flintshire (2009) concluded that the Council manages admissions effectively. During implementation of any individual school or local area review the specific plans will need to be in place to maintain the Council’s record of:

- clear comprehensive information for parents in English and Welsh; and
- liaison with other local admissions authorities (such as Aided Schools).

Elected members have also commissioned a separate assessment of options in relation to managing secondary admissions, considering the benefits and challenges with prioritisation by catchment area or distance from home.

Condition & Suitability

Maintaining and improving the quality of school buildings is an important task for the council and its schools. Changing the environment of a school can have a positive impact on the learning and teaching. Capital building improvements have a key part to play in realising the Council's aspirations for children and ensuring that our schools are maintained and equipped to meet the needs of learning and teaching in the 21st century.

Good recent progress has been made in developing “Fit for Purpose” documentation and the Education Asset Management framework. However the

condition of school buildings remains a key strategic risk within the Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges. It is estimated that almost £40million is required to address issues identified in school condition surveys alone. An examination of the Council's Authority's portfolio of school buildings also indicates that there are serious shortcomings in the suitability of a number of sites and buildings.

The need to maintain a large number of ageing school buildings and the supporting infrastructure can have a serious impact on capital expenditure. A more effective use of limited capital programmes can be achieved by rationalising the number of school buildings or other Council buildings (perhaps by utilising surplus places in schools). Options can be identified by local area reviews. Taking such action would also make revenue savings.

Sustainability

The identified issues in suitability, sufficiency and condition of some school buildings mean that there are significant challenges for Flintshire with regard to sustainability. Over the next few years, the population of some schools will continue to fall, leaving some small schools whose viability will inevitably be affected. The Council must consider steps that will provide a sustainable basis for addressing the challenges of the next several decades and, if it does not go ahead with change, how it will ensure that these challenges can be met.

A School Modernisation programme brings with it the opportunity to promote high standards of practice in sustainability. As part of any individual school change proposal or area review we can consider:

- the potential environmental impact of possible changes to the organisation of schools;
- how carbon emissions arising from schools' direct use of heat, power and transport will be reduced;
- how we can enable schools to showcase good sustainability practices in energy, water, waste, travel, food and procurement to their pupils, staff and communities;
- how we can improve the teaching of sustainable development through the provision of innovative learning environments, inside and outdoors; and
- how we can catalyse further environmental improvement and regeneration efforts in the local area to improve local environmental quality and quality of life.

Transport

Any reorganisation proposals would be subject to a sustainability assessment, including careful consideration of efficient provision of transport. Any proposals should not have the effect of unreasonably extending pupils' journey times and should be set against Welsh Assembly Government objectives to reduce traffic congestion, reduce carbon emissions, and promote alternatives to the car. An important consideration is the welfare of children if journeys one way would exceed 45 minutes for primary pupils or one hour for secondary pupils. Additional consideration would be given to the welfare of pupils with special educational needs. The possible effect of any transport difficulties on pupils' engagement and attendance at school will be assessed. The safety of likely walking or cycling routes and accessibility will also be considered. In addition the recurrent cost to the Council of transporting pupils to schools further away needs to be taken into account (as part of the Financial appraisal).

2.5 Working in Partnership

The School Modernisation Programme will provide a common sense of direction among education stakeholders and service partners. It will enable them to embrace change and engage effectively at all levels. In order to achieve this there is a need for clear communications and engagement strategies to develop a sense of collective understanding, involvement and ownership of the process. Great attention needs to be paid to effective communication and consultation with:

- Headteachers, staff and Governors;
- parents, carers and pupils;
- elected members of the Council and representatives of Community Councils;
- Local MPs, AMs and MEPs;
- Diocesan Authorities;
- Appropriate Trade Unions;
- Media; and
- Neighbouring Authorities and other education providers.

The Local Authority will ensure that there are local opportunities to discuss school modernisation with a clear focus on ensuring sustainable high standards. Parents, children and young people will play a key role in decision making, and in the delivery of high quality learning across the county.

Partners will also ensure that their communications and engagement routes are used to ensure that “hard to reach groups” are able to have their say on the future of education provision in their communities. Partners will work together to find innovative ways of providing mentoring to ensure that children and young people benefit from the wide range of individual and group learning opportunities available and delivering other Children and Young People’s Plan priorities.

The Local Authority recognises that Community Councils and the communities that they serve are key partners. They should be consulted on developing ideas for the future of education provision within their area. In some areas, a school may be the main focal point for community activity, and reorganisation could have implications beyond the issue of provision of education. In all reviews a Community Appraisal should be undertaken which would consider the feasibility of co-locating local services within the school to offset the costs of maintaining the school.

The County Council recognises that Diocesan Authorities are key partners in delivering education in Flintshire. Their views should be integral to developing proposals for the future of local education in the County. Any proposals for future provision will either maintain or enhance the balance of faith provision within the County.

The County Council recognises that Trade Unions are key partners in delivering education in Flintshire. The Trade Unions and their members will have developed views on how education provision can best be sustained and enhanced across Flintshire’s communities. Updated staffing protocols will be agreed with the relevant Trade Unions addressing communication, engagement and consultation, together with processes for considering Early Voluntary Retirement, redeployment and other staffing issues as part of any specific proposals.

These issues are among the most sensitive to be dealt with as part of a school re-organisation and will require attention to detail and close dialogue with schools as well as the teaching and support staff unions.

Part 3: School Organisation Policy & Recommendations

3.1 Primary Education: All-through Schools

Flintshire County Council supports all-through primary education. An all-through primary school is one where children start statutory education with the school and continue through until they move on to secondary school.

There is a general trend towards amalgamating infant and junior schools into all-through primary schools. All-through primary schools are able to provide children with a continuity of education, thus removing a transition which can cause disruption at an early age. With the implementation of the Foundation Phase replacing Key Stage 1 in Wales there is also an increased need to minimise disruptive transition to Key Stage 2.

All-through primary schools provide the following benefits:

- **Continuity and progression.** An all-through primary school means there is greater continuity and progression for pupils aged 4-11 in all aspects of teaching and learning. With the implementation of the Foundation Phase and a focus on a skills-based curriculum there is a greater need for staff to work and plan together across the curriculum and across key stages.
- **Vision.** One head teacher supported by one governing body will present a single vision of education and a common ethos. Research shows that clear and visionary leadership and management is the key feature of successful schools. In separate infant and junior schools, however good liaison, they remain single establishments with differences in approach. Continuity of governance is also greater as parent governors are less likely to resign when their child moves from the Infant to the Junior School.
- **Tracking pupils' progress.** An all-through primary school has common expectations of pupils' progress, based on whole school approaches to assessment, recording and target setting. Through schools are more responsible for their own actions related to 'value added' and pupils' overall progress from age 4 to 11 years. Through schools avoid the dip in progress that can occur when pupils move from one school to another.
- **Additional Needs.** An all-through primary school has consistent whole school approaches to the management of pupils with additional or behavioural needs. These can be identified early and their progress tracked more effectively from Nursery to Year 6 by one ANCO (Additional Needs Co-ordinator) so that time is not lost in meeting children's needs. A continuous relationship with external agencies is beneficial for the school and parents.
- **Resourcing.** There is more efficient use of a wider range of resources, particularly for older pupils with additional needs who may benefit from access to resources more common to KS1 to meet their needs. In addition high cost/low use equipment, which may be too expensive for a single school, can be used to benefit the whole school e.g. a PA system, stage lighting, a new piano, musical or art equipment.
- **Staff specialism/professional development.** Two schools combined can provide a larger team of staff who can work more flexibly in terms of covering all the subjects of the curriculum. There are increased opportunities for staff to develop skills and specialisms across the whole primary range e.g. music or PE, making best use of teacher expertise and providing higher quality teaching and learning across the full age range. Teachers and teaching

assistants have greater opportunities to teach cross-phase e.g. for a KS2 teacher to teach in KS1 and vice versa.

- **Staff responsibilities.** In separate schools, a smaller number of staff take on a greater number of curriculum responsibilities. A larger school provides more flexibility in the way in which responsibilities are apportioned. There is greater flexibility in deploying teaching assistants to undertake intervention/booster classes.
- **Leadership and management.** An enhanced head teacher role can make it easier to recruit and retain a good leader. In larger schools there are more opportunities for career development and for teachers to develop as leaders and managers.
- **Accommodation.** There are greater opportunities to be creative and flexible in the use of internal and external space to improve the learning environment/opportunities for all pupils. There is potential for more effective site maintenance.
- **Admissions and relationships with parents.** Parents make one application for a place to an all-through school and build a relationship with senior leaders and staff across all of the primary phase. Evidence shows that transition from one phase to another can be traumatic for children, however good the liaison. An all-through primary school will make this transition much smoother and siblings are also more likely to go to the same school. The opportunity for the through primary school to work with one parent body over a longer period of time strengthens relationships. A larger school also gives greater resilience to fluctuations in pupil numbers
- **Pupils' social development.** Pupils, particularly those who are vulnerable or have low self-esteem, get to know all staff through daily contact in the playground, assemblies, breakfast and after school clubs so that there are no issues nor uncertainties on transfer between KS1 and KS2. Older pupils can act as role models and mentors with younger pupils e.g. on paired reading, as playground buddies, on the School Council, supporting richer personal and social development. Other advantages include consistency of approaches to inclusion and well-being.

Flintshire County Council will consider infant and junior amalgamations as an option during an area review. Outside of an area review, the Council will consider amalgamating infant and junior schools at the request of a Governing Body or if the Headteacher of an infant or junior school announces his/her decision to leave the post.

When the decision to amalgamate an infant and junior school is taken, the authority will aim to amalgamate both schools onto one campus site. Where this is not immediately possible the infant and junior schools can be amalgamated into a single school based on two sites. The County Council will then adopt a strategy to move the school onto a single site.

Flintshire County Council will also consider the future viability of separate nursery school provision in the relevant area review.

3.2 Primary Education: Small Schools

Current WLGA recommendations are that schools of less than 90 pupils should be reviewed. However, the past and current policy for small primary schools in Flintshire is underpinned by a number of principles:

- commitment to reviewing small schools on their individual merit;

- commitment to consider first and foremost the quality of education they offer;
- recognition of the achievement of small schools in Flintshire;
- recognition that a number of the small schools are Church schools;
- that all partners must be involved in discussions on schools under review;
- that a comprehensive assessment of the cost of small schools and the cost of alternative provision will be undertaken
- recognition of parental preference;
- recognition of the value of small schools in the context of small communities;
- commitment to minimising the disruption on small children in relation to travelling; and
- recognition that federations may be a way forward.

There is a need to ensure that all schools and school sites are able to provide children with the widest possible learning and social opportunities. As a result the local authority must also consider the educational challenges faced by small schools or sites, including (Estyn – Small Primary Schools in Wales, 2006):

- teaching mixed age classes containing more than 2 or 3 age groups;
- the restricted size of peer groups and sufficiency of challenge;
- limited opportunities for social interaction;
- difficulties with recruitment and retention of staff;
- excessive burdens on staff;
- increased expertise required to support pupils with special educational needs.

To minimise the effects of these challenges schools need sufficient pupil numbers on roll within each Key Stage. Where the number of full-time pupils on roll at specific school or school site has fallen below 15 pupils in Key Stage 1 and/or 20 pupils in Key Stage 2 for three years in succession; the authority reserves the right to review the school or site within the context of the area.

The Governing Body of a school being reviewed will be given the opportunity to consider, test and adopt the Federation model at (3.3) below. If the model does not provide the best range of educational opportunities for children or have an impact on cost effectiveness further review may be commissioned (see (3.4) below). Any subsequent stage of review would have to take into consideration the availability of sufficient places within an alternative school that could provide an equal or improved educational experience for pupils within the schools affected.

Where a review subsequently determines that a school is to be closed, statutory notices would need to be published in order to close any primary school including those within a federation. Statutory notices would not be required when closing a specific site within a primary school (see (3.4) below).

3.3 Primary Education: Federated Schools

The Federation under a single governing body could enable small schools to share leadership and curriculum expertise, whilst retaining the separate identities of the schools involved. Benefits include:

- improved teaching and learning opportunities through increased specialism and access to a range of expertise;
- a way for schools to collaborate, learn from each other and share best practice;

- models of good practice to extend curriculum entitlement and improve teaching, learning and inclusion;
- the potential for a stronger teaching team through the appointment of shared staff, better access to professional development opportunities; and
- savings in planning, administration time and resources.

The decision to form a federation must come from the governing bodies of the schools involved. Where schools refuse to consider the option of federating, the Council may look at alternative proposals for the area including the formation of area schools.

Specific details regarding the structure of the federation (such as addressing Welsh Medium or Faith issues) would be considered prior to formation. The final decision as to how a federated school operates will be down to the governing body of each individual federation.

Schools must be prepared to commit time and resources to ensuring that the federation is effective and sustainable. They will also need a commitment to raising standards of achievement in all of the communities involved.

3.4 Primary Schools: Area Schools

Area schools are formed through amalgamating two or more schools onto one site to deliver improved educational experiences for the children attending those schools.

Where at the request of schools, selection or through area review there is consideration of amalgamation into area schools, it involves closure of one or more of the schools concerned. If there is no consensus on which school should be a continuing school, then all the schools concerned should be closed, with a new school opening on one existing site or on a new site. This may require investment on an existing site.

The benefits of area schools are as follows:

- improved facilities and equipment;
- opportunities for improved teaching and learning through increased specialism and shared expertise;
- additional time available for leadership and management;
- increased opportunity for community services/facilities in line with the 'Community Focused Schools' programme;
- more class organisation options;
- cost savings through reducing the fixed costs associated with maintaining several sites, with opportunity to re-direct these savings to provide better educational provision;
- increased opportunities for professional development among staff, giving the opportunity to develop strengths and expertise in wider areas, leading to improved recruitment and retention of staff; and
- increased leadership capacity.

3.5 Secondary Education: 11-16

Flintshire County Council is committed to all schools being able to deliver the entitlements in the Welsh Assembly Government's 21st Century Schools Vision. A school with four forms of entry at 11-16 will be capable of providing and sustaining the facilities and opportunities described in this vision. Therefore the Council accepts that the minimum size for any new secondary school will be a four-form entry school providing 600 11-16 places.

Any review of secondary school provision will take into consideration the Learning Pathways available to pupils within the area. It is important that any changes secure the best possible learning environments for children and young people, maximising curriculum breadth, quality and inclusion. Secondary schools should also be the 'hub' for a range of community focused services.

Where a secondary school has fallen below 600 pupils (11-16) for three years in succession, the authority reserves the right to review the school.

Ysgol Maes Garmon is the only Welsh-medium High School in Flintshire. A specific strategy needs to be adopted to ensure sustainable local access to Welsh Medium Education reflecting patterns of increasing demand in the primary phase and transfer from English medium schools at year 7.

3.6 Secondary Education: 16-18

Transforming Education and Training in Wales sets out ambitions for the future of post-14 learning across the Country. Flintshire County Council is currently developing its plans to ensure that there is sustainable local access to high quality local vocational and non-vocational educational provision. The Council's detailed plans are set out in separate detailed 14-19 strategy documents. Flintshire, in common with other authorities, faces sustainability and improvement challenges through the presence of some small sixth forms.

Small class sizes in sixth forms can lead to limited student interaction which diminishes the effectiveness of learning (Transforming Education & Training in Wales, Welsh Assembly Government, 2008).

In presentations on the Welsh Assembly Government's 'Transformation Education and Training in Wales' officials have stated that sixth forms with less than 150 pupils are potentially unsustainable. Flintshire County Council takes the view that this would unduly limit access to local or Welsh Medium Provision.

Flintshire County Council takes the view that area plans for post 16 education should be developed to ensure that local provision offers the best possible opportunities for learners. In addition, in any secondary school where the number of pupils within the 6th form has fallen below 120 for three years in succession, the authority reserves the right to review the school, in order to consider sustainable options for post-16 education. It may not be viable for all secondary schools to have 6th forms; it is dependant on the availability of post-16 provision within an area.

Ysgol Maes Garmon is the only Welsh-medium High School in Flintshire. A specific strategy needs to be adopted to ensure sustainable local access to Welsh Medium education reflecting patterns of increasing demand.

3.7 Surplus Places

Where a school has more than 25% (and a minimum of 30) surplus places in either the primary or secondary sector, it should be reviewed as part of an area review of provision with an aim of developing options to reduce surplus places within the area.

Any review on the basis of surplus places will take into consideration past numbers and future projections for the schools involved. Strategies for addressing significant surplus places include identifying alternative uses for part of the building (sometimes delivering alternative Council services) or removal/redesignation of surplus accommodation.

The Council will also pursue a strategy of removing mobile school accommodation as part of its programme to ensure that school buildings are fit for purpose. Mobiles are designed for temporary use and do not generally meet with sustainability goals because of higher maintenance costs and energy demands of such buildings. WAG and the Council recognise that inadequate buildings make improvements in standards of achievement more challenging (Estyn, *An Evaluation of Performance Before and An Evaluation of Performance of Schools Before and After Moving into New Buildings or Significantly Refurbished Premises*, 2007).

This strategy may involve decommissioning of mobile accommodation in neighbouring schools to those with excess surplus accommodation, and consideration of admissions numbers at all of the schools involved.

However, the Council does recognise that mobiles can have a valuable role to play in addressing temporary accommodation shortages:

- in an emergency (for example in the case of fire or flood);
- during building works so that the school can continue to operate with minimum disruption to pupils; or
- to meet a short term increase in pupil numbers in areas of population growth with no alternative school places.

It may also be appropriate to consider the strategies for Area Schools at (3.4) in seeking a solution to over capacity in the area.

3.8 Underperforming Schools

The County Council will consider at an early stage the long term viability of schools judged by Estyn to require special measures or significant improvement. The Council will consider closing such schools where there are places available nearby at better performing schools. Opening a new school on the site of the old school will only be considered where there is a need for the places and there is no suitable alternative available.

3.9 Key Considerations in Decision Making

Key issues which should be taken into consideration in promoting any school organisational change proposal include:

- the effect on the standard of education to be provided in the area, including provision for pupils with additional learning needs, delivery of the Foundation Phase and the 14-19 Transformation Programme (Educational Impact Assessment);
- the need for the particular type of provision that is proposed, for example the level of parental demand for Welsh medium education or impact on the proportion of places in faith schools in the area (Demography and Demand Assessment)
- the effect on compliance with equality legislation such as the Disability Discrimination Act 2002 and the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, and the Welsh Assembly Government's strategy for tackling child poverty (Equalities Impact Assessment);
- the effect on accessibility to schools, particularly in rural areas and on the journey times to school (Sustainability Assessment);
- the effect on the Welsh language, its maintenance in the community and the extent to which proposals would contribute to the aims of Iaith Pawb (Welsh Language Impact Assessment);
- whether the proposal includes additional community focused facilities or preserves existing community service provision offered by a school, together with the impact on the local community and on social cohesion (Community Impact Assessment);
- the views of those most directly affected, such as children, young people, parents, staff, governors and other schools or providers in the area (Consultation Assessment);
- whether the proposal contributes towards achieving the County Council's agreed strategy for making all its school buildings fit for purpose (Asset Management Assessment); and
- the cost-effectiveness of proposals and whether adequate financial resources are available to implement them (Financial Assessment).

Full impact assessments should be undertaken for action proposed under 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 and 3.8.

Part 4: Programme Management & Phasing

4.1 Programme Governance

The recent Estyn Inspection (2009) analysed the Council's capacity to deliver a School Modernisation Programme. It noted positive leadership from elected members and officers in the programme development work so far. It concluded that the planning for the programme appropriately takes a "holistic approach to improving pupils' attainment...to ensure that the authority has the right number of school places in fit for purpose buildings in the right locations."

The inspection also noted that the Authority has also not recently been tested by difficult School Modernisation and Organisation decisions. The key issue in this is that the School Modernisation Strategy represents a long-term transformational programme of school improvement and improvement of children's services. It will provide both opportunities and risks for the Council and these need to be considered carefully at each stage.

If approved to progress, the programme is of such a size that it will need to be seen as a Council-wide corporate priority. Estyn recognised a high level commitment to addressing the issues of school reorganisation and inadequate buildings across Council teams.

Key decisions on the future of individual schools are reserved to the Executive. The Executive may refer draft policy issues and individual proposals for consideration by Scrutiny, and the decisions of the Executive may also be "called in" using normal constitutional rules. Executive and Scrutiny processes can be supported by officers involved in managing the programme.

Under a School Modernisation programme there is much evidence to consider and there are significant additional influential roles that can be undertaken on both a County-wide and local basis. A further set of local groups for Area Reviews could also be commissioned to assist in development of the pattern of schooling in each area. A group of local Councillors, Headteachers, staff, parents and governors, with approved terms of reference, could be involved in the identification of the range of possible options in line with overall School Modernisation Strategy principles. The conclusions of these discussions would subsequently require consideration and approval for consultation from the Executive.

4.2 Programme Progression

One of the key factors in considering how School Modernisation should proceed is the Council's capacity to complete the work required. School Organisation work involves statutory processes to develop and present proposals relating to specific schools. The statutory processes involve compliance with Welsh Assembly Government regulation and guidance.

An initial stage (Stage 1) for area reviews would be local engagement with Headteachers and Governors to develop initial local proposals for school modernisation and school organisation.

For individual school reviews and the second stage of area reviews (Stage 2) every relevant school and governing body must be consulted, including parents and their wider community. This would involve meetings with staff, governors and parents at each school. This phase of consultation will entail informal discussions with Heads and Governors, a formal consultation period with staff, governors and parents, and consultation with prescribed consultees (e.g. Diocesan Authorities.) The consultation will, of course, require the preparation of options and option appraisals (see 3.9).

Stage 2 is a substantial undertaking. Good practice would normally require a consultation period of no less than 6 weeks and the meetings would need to be held at a sufficiently early point to enable the proposals to be understood and considered before responses are made. This would involve a concentration of meetings in the first half of the consultation period, involving officers and Councillors.

Following consultation, Stage 3 would involve proposals coming to Executive for a final decision to be taken and the authorisation of statutory notices. Following the publication of these notices, there will be a period during which objections may be made to the proposals. If such objections are made and not withdrawn, the matter will be referred to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills for a final decision which would be binding on all parties.

Given the need for careful management of Stages 1 to 3, it would not be possible to attempt reorganisation in one phase. Instead, by grouping schools it would be possible to manage the process based on geographical school organisation (Appendix 2 P.41) areas. The following is recommended for prioritisation based on addressing:

- the policy criteria at 3.1 to 3.8;
- areas of socio-economic deprivation; and
- issues of sustainability for post-16 provision.

The following methodology would be adopted:

- *Review individual schools compliant with 3.1 to 3.4 or 3.8 as part of the area review programme progresses;*
- *Complete county-wide review of Welsh Medium provision (compliant with 3.1 to 3.7);*
- *Complete post 16 strategy;*
- *Complete PRU Commissioning Strategy; and*
- *Review any additional individual schools becoming compliant with 3.1 to 3.4 or 3.8 as the programme progresses;*

The pace with which work will be progressed to will depend on availability of capital and revenue resourcing to support developments. The projected length of the initial consultation and decision making is likely to be two years.

Area reviews should not prevent the promotion of change in where governors consider it desirable or opportunities (such as additional capital funding) occur.

The following table sets out an example timeline for submission of a proposal:

Year	Term	Activity
2009	Autumn	Consideration of School Modernisation Strategy by Partners, Scrutiny and Executive
2010	Spring	Informal discussions with Headteachers and Governors about outline proposals Executive approval for initial draft proposals and draft consultation documents
2010	Summer	Consult with schools, parents and others on draft individual school proposals Analyse responses and draft Executive report
2010	Autumn	Report to Executive Publish statutory proposals
2011	Spring	Consider any formal objections Refer proposals to WAG
2011	Summer	Minister decides for or against proposals Inform schools, parents and others of decisions
2011-12	Autumn-Summer	Planning for Implementation
2012-	Autumn-	Implementation

On this exemplar timescale, all schools in their area review will know what will happen locally within five terms or 18 months of the process starting. Implementation would take place in September 2012 for any Primary School changes and from September 2012 in any Secondary School changes involving multiple year groups.

A paper will go to Executive at the commencement of each area review.

4.3 Programme Management

The programme would consist of a number of linked projects within each phase overseen by a programme team of key Council officers and representatives of key partners. This programme team would regularly report into the governance arrangements at 4.1. The programme team would develop the detailed proposals for:

- project governance,
- project management structures, roles and responsibilities;
- fulfilment of commitments to BREEAM/ CAFE best practice etc;
- project team budget and resource approvals;
- considering project documentation, including Project Initiation Documents, Briefs, Plans, Business Cases, Risk Logs, Issues Logs, Communications

Plans, Quality Plans, Change Control processes, Lessons Learned Logs and End Stage Reports where appropriate; and

- facilitating programme progress and project exception reporting.

Individual projects would be managed in accordance with Flintshire's new Project Management Principles. Senior managers have recently been trained on the Principles. There will be a need for further training for others taking project sponsor or management roles.

In order to have sufficient capacity to deliver on the envisaged early area reviews there will need to be some changes to responsibilities and reporting arrangements within relevant Lifelong Learning Directorate teams. There will need to be leadership and coordination capacity dedicated to the programme. Proposals for these changes are due to be considered shortly.

Implementation of any school change proposals may also require further additional temporary capacity to facilitate curriculum, staffing and buildings development.

4.4 Financial Issues

The speed of implementation of any School Modernisation Programme is subject to the availability of resources. While it may be a clear aim to implement the programme, it may not be possible to do this in the planned timescale if funding is unavailable.

Each individual school proposal and area review will need a full financial appraisal identifying revenue savings, cost pressures and any programme of capital investment. Action will be necessary to enhance capital allocations, generate capital receipts and develop self-funding opportunities (such as through prudential borrowing and asset disposal).

Whilst much of the overall programme will be supported through reprioritisation of existing staff work programmes, there may be a need to identify funding to resource implementation support pressures and a core time limited project team.

Attention also needs to be given to the future resourcing scenario for schools. School reorganisation involves the generation of revenue savings. Consideration needs to be given (with the School Budget Forum) to:

- the funding implications of alternative options for primary school organisation (including the possibility of further amalgamations, federation and closures);
- the funding formula and the case for changing it to ensure it is fair to all schools;
- the prospect of using revenue savings to support capital funding for school modernisation through prudential borrowing;
- setting up models for the projected savings accruing from any proposed amalgamations, federations or closures (taking into account all of the knock-on effects of transport, possible Early Voluntary Retirement etc).

Work with the Corporate Asset Management Group also needs to consider strategies with regard to:

- maximising external capital funding (through 21st Century Schools, SBIG, SCIF and other external sources);

- asset disposal;
- ensuring sufficient funding to deliver minor works as part of organisational change; and
- developing a prudential borrowing programme.

Given the significant capital investment needs arising from the School Modernisation Programme and the need for the Council to focus its limited resources on the assets which it owns and must provide (such as roads, community school buildings and so on), disposal of sites that are being closed will form a key part of the funding package.

In terms of revenue funding, 60.77% of Flintshire's total income is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG). The number of pupils in our schools is a significant factor in the Welsh Assembly Government deciding how much money the Council needs to deliver its services for all people in Flintshire. A fall in pupil numbers or pressures in the use of funding must be addressed.

Appendix 4 sets out the allocation of revenue funding to individual schools. The average amount of money provided for Primary Schools was £2,935 per pupil. This ranged from as low as £2,605 per pupil (in a school with 402 pupils) to as high as £6,866 per pupil (in a school with 26 pupils). Funding per pupil rises significantly in the smallest schools in order to sustain facilities and curriculum delivery.

The average amount of money provided to Secondary school was £3,584 per pupil. This ranged from as low as £3,365 per pupil (in a school with 1,023 pupils) to as high as £4,151 per pupil (in a school with 472 pupils).

(figures do not include resourced special units).

Appendix 1: Ministerial Decision Making Checklist

Standards of provision

These considerations are of prime importance:

- whether the proposals are likely to improve the standard of education provision in the area;
- the standard of education currently provided and the continuing ability of the school to maintain satisfactory standards;
- whether the proposals will ensure delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum, including all the required elements of the curriculum for all affected age groups, and pupils with varying needs, including the requirements for wider choice and flexibility for learners aged 14 and over, taking into account arrangements for co-operation with other schools, Further Education Institutions and training providers in the area;
- whether the proposals are likely to lead to increased participation in learning by pupils beyond compulsory school age;
- the effect of the proposals on other schools and educational institutions.

In assessing the impact of proposals on standards of education the Minister will normally seek advice from Estyn, refer to the most recent Estyn reports and take into consideration any other information available on a school's performance.

The Minister would not normally be prepared to approve closure of a popular and effective school unless evidence is presented that the alternative proposed would offer at least equivalent quality and diversity of education at lower total cost than would have been available had the school remained open.

Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools

The Minister considers:

- whether there is surplus provision in the area and the effect of the proposal on that surplus;
- where a school is proposed for closure, that there will be sufficient capacity at alternative schools of at least equivalent quality, and of equivalent linguistic type, paying due regard to the language categories of schools set out in "Defining schools according to Welsh medium provision" Welsh Assembly Government Information document No: 023/2007;
- whether there is evidence of a current or future need for additional places in the area or demand for a particular type of provision, for example Welsh medium provision or provision for particular faiths or denominations;
- the resulting journey times for pupils, the provision of, and accessibility to, safe walking and cycling routes, public transport, and, where relevant, the home-school transport arrangements proposed by those bringing forward proposals;
- the length and nature of journeys to alternative provision; in particular whether primary school pupils will have one-way journeys in excess of 45 minutes or secondary school pupils journeys of over an hour;
- whether the proposal will improve access for disabled pupils in accordance with requirements under the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001.

Finance

The Minister considers:

- the financial implications for both recurrent and capital costs, and an assessment of the relative cost effectiveness of alternative options, including the status quo;
- whether the proposals represent a cost-effective use of public funds, including consideration of the long term transport, environmental and building maintenance and repair costs;
- the existence of written confirmation from the body or bodies concerned that any capital funding needed for the project will be available at the level required and at the right time;
- whether the necessary recurrent funding is available, including consideration of whether, without the proposals, the schools would face budget deficits;
- the scale of any projected net savings over a period of at least three years;
- whether the proceeds of sales (capital receipts) of redundant sites are to be made available to meet the costs of the proposal or contribute to the costs of future proposals which will promote effective management of school places;
- whether any savings in recurrent costs will be retained in the LA's local schools' budget; and
- in the case of closures, what capital investment would be needed if the school were to stay open and bring it up to a proper standard for delivery of the curriculum.

Before approving proposals, the Minister will need to be satisfied that the proposals can be implemented; in particular, that any necessary recurrent and capital funding will be available. The Minister will check that the proposals can be implemented by reference to information provided by promoters. Usually this information is provided by means of written confirmation from the source of funding on which the promoters rely.

Views of interested parties

The Minister considers:

- the views of children and young people, parents and other local residents, including views relating to parental choice and the impact on the local community;
- the concerns of any LA affected by the proposals;
- the concerns of any diocese affected by the proposals;
- if the proposals affect the provision of post-16 education, the view of: local employers; the Careers Service; the 14-19 Local Area Network; relevant Further Education and Higher Education Institutions and work based providers.
- the views of other schools, playgroups or other providers in the area;
- the level of objections and the validity of points raised by objectors.

Consideration of alternatives

The Minister considers:

- whether the establishment of multi site schools has been considered as a means of retaining buildings, and the reasons for not pursuing this option;
- whether alternatives to closure have been actively considered, in particular whether clustering or collaboration with other schools have been looked at by the proposer (taking account of the scope for use of ICT links between school sites) and the reasons for not pursuing these as an alternative to closure;

- whether the possibilities of making fuller use of the existing buildings as a community or an educational resource have been explored.

Other issues

The Minister considers:

- the overall effect of a closure on the local community (the community impact assessment), particularly in areas receiving funding as part of regeneration activity;
- the overall effect of a closure on the Welsh language including effect on the community and progression opportunities for learners (the Welsh language impact assessment);
- whether the statutory consultation has been sufficient, allowing sufficient time and providing sufficient information for interested parties to make an informed response;
- whether school age children and young people have had the opportunity to participate in the consultation process;
- whether publication procedures have been properly carried out;
- the existence of safe walking, cycling and bus routes to the proposed site;
- any effect of the proposals on statutory class size limits and junior class size policy; and
- any sex discrimination issues.

Additional factors taken into account for proposals to reorganise Secondary Schools or to add or remove sixth forms

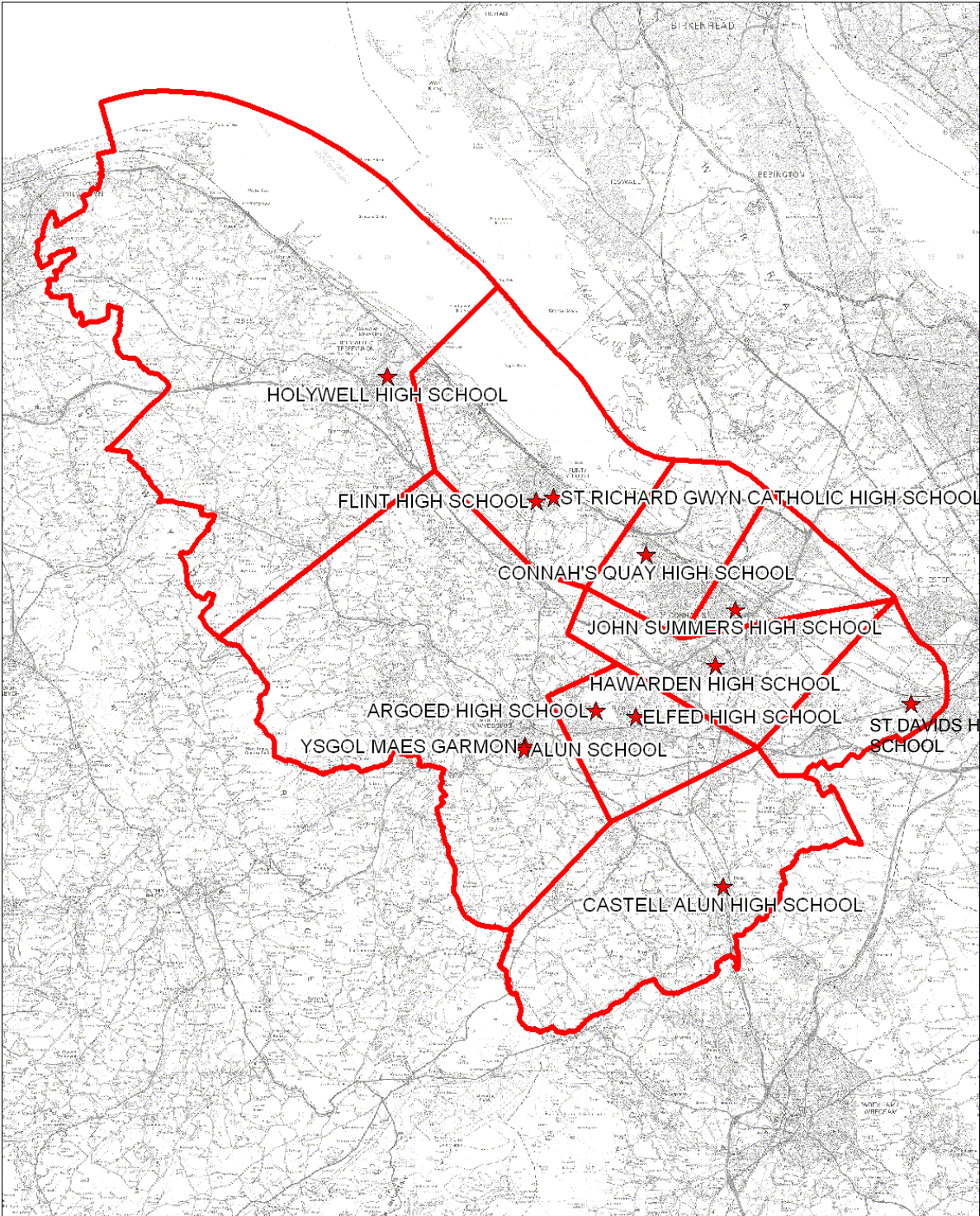
The Minister considers:

- whether the proposed provision will contribute to the wider range of relevant courses and qualifications and high quality, employer informed, vocational learning routes targeted at pupils of all abilities, whilst maintaining GCSE, AS/A level and other established courses which is required under the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2008 for 14-19 year old learners;
- the views, of relevant divisions in the Welsh Assembly Government, and whether they approve in principle the necessary financial support. The views of the local 14-19 Network will also be a key consideration in deciding such proposals;
- whether the proposed post 16 provision is of sufficient size and quality to deliver a range of courses appropriate to the particular needs and abilities of the likely intake, without adverse effects on 11-16 provision at schools;
- how the proposals would affect the viability of institutions already providing good-quality post-16 provision, including school sixth forms, Further Education Institutions and private training organisations;
- the effect of the proposals on the 'staying-on' rate;
- whether there are already sufficient, and appropriately diverse 16-19 places in the area;
- the effect of the proposals on the range of provision available to students;
- how proposals might affect the sustainability and enhancement of Welsh medium provision in the local 14-19 network and the wider cross-country area;
- the views of young people, parents, schools and colleges in the area;
- current levels of collaboration and innovation and the extent to which proposals will provide additional learner benefits compared with the status quo and other tenable options for Post 16 organisation.

Schools Causing Concern

When considering any proposals relating to schools causing concern, the Minister will in such cases have regard to the length of time the school has been in special measures (or requiring significant improvement), the impact on its ability to take forward its action plan, the progress it has made, the prognosis for timely improvement and in the case of closure proposals, whether sufficient places will be available at neighbouring schools.

Appendix 2: School Organisation Areas in Flintshire



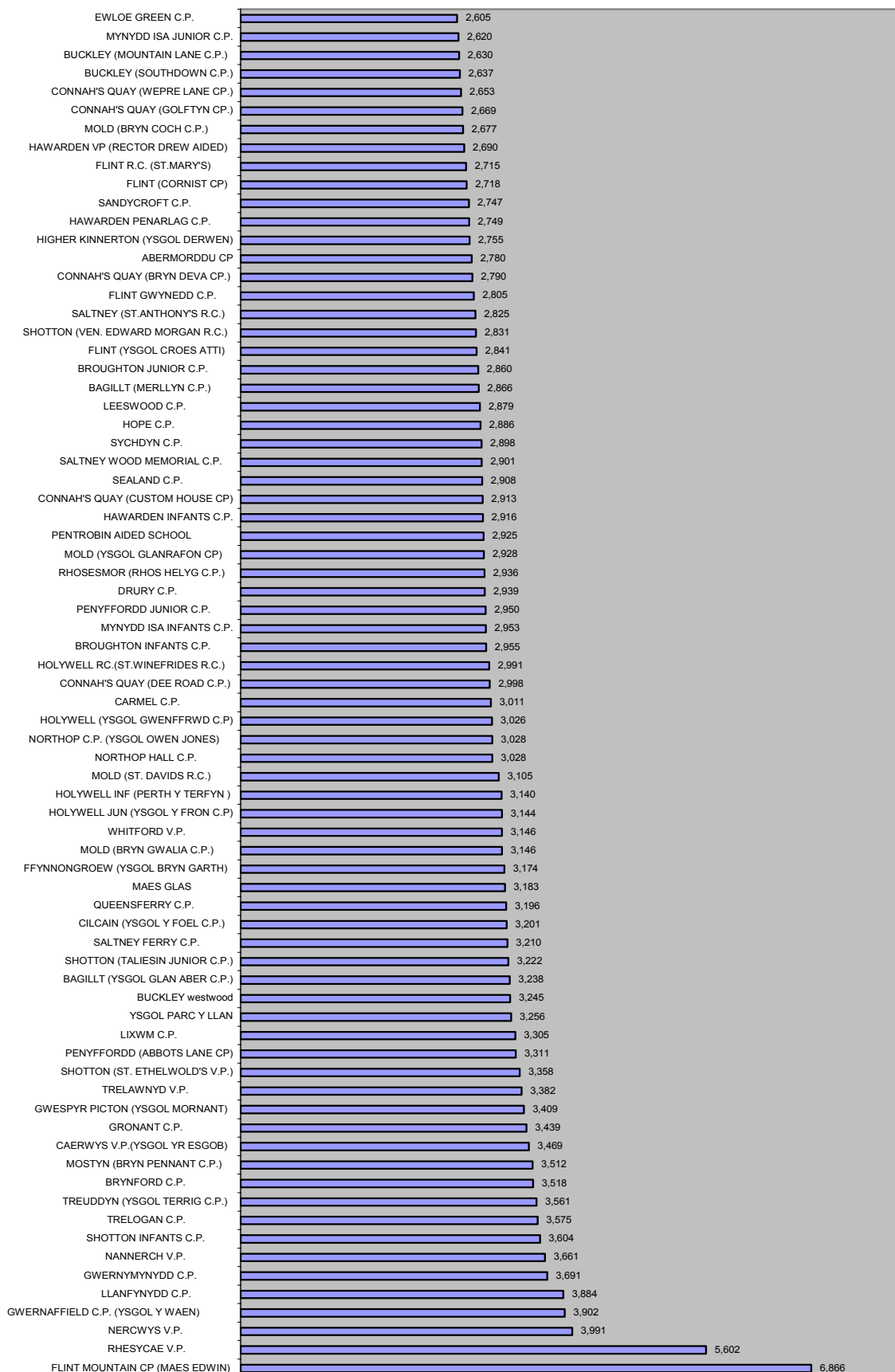
Appendix 3: Revenue Resources

60.77% of Flintshire's total income is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG). The number of pupils in our schools is a significant factor in the Welsh Assembly Government deciding how much money the Council needs to deliver its services for all people in Flintshire.

In Flintshire, the average amount of money provided for Primary Schools was £2,935 per pupil. This ranged from as low as £2,605 per pupil (in a school with 402 pupils) to as high as £6,866 per pupil (in a school with 26 pupils).

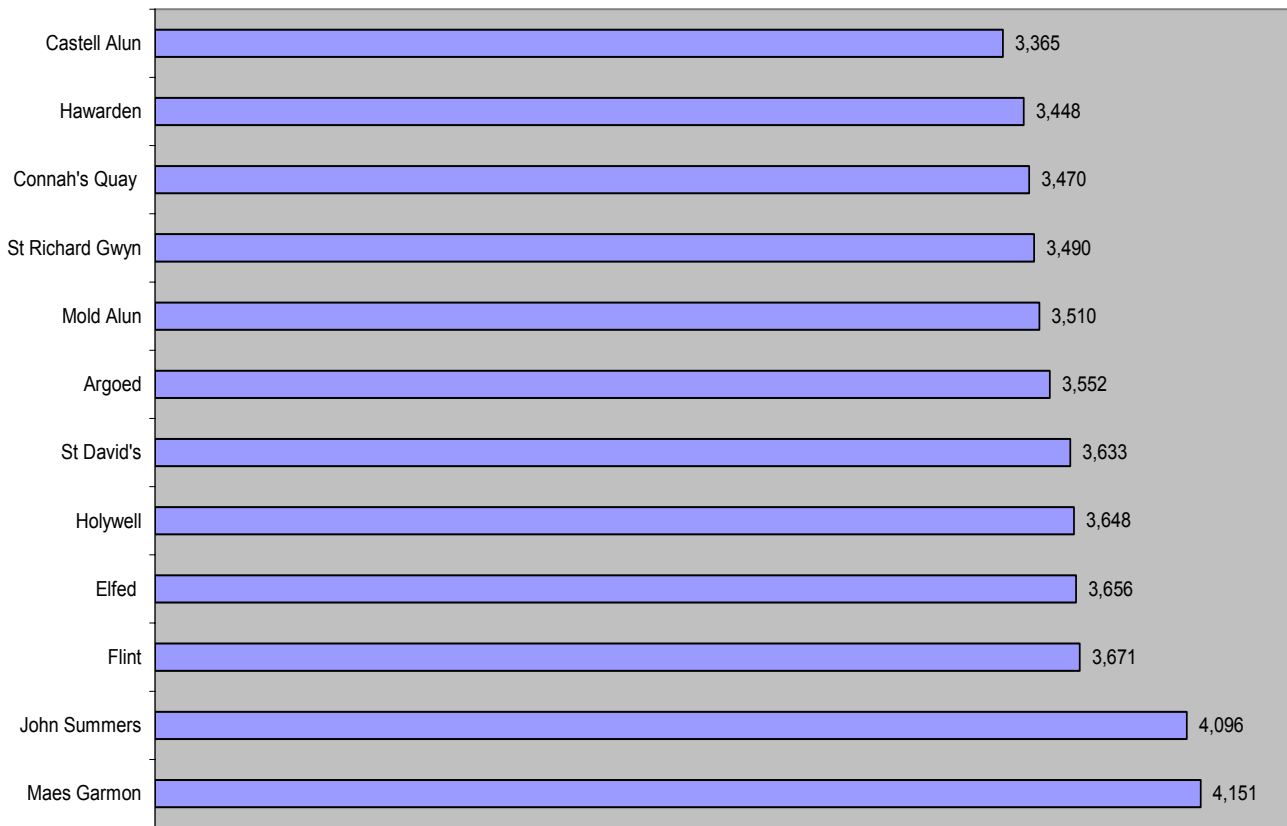
The average amount of money provided to Secondary school was £3,584 per pupil. This ranged from as low as £3,365 per pupil (in a school with 1,023 pupils) to as high as £4,151 per pupil (in a school with 472 pupils).

Delegated Budget 2009/10
Pupil Numbers 5/12th – January 2009 – Actuals
Pupil Numbers 7/12th – September 2009 - Estimates



Funding per pupil
(resourced units not included)

11 -16 funding per pupil 2009-10



Less resource units
Less NNDR (National Non Domestic Rates)

Pupil Numbers 5/12th – January 2009 – Actuals
Pupil Numbers 7/12th – September 2009 - Estimates

Appendix 4: Background Documents

- Flintshire County Council: Estyn Inspection Report & Action Plan
- Flintshire County Council: Lifelong Learning Directorate Plan
- Flintshire County Council: Education Asset Management Plan
- Flintshire County Council: Fit for Purpose Schools: Primary
- Flintshire County Council: Fit for Purpose Schools: Secondary
- Flintshire County Council: Welsh Education Scheme
- Flintshire County Council: Strategic Outline for 14-19 and Post 16
- Flintshire County Council: A Policy for Small Schools 2004
- Flintshire County Council: Leisure Strategy
- Flintshire County Council: Project Management Principles
- A Fair Future for Our Children - The Strategy of the Welsh Assembly Government for Tackling Child Poverty
- A Guidance to Asset Management Planning in Wales
- Building Bulletin 98: Briefing Framework for Secondary School Projects
- Building Bulletin 99: Briefing Framework for Primary School Projects
- Defining schools according to Welsh Medium Provision - Welsh Assembly Government Information document No: 023/2007
- Disability Discrimination Act 2002
- Education Act 1996
- Education Act 2002
- Estyn: Small Primary School in Wales 2006
- European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages
- Foundation Phase Framework for Children's Learning for 3 to 7 year olds in Wales
- Guidance accompanying the School Organisation Proposals by the National Council for Education and Training in Wales Regulations 2004 (The National Assembly for Wales Circular 48/2004)
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Iaith Pawb
- Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2008
- Learning and Skills Act 2000
- Learning Pathways 14-19 Guidance: National Assembly for Wales Circular Number: 37/2004
- National Assembly for Wales Circular No 15/2004: Planning to Increase Access to Schools for Disabled Pupils
- One Wales: A progressive agenda for the government of Wales
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998: Organisation of School Places The National Assembly for Wales Circular 9/99
- Sex Discrimination Act 1975
- Shared Planning for Better Outcomes: Planning Guidance and Regulations for Local Authorities and their Partners on Children and Young People's Plans: Welsh Assembly Government Circular No 31/2007
- Skills That Work for Wales - A Skills and Employment Strategy and Action Plan
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001
- The 1999 School Premises Regulations: Welsh Office Circular 15/99

- The Change of Category of Maintained Schools (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2005
- The Change of Category of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2001
- Education (Infant Class Sizes) (Wales) Regulations 1998
- Education (Maintained Special Schools) (Wales) Regulations 1999
- Education (School Organisation Proposals) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004
- Education (School Organisation Proposals) (Wales) Regulations 1999
- Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999
- The Learning Country
- The Learning Country: Vision into Action
- The National Action Plan for a Bilingual Wales: Iaith Pawb
- The School Organisation Proposals by the National Council for Education and Training for Wales Regulations 2004
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- Special Educational Needs Code of Practice for Wales
- Welsh Language Act 1993
- Survey for the demand of Welsh Medium Education
- Estyn Inspection of PPRU

Appendix 5: Performance Indicators

Learning & Achievement

- Local Monitoring of Quality of Teaching
- Estyn Inspection Judgements
- Results from Student Survey
- Data on improved outcomes at Key Stages and Post 16
- Data on provision and use of ICT

Inclusion & Wellbeing

Local Authority monitoring data on ALN
Results from student, parent and community survey
Higher population of pupils with statements with complex needs in Local Authority schools
Audit of Community Focused Schools offers & community needs
Data on behaviour & attendance
Data related to healthy schools standards
Improved quality & quantity of out of school activities & sports provision from baseline
Staying on & NEET rates
Use of schools by adults to gain vocational skills & qualifications

Workforce Development

Involvement of staff in preparation for later School Modernisation projects
Visits to School Modernisation schools by other schools
Change team participation at School Modernisation schools
Results from staff survey

Improved Learning Environments

- Surplus places
- Proportion of admissions for first choice schools
- Energy usage before and after development
- Design Quality Indicators (DQI) post occupancy
- Breeam Very Good & Better standards
- Occupant satisfaction survey
- Cost per square metre for refurbishment and rebuilding
- Operational costs per square metre post occupancy

Working in Partnership

- Involvement and engagement of partners in programme delivery

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 5

REPORT TO: **EXECUTIVE**
DATE : **26 JANUARY 2010**
REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE**
SUBJECT : **OVERVIEW OF REPORTS REGARDING THE NORTH WALES
RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT (NWRWTP)**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise and update Members on the following:

- Progress made on the project to date.
- Overview and outline of the content of a series of reports relating to the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Partnership (NWRWTP) and supporting Outline Business Case (OBC).

2.00 BACKGROUND

North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Partnership (NWRWTP)

- 2.01 The NWRWTP was formally constituted in October 2008 and in January 2009 approval was given by this authority (and all other partner authorities) to a Project Initiation Document (PID) for the production of an Outline Business Case (OBC) for residual waste treatment services.
- 2.02 The OBC was given provisional approval by the NWRWTP Joint Committee at its meeting of 9th December 2009 and each partner authority was then requested to consider and approve the OBC.
- 2.03 WAG have made significant budget provision to support the delivery of such projects in addition to the Sustainable Waste Management Grant (SWMG) already being paid to local authorities in Wales. Partnerships are required to develop an OBC and gain WAG approval before procurement can commence. The additional SWMG will be paid to the Partnership on commencement of the service being provided by the Residual Waste Treatment Contractor. WAG have indicated that guaranteed revenue funding will be offered to support projects up to 25 years in length.
- 2.04 The OBC has been developed in accordance with WAG guidance that not only sets out the required structure and content of the OBC but also the evaluation approach for the reference solution options appraisal process.

Work Undertaken to Date

- 2.05 In relation to the project the following activity has been undertaken :
- Preparation and approval of the Project Initiation Document (PID)
 - Appointment of a Project Director and Project Manager

Date: 19/01/2010

- The formation of a Project Board and Joint Committee
- Building strong links and working relationships with Senior Officers in WAG and Partnerships UK (PUK)
- The appointment of Legal, Technical and Financial advisors for the preparation of the OBC.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 Four separate but interlinked reports will be developed covering the outcome of the options appraisal, Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) and OBC. The purpose and content of these reports is set out below:

3.02 Report 1 - Options Appraisal for Flintshire County Council

3.02.1 This report which is based on a review undertaken by the NWRWTP's Technical Advisors, provides an overview of work undertaken to assess how the Council should approach the treatment of its residual municipal waste in the future, specifically in relation to working on its own or in collaboration with other North Wales authorities. The report identifies a range of Municipal Waste treatment technologies and creates 20 different scenarios for assessment against a do nothing option of continuing to landfill residual waste.

3.02.2 The appraisal has reflected the technology options and criteria used for the assessment of the larger NWRWTP Project to ensure a consistent approach has been adopted. Procurement options have been assessed and further analysis and challenge has been undertaken through a SWOT and a cost model.

3.02.3 The Technical Advisors submitted a very early draft of their report immediately prior to Christmas and this has been reviewed with a number of observations being confirmed back to the consultants for their further consideration. A meeting was also held on the 6 January 2010 to discuss the report further.

3.03 Report 2 - Inter Authority Agreement

3.03.1 The Inter Authority Agreement has been drafted to formalise the respective roles and responsibilities of the partner authorities for their joint working arrangements during the procurement of the project, including the appointment of Flintshire County Council as Lead Authority throughout the process. A further IAA will be developed for Member approval when we are ready to award a contract to a successful bidder.

3.04 Report 3 - NWRWTP Overview of the Outline Business Case

3.04.1 This report outlines the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project and sets out: the OBC and the Reference Solution in particular (noting that the detailed OBC and appendices will be included as Part 2 items within the same agenda). The report will seek Members consideration of and comment on the issues contained within this particular report.

3.05 Report 4 - Outline Business Case (this will be a Part 2 item)

3.05.1 This report provides a summary of the commercially sensitive financial background information in relation to the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the project and also appends a copy of the Outline Business Case. The associated technical reports and background papers will be made available for Members to read.

3.05.2 The report will specifically deal with:

- The revenue consequences of the Reference Solution compared to a “Do Nothing Option”.
- Description of a range of sensitivities carried out.
- Development of an affordability envelope for the OBC and future procurement process
- The affordability of the potential costs of the project within the constraints of the Council’s overall financial strategy.

3.06 The four reports outlined above will presented to Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a special meeting of the Committee to be scheduled in February.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That Members note the report.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None as a direct result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None as a direct result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None as a direct result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None as a direct result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None as a direct result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None as a direct result of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None as a direct result of this report.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

Contact Officer: Neal Cockerton
Telephone: 01352 703169
E-Mail: neal_cockerton@flintshire.gov.uk

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 6

REPORT TO: **EXECUTIVE**
DATE : **26 JANUARY 2010**
REPORT BY: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**
SUBJECT : **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE - GUIDANCE**
 CONSULTATION AND RESPONSE

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To advise Members of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 legislated by the Welsh Assembly Government and our response to the consultation on the draft guidance.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The Measure was passed by the Assembly at Stage 4 on 28 April 2009. Royal Assent was given on 10 June 2009 and is now law but will be introduced in stages beginning in April 2010.

2.02 The Measure repeals and replaces most of the Local Government Act 1999 (Best Value) and parts of the Local Government Act 2000 (Community Strategies).

2.03 In summary the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 has reformed the statutory basis for service improvement and strategic planning by 'Improvement' authorities (Unitary, Fire and Rescue and National Park authorities) in Wales. The Measure links wellbeing and community planning with service improvement. It will require local partners to cooperate in the delivery of community strategic outcomes and to engage with citizens.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The Measure is structured as two parts. Part 1 deals with service improvement and Part 2 community planning.

3.02 The Measure places certain obligations upon Improvement authorities which include:

- Reinforce the duty to secure continuous improvement and account for it;
- Requires the setting of annual improvement objectives;
- Imposes a range of duties in respect of the collection, use and publication of performance information;
- Requires authorities to report achievement against improvement objectives and compare performance against other authorities.

Date: 19/01/2010

- 3.03 “Improvement” is defined locally based on citizen and community needs, and the capacity of local authority to meet them through improvement objectives. There will also be a greater scope to use data, collaborate with others and report performance.
- 3.04 The Local Government Measure makes significant changes to the Wales Programme for Improvement. It introduces new duties for the Auditor General for Wales and changes to some of his existing responsibilities at Unitary, Fire & Rescue and National Park Authorities.

From April 2010, local performance and inspection work will be replaced by an annual Improvement Assessment – reported in an Annual Improvement Report . The report will have an emphasis on outcomes for citizens and will be produced in an accessible style and format to inform the public.

The Improvement Assessment (by the Wales Audit Office) will comprise a forward-looking assessment of the likelihood of each authority to comply with its duty to secure improvements (produced in May 2010 as an internal report for the authority) and a backward-looking assessment of how/whether an authority’s performance has improved. (This will be produced as the Annual Improvement Report and will be publicly available.)

It should be noted that only Part 1 of the Measure will be subject to audit and inspection.

- 3.05 The Welsh Assembly Government have produced draft guidance to assist with the interpretation and implementation of the Measure. This draft guidance is on deposit in the Members' Library. The end of the consultation period for the guidance is 15 January and we have an extension of time for a response.
- 3.06 Our draft response to the guidance is appended. In summary it covers:
- the conflict between annual reporting in Part 1 of the Measure and reporting every 2 years in Part 2
 - the lack of clarity regarding the statutory elements of the guidance and other ‘guidance’
 - the confusion in terminology re. improvement objectives
 - the narrow definition of the seven aspects of improvement
 - the statement referring to comparative data as the ‘foundation’ for improvement - it is only one source of data
 - conflict between the Measure and the guidance over:
 - the ‘duty to consult’
 - the ‘power to collaborate’
 - the role of Scrutiny

- 3.07 The Council's senior officers and Corporate Management Team are preparing for the Council's implementation of the Measure using our existing business planning approaches which give a sound basis for improvement and change.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That Executive note the changes to the improvement and community planning arrangements as provided by the Measure.
- 4.02 That Executive endorse the consultation response to the draft guidance.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 None.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 The Measure and its strengthened relationship between council improvements and community planning should ensure that anti poverty work streams are identified and implemented to ensure community well-being.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 The Measure and its strengthened relationship between council improvements and community planning should ensure that strategic environmental work streams are identified and implemented to ensure community well-being.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 The Measure and its strengthened relationship between council improvements and community planning should ensure that equalities work streams are identified and implemented to ensure community well-being.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 None.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

- 10.01 Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be consulted in relation to the implementation of the Measure.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

- 11.01 Senior officers and Corporate Management Team have considered the Measure and its implications.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1: Local Government (Wales) Measure - Consultation Response to Draft Guidance

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

Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009
Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 Parts 1 and 2 Consultation
Draft

Contact Officer: Karen Armstrong
Telephone: 01352 702740
E-Mail: karen_armstrong@flintshire.gov.uk

Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 - Consultation Response to Draft Guidance

The Measure and supporting guidance provides further support and credence to the work that we are undertaking in Flintshire to demonstrate where and how community planning priorities fit with the Council. We see no reason to fundamentally change our business planning approaches that we have developed. In particular our strategic assessment of risks and challenges already identifies 'risk' and challenges from a Community Leadership perspective where we are working with other partners to deliver change and improvement.

We feel that the guidance provides information and advice about issues which are either not statutory or indeed silent in the Measure. This creates some confusion and uncertainty over how the guidance is to be interpreted by the regulators and therefore how we as an authority will be judged. Detail on these areas is described below.

General Issues

There is lack of clarity in the guidance regarding the identification of the statutory requirements of the Measure.

Although the Measure is written in a sequential Part 1 and Part 2 order; we feel that the importance of community planning 'leading' some of the priorities for change for an organisation is seen 'first' in the guidance.

The missing diagrams in the guidance should assist with the relationship between the two parts of the Measure.

Misalignment between Measure and Guidance

As indicated above there are a number of areas where there is conflict between the Measure and the description provided in the guidance.

i) Reporting – Part 1 of the Measure refers to annual reporting of improvement information 15(2) whereas Part 2 refers to reporting of community strategy objectives 42(3) at least once every 2 years. The relationship between these two sets of reporting needs to be made more explicit.

ii) The 'duty to consult'. The guidance is silent about 'how' an authority consults over "making arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions".

The Measure 5(1) refers to consultation "*for the purpose of deciding how to fulfil the duties under section 2(1) and 3(1)*" whereas the guidance 3(19) to 3(23) focuses on consultation on improvement objectives [i.e 3(1) of the Measure] rather than the broad duty "*to make arrangements*"

iii) The 'power to collaborate'. In the Measure s11 the wide ranging powers to collaborate are introduced and 12(1) introduces a duty to consider 'from time to time' whether the exercise of these powers would assist it to discharge its duties under 2(1), 3(2) & 8(7) – i.e., essentially in the delivery of improvement objectives. This is supported by 12(2) which requires authorities to exercise the powers as and when they conclude that their use would assist. Furthermore an authority is required to publish *“details of the ways in which the authority has exercised its powers of collaboration for the purpose of discharging its duties under 2(1), 3(2) & 8(7).”*

The guidance however, 'softens' this approach by referring to each authority deciding when collaboration opportunities are best considered, but then lists "opportune" possibilities. In terms of publication of information on the use of these powers 5(7) refers to a *“summary account of their past, present and future activity ... [that] need not be extensive”*. Given the extensive collaboration and partnership activity underway it is suggested that the guidance is more specific in terms of what is required. Otherwise this could prove to be over- bureaucratic.

iv) The role of Scrutiny. This is referred to in Part 1 of the guidance 3(24, 29 and 30) yet is silent in the Measure.

v) Terminology around the word 'Improvement'. The Measure refers to the seven aspects of improvement 4(2). The guidance in 2(2) and 3(6) to 3(9) could actually be constraining. More broadly speaking 2(1) identifies that improvement *“should mean anything which enhances sustainable quality of life for local citizens and communities”*. It is this latter interpretation over which Flintshire will ensure the 'strategic effectiveness' of the improvement objectives.

Improvement Objectives

Further clarity is needed in the guidance about Improvement Objectives and their timescales, including the relationship to community planning and terminology.

There is a core duty in the Measure 3(1) to *“set objectives for each financial year for improving the exercise of functions during that year”* – these are 'improvement objectives'. Measure 3(2) refers to *“make arrangements to secure achievement of these objectives”* and 3(3) says that *“improvement objectives must be framed in terms of at least one of the 7 aspects of improvement”*.

The guidance however refers to the seven aspects not being used as a 'checklist' and only used to demonstrate "broad purpose" with the number of improvement objectives being a "matter for local decision". In Flintshire we take the view that our "objectives for improvement" are a mixture of council delivery, council governance and partnership improvements and that from these we shall establish in-year "improvement objectives" which may not in

themselves be completed within the year but span a longer timeframe. These may be more relevant to longer term planning akin to the community strategy.

Seven Aspects of Improvement

The seven aspects referred to in the guidance 3(4 - 9) are vague and potentially narrow. In particular “fairness” 3(7) does not just relate to service provision but also impacts on employment policies and strategic planning.

Use of Comparative Data

Section 4(4) of the guidance refers to comparative data being the 'foundation' for improvement. This is misleading - it should 'inform'; alongside other sources of needs assessment data and local knowledge.

Community Planning

Most of the guidance in Part 2 has undergone many iterations during the development of the Community Strategy guidance “A Local Vision”. As a result of this ongoing consultation there are seemingly fewer areas of concern.

However section 2(2) refers to “*Community planning is the process by which a local authority and its partners develop, define and deliver a set of priorities for improving local wellbeing over a 10-15 year period.*” This statement needs to be clarified. Do the outcomes for improved wellbeing need to be demonstrated within the timeframe or is it the agreed actions that need to be developed / delivered over a 10–15 year period?

Section 6(5) recognises that “*many sound community strategy objectives will only be deliverable in the longer term and progress in the early years may be slow or imperceptible.*” This appears to directly contradict 2(6) which refers to strategic objectives which need to “*manifest themselves in visible and shorter-term change.*”

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 7

REPORT TO: **EXECUTIVE**
DATE : **26 JANUARY 2010**
REPORT BY: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**
SUBJECT : **RESPONSE TO THE WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT'S**
"A ROAD LESS TRAVELLED - A DRAFT GYPSY
TRAVELLER STRATEGY"

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To provide an overview of the consultation document of the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) on "A Road Less Travelled- A Draft Gypsy Traveller Strategy".
- 1.02 To present a draft Flintshire County Council response to the consultation for agreement.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) has launched a consultation on a "A Road Less Travelled – A Draft Gypsy Traveller Strategy". The strategy has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders including local authorities, third sector partners and the Gypsy Traveller community.
- 2.02 WAG has recognised that Gypsies and Travellers experience the highest levels of inequality than any other ethnic group. The strategy is the first national strategy for the Travelling community in the United Kingdom setting out future policy direction. It forms part of WAG's commitment to address inequalities experienced by ethnic minority communities as set out in the One Wales document and meets the recommendations of the report into the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers (2006).
- 2.03 The aim of this strategy is to:
- realise WAG's commitment to the Gypsy Traveller community;
 - ensure equality of opportunity for Gypsies and Travellers in Wales; and
 - think about new ways in which Gypsy and Traveller communities can access resources not always available to them by ensuring services are flexible.
- 2.04 Responding to the needs of Gypsies and Travellers can raise an emotive response from the settled community. WAG view the strategy as an opportunity for a "new deal" for the Gypsy and Traveller community and the potential to "map out a new relationship between Gypsy Travellers and the settled community".

Date: 19/01/2010

2.05 To ensure that Gypsy Travellers in Wales no longer feel excluded and vulnerable in Welsh society, WAG has recognised the following issues need to be addressed:

- social exclusion and racism;
- educational disadvantage;
- cultural and safety issues; and
- social and economic issues.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The vision of the strategy is:

"The Gypsy Traveller community in Wales is no longer marginalised and compelled to live on the fringes of society. The Welsh Assembly Government will develop a framework for a constructive and positive relationship between Gypsy Travellers and settled communities in Wales, and ensure the needs of Gypsy Travellers are considered in the delivery of mainstream services."

3.02 This draft strategy covers on several key policy areas including accommodation, health and education. The strategy sets out 17 objectives based on the policy areas of:

Community Cohesion - the strategy recognises that the Travelling community can be misunderstood and aims to improve mutual understanding and trust between Gypsy Traveller communities and settled communities.

Accommodation - the strategy recognises the accommodation issues faced by the Travelling community and aims to address both the level and quality of provision.

Education - the strategy sets out how WAG will ensure the delivery of a positive and cultural relevant educational experience to the whole family which can accommodate the nomadic way of life.

Engagement and Participation - to enable Gypsy Traveller children and young people opportunities to shape the development of decisions that affect them.

Health - all health needs of Gypsy Travellers are addressed through national and local policy by making health care more accessible for the Gypsy Traveller community.

Consultation and Engagement - to facilitate better consultation and engagement by public bodies with the Gypsy Traveller community to formulate realistic and practical policies which fully include the views and needs of the Gypsy Traveller community.

- 3.03 This strategy has been developed in line with the view that Gypsy Travellers are part of the solution and not the problem. The strategy is aimed at policy developers, local authorities and the Gypsy Traveller community in Wales.
- 3.04 The response to this strategy was provided by Flintshire County Council officers who work with the Gypsy Traveller community or whose work will be affected by the strategy, for example, Planning.
- 3.05 The main considerations highlighted in the response are:
- the need for a legislative or regulatory requirement from WAG to focus the public sector on their contribution to meeting the aims and objectives of the strategy. A clear mandate is needed for the public sector;
 - more support is needed for regional solutions and the potential use of WAG funding;
 - specific references and links to the roles of Strategic Partnerships, associated strategies and action plans need to be identified so that their responsibilities are clearly defined; and
 - if new statutory guidance is required it is for the public sector and not just for local authorities to develop a more consistent approach to the management of unauthorised encampments across Wales.
- 3.06 The Consultation on the strategy ends in January 2010. A draft response is attached at Appendix A. A copy of the consultation document is available in the Members' Library.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That Executive approve the draft response from Flintshire County Council and agree for it to be submitted to WAG.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 There are no costs directly arising out of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 The strategy aims to tackle some of the factors that contribute to poverty in the Gypsy Traveller community.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 None identified.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 The strategy is part of the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment to address equality of opportunity and eliminate discrimination as set out in the One Wales Document.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 None identified in this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

- 10.01 None required.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

- 11.01 Key officers have been consulted in the preparation of the response to this draft strategy; these include those in Housing, Planning, Social Services for Children, Social Services for Adults and the Traveller Education Service.

12.00 APPENDICES

- 12.01 Appendix A Response to WAG consultation on the draft Gypsy Traveller Strategy.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Welsh Assembly Government 2009
Draft Gypsy Traveller Strategy

Contact Officer: Trevor Jones
Telephone: 01352 702613
E-Mail: trevor_jones@flintshire.gov.uk

Appendix A



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Welsh Assembly Government, Draft Gypsy Traveller Strategy Consultation “A Road Less Travelled”

We are seeking your views on the draft Gypsy Traveller Strategy, “A Road Less Travelled.” We welcome your views on the document as whole and welcome examples of good practice. We have also prepared some questions and some key issues for you to consider however please feel free to comment on issues that we have not raised.

Please attach your responses to this form and continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Name and Organisation

Trevor Jones/ Fiona Mocko
Flintshire County Council

Does the Strategy cover the right themes? Yes.

A positive document which provides a relevant and understanding response to the needs of the Gypsy Traveller Community within Wales.

Please explain your answer.

We would like to see the final document contain:

- direct references to all Strategic Partnerships that link to Local Service Boards.
- links to other national strategies, guidance and policies for example, Health and Well Being Strategy, Planning policies, National Service Frameworks, Community Safety.
- statements on how the Draft Gypsy Traveller will influence Strategy and policy development at WAG
- a specified role for the Third Sector.

Although the document recognises the distinct identity of each group within the term ‘Gypsy Traveller’, (page 6) it makes little reference to the different values, and needs that each particular group may have. The successful implementation of the objectives will require practitioners to have a good understanding of these differences and to recognise that the Travellers themselves do not wish to be classified under one ethnic ‘umbrella’. For example, Objective 9 – Irish Traveller parents, although still very reluctant to send their children to Secondary school, do not have the same extreme objection to high school as many English Gypsy parents. For these pupils it is probably more appropriate to encourage integration into mainstream (as in

Wrexham), rather than a more tailored curriculum (As in Monkton Priory- where the population is mainly Welsh Gypsy).

Objective 10 – Schools need to be very clear whose history they are discussing. It could cause upset and confusion to expect Irish Travellers to treat Welsh Gypsy history as though it was their own, and vice versa.

Are the aims of the draft Strategy appropriate and realistic?

We would suggest that the strategy is, rightly, very ambitious although this may increase the potential risk of failure to deliver if not prioritised.

We feel that the objectives are set out clearly however the overarching aims of the Strategy should be more visible in the document. We would like to see that each objective

- identifies timescales
- is measurable
- is specific

We would prefer to see actions that state clearly what is expected, rather than statements such as “encourage” and “consider” which are harder to measure. Each objective needs to be supported by a clear action plan, and that each authority is obliged to name officers responsible for its implementation. We would like to know how these will be enforced.

Objective 9 states the need for an induction programme in schools, lead by a named officer, this is a good idea in principle, staff in schools have many roles, and this would not always be practical, or possible, especially when working with transient groups who move in and out of schools regularly.

Do you consider there to be any gaps in the draft Strategy?

If so, what?

The lack of strong reference to regional solutions is a serious omission in the Strategy. The Strategy acknowledges the tensions that may exist between the Gypsy Traveller community and settled community; however there is no legislative requirement in place to support formal regional and collective working which will enable the objectives of the Strategy to be met. By this we mean collaborative working between statutory and other agencies on both local and regional basis. There appears a far greater role for the Wales Spatial Plan on this issue, than is currently covered by it.

Meeting the needs of Gypsies and Travellers to achieve the aims of the Strategy cannot be the responsibility of individual local authorities working in isolation. Balancing the rights of the Gypsy and Traveller community and settled community is a complex issue which requires collaboration and understanding by all agencies who have obligations for the well-being of both communities. This needs to be addressed on a formal regional basis with further exploration of a statutory obligation to work on a regional basis. The Strategy could identify the potential use of WAG funding as leverage to encourage this approach.

Objectives 15 and 16 do not reflect the structural changes that have taken place across Local Health Board and Trusts. The important role that Social Services for Adults and Social Services for Children play in meeting the social

care needs of Travelling families has not been recognised. This section is focussed only on health as opposed to social care, for example, there is no mention of domestic violence or child protection agendas.

There is no mention of access to/participation in arts and leisure services – Travellers often feel excluded from these opportunities. There is no mention of access to public transport – this can be a large barrier to participation, with many existing sites near main roads, without bus stops, or pavements.

Does the Strategy clearly link with other strategic themes e.g. Education, Health Social Care and Wellbeing, Planning etc?

On face value the Strategy seeks to make the necessary links. However, in areas such as Planning Policy, establishing links between the Gypsy Traveller Strategy's intentions and the planning system to provide tangible responses may present a significant challenge. It does link closely to the 'Moving Forward' document relating to education, and the school effectiveness framework.

We would like to see more specific references and links to the roles of Strategic Partnerships, associated strategies and action plans so that their responsibilities are clearly defined.

From your perspective (e.g. a site manager, an education practitioner, a local authority officer, members of planning committee, third sector agency), what support and guidance do you require to implement the objectives relevant to your work area?

The establishment of a clearly defined statutory or regulatory responsibility to contribute towards delivery on key Strategy objectives is essential. The support of Directors of Education, who need to be made aware of the guidance and the issues faced by the Traveller Education Service is essential.

The Strategy should make clear that WAG will use its call-in powers for example, where decisions are made against policy. Flintshire has an adequate criteria based policy within its UDP (as advocated by paragraph 25 of circular 30/2007) so it is more an issue of needs identification, appropriate site identification, political understanding and difficult decision making, and community engagement, that are fundamental to success or otherwise. It is less whether the strategy says all the right things that is of most importance therefore, but rather how its aims and objectives are put over in this context.

What more can the Welsh Assembly do to support professionals in this area?

Current expectations that over arching legislation covering Human Rights and Equalities and a 'top down' response to meeting such responsibilities would be adopted in the local authority environment are flawed.

A clear mandate is needed for the public sector to take forward this Strategy.

WAG should review Partnerships and underpinning strategies and plans to

ensure needs of Gypsy Traveller children and families are included. Gypsies and Travellers should be included in the Strategy guidance.

The introduction of a statutory Gypsy and Traveller training element for all staff joining public sector organisations will contribute to raising awareness and understanding.

WAG to look at the 'loop-hole' which currently means that Gypsy Traveller pupils who are not attending Secondary schools do not have equality of opportunity and access to education. For example, because they are not on a school roll these pupils cannot currently access the 14-19 pathways courses.

WAG should ensure ESTYN are aware of the advice in 'Moving Forward' and do not penalise schools for accepting Travellers.

WAG should ensure adequate Catholic School places, and ensure that Catholic schools adhere to the admissions/attendance policies. Sometimes even when Secondary Travellers require a school place they cannot get one due to lack of Catholic places.

Please state the objective and what support you anticipate your sector requiring.

Objective 1

WAG to be part of the engagement process, through active and high profile support, between local authorities and the Travelling and settled community. WAG to develop specific guidance for Local Service Boards which includes measures and outcomes.

WAG to engage Gypsies and Travellers on a national level.

Objective 2

From a strategic housing perspective support is required to ensure legislative or regulatory requirements are accepted nationally and reflected locally.

Objective 6

WAG to review its own estate to identify potential sites including, transit and emergency stop off provision.

Objective 10

ESTYN to ensure schools are asked to demonstrate cultural awareness when inspected. Schools should demonstrate links or examples of good practice written into the mainstream curriculum.

Objective 11

The WAG engagement officer should work directly in partnership with the Children and Young People Partnerships in each local authority to develop local links for participation in addition to national mechanisms.

WAG should ensure North Wales is included in the initiative to form a national forum from the early stages.

Objective 16

Local authorities should also be required to collect data on Gypsies and Travellers social care needs as part of equality monitoring.

The draft Strategy acknowledges that the proposed commitments are being undertaken in a climate of economic recession. With that in mind are we able to improve the effectiveness of existing services by using

more innovative approaches?

Yes

If so how?

By taking a collaborative approach with partner agencies both within the local authority boundaries and regionally and including English authorities where appropriate.

Meeting the needs of the Travelling community is a multi agency responsibility and cannot be delivered by one agency alone.

National and local charities can work with Local Authorities in meeting the needs of these families, in particular families or individuals who for whatever reason have been excluded from their own Travelling community. Their role could be included in the overall Strategy.

Use existing training programmes to keep Traveller issues on the agenda.

Use existing partnerships, for example, Children and Young People to enforce/ensure authorities are fulfilling their obligations to Travellers in all core areas.

Please provide any examples that you feel have worked well in your area.

We developed a multi agency protocol to respond to unauthorised encampments effectively and efficiently. We work closely with the North Wales Police to keep each other up to date regarding unauthorised encampments.

We are continuing to develop working relationships with Chester and West Cheshire Council sharing information and understanding families' needs and travelling patterns.

Working with museums service/ Language and play department, enabled curriculum enrichment to take place without additional expenditure.

Specific Gypsy Traveller work linking in to mainstream initiatives (Big Yak/Funky Dragon).

Health and Education working co-operatively using Wrexham's Health bus.

Equally, if we have demonstrated examples that you don't feel are practical or realistic or are known to have problems, please tell us.

Please tell us what you think *would* work.

Would you like to see a National Forum established for Gypsy Travellers?

Please consider who this would comprise of, the remit of the groups etc

In broad terms the establishment of a recognised national forum would be a potentially useful resource. The membership would need to be balanced in terms of age, ethnicity (Irish Travellers, Romany Gypsies) etc and representation from across Wales. However, would it be more beneficial to establish local forum first from which membership for the national forum could be drawn? We would also like to see a National Youth Forum.

The remit of a national forum could include:-

- acting as an advisory group to the Welsh Assembly Government and the public sector;

- promoting rights and responsibilities within the Travelling community;
- promoting involvement of the Travelling community in service design;
- promoting good community relations and developing information and learning packs to dispel myths and increase awareness and understanding across the public sector, Travelling communities, settled communities and business sector;
- set up local/regional forum if not already established; and.
- to support the development of new fora where required.

How can we encourage the participation of Gypsy Travellers especially in civic life?

The establishment of a National Gypsy Traveller Forum would be a starting point empowering the Travelling community to participate in different bodies. WAG could also

- identify, promote and celebrate Gypsies and Travellers or people with a Traveller background who participate/have participated in public life as Assembly Members, Members of Parliament, County Councillors, School Governors etc.
- provide mentors/taster sessions for members of the Travelling community who have an interest in becoming involved.
- engage with the Travelling community to promote opportunities in civic life and to identify the barriers faced by the Travelling community.
- encourage Assembly Members, Members of Parliament, Councillors to visit sites in their area and meet the Travelling community to discuss issues.
- encourage the Travelling community to vote.

Any examples of good practice in this area?

“Croeso”, a Commission for Racial Equality initiative organised a site visit in Wrexham by an Assembly Member so that they could meet the families.

How can we encourage good relations between Gypsy Travellers and members of the settled community?

- Profiling and celebrating Gypsies and Traveller achievements to dispel myths and negative stereotypes.
- Where WAG provide funding for specialist services to ensure one of the long term outcomes is to remove barriers to existing services so that Gypsy Travellers eventually access mainstream services where there are more opportunities for integration and developing relationships across communities.
- Teacher training, Social Work courses and other professional training should cover Gypsy and Travellers culture, addressing hate incidents and bullying and harassment so that promoting good community relations is embedded in service delivery.
- Degree and other courses for trainee Planning Officers should include Gypsy and Traveller culture, recognising and dealing with racist objections.
- Any funding provided by WAG for projects /initiatives should be linked to the community cohesion agenda.

- Ring fence funding within specific partnerships.
- Promoting and using “Community Conferencing” model.
- Promoting positive images in the media.
- Tackling negative and racist images and language in the media.
- Increase awareness and understanding with Members of Parliament and Assembly Members.

How can we get the settled community to engage on this issue?

- Ring fence funding for the Third sector with a specific emphasis on engagement with Gypsies and Travellers and bringing communities together.

Would public forums work? i.e. with representation from both the Gypsy Traveller and settled community to put both sides forward and dispel myths?

Yes, but small groups perhaps through Youth work, drama and theatre to encourage integration.

Any examples of good practice in this area?

Representation of Gypsy Traveller on the involvement group for Flintshire County Council’s Single Equality Scheme. This means that people from different backgrounds have the opportunity to learn about each other in a supportive environment.

Are any local authorities working regionally to deliver sites (whether permanent or transit)? We aren’t aware of anyone. Is there an interest in this from local authorities?

How can regional working be achieved?

- WAG to discuss with local and regional statutory agencies as a collective to explore their obligations for working regionally to deliver sites.
- Prioritise funding for site provision where regional collaborative work is proven.
- Consideration within the Spatial Planning processes.

What else can we do to facilitate and support this?

Fundamental to the achievement of the national Strategy’s objectives must be an acceptance that all local authorities and other agencies must be assisted to work collaboratively to ensure that Gypsy Traveller issues are reflected in a regional context.

Refurbishing Sites and Building New Sites.

Are local authorities aware of the grant aid available from the Welsh Assembly Government to achieve this?

Yes

What can WAG do to further facilitate local authorities applying for these grants?

WAG must work to avoid situations where grant funding is potentially withheld from local authorities for perceived inadequate performance at the expense of seeking to use grant as a foundation for future sustained improvement.

Are local authorities and planning practitioners aware of the Planning Circular (WAG 30/2007)?

The Strategy is clearly linked to the Planning theme via circular 30/2007. This provides clear and adequate guidance on the contribution to be made by the Planning System. As Flintshire moves to begin to prepare its Local Development Plan this year, then the circular will come into its own in guiding the Council.

What do you need from the Welsh Assembly Government in terms of unauthorised encampments? Is the existing guidance good? Does it help? Does it need to be revised?

WAG has provided guidance which we have found helpful and beneficial in developing the Council's protocol, however, the approach and attitude to unauthorised encampments differs across the public sector. We feel that new statutory guidance for the public sector and not just for local authorities will help develop a more consistent approach which will benefit organisations, the settled community and Travelling community.

Is the impact as big as we have previously discussed in terms of community cohesion?

The community tensions regarding Gypsies and Travellers that we experience are mainly created on the arrival of an unauthorised encampment, regardless of whether there are any environmental or anti social behaviour issues associated with the site. There are two permanent sites in the County and we do not have any reports of community tensions created by the presence of those sites. There is room for increasing community cohesion in these areas.

Are local authorities able to gather information on the costs involved in clearing an unauthorised encampment?

Yes. The Council spent just under £14,000 in a five month period. However we know that we have had unauthorised encampments in the past where the cost of the clean up of one site has exceeded this.

There are also costs for other agencies in responding to unauthorised encampments, for example, the Police, Health services and costs to private landowners. It would be useful if WAG could encourage these bodies to also collect information about the costs involved.

Are you aware of the Education Circular "Moving Forward"? Do practitioners use it? Do schools consider it of value?

Yes. Traveller Education Service (TES) within Flintshire is aware of and regularly uses this document. TES has used it in schools for training purposes.

Are schools able to enforce it?

Do schools/ TES need additional help from WAG to enforce it?

The experience of TES is that the policies employed by schools are influenced more by the general school ethos, and their experiences of Travellers than the document itself. Additional support from WAG would be

appreciated; it would also help if ESTYN inspected its use. There should be a more co-ordinated approach to producing documents for schools so that they are not overburdened with information. One overarching **statutory** document that clearly states the guidance for the inclusion of all Black and minority ethnic pupils, including specific reference to Gypsy Travellers would be valuable.

How has this impacted on bullying of Gypsy Traveller children and young people?

There is still some evidence of discrimination, and name calling in schools although the 'Anti bullying Strategy', has raised the profile of these issues. In general schools are now much more likely to tackle them in a positive manner.

What are the barriers facing Gypsy Travellers in terms of education? Would culturally relevant lessons make a difference to attendance?

Feedback from the Travelling community has cited that sex education provided at secondary schools is a barrier preventing parents from transferring children from primary to secondary schools. Other barriers include:

- attitudes to Secondary Education (not wishing children to be 'gorgified').
- negative experiences of schools.
- low expectations (Schools will sometimes immediately assume Travellers have 'special needs').
- unwillingness of schools to accept Travellers.
- lack of transport to schools.
- lack of routine in parents lives.
- lack of understanding of cultural issues by schools.
- lack of understanding of the school system by Travellers.
- accommodation issues.
- literacy levels of parents.
- lack of space for educational activities in trailers – games /books.
- no experience of books/ activities of knowledge of 'how to play' with/ help their children.
- lack of communication/inappropriate communication between home and school.

Are there other factors? E.g. cost of uniforms? Cost of School Dinners? Application processes for certain schools? Homework issues?

What else?

Catholic provision – places are not always available, and admission systems can be long winded and complicated in Catholic Schools.

Homework, especially in secondary schools when pupils do not have access to a computer.

Are practitioners able to engage with parents to ensure they are happy

and comfortable with school set up, classes, trips etc?

Where there is a long history of Travellers at school it is easier or there is an active Traveller Education Service that has developed a relationship with the families. In schools with a positive, welcoming and inclusive ethos and where time has been taken to build trust, practitioners can engage with families.

How do we encourage Gypsy Travellers parents to become more involved in school life? Attend school trips? Become governors?

Potential ways forward are:-

- build trust from day one, and ensure this progresses over time.
- take time to explain processes/encourage parents in to school gradually.
- make an effort with communication.
- hold parents groups, and encourage Traveller parents to be involved.
- invite parents on school trips.

Any examples where this has been successfully achieved?

Flintshire County Council provided “parents evening” on site. The teachers visited all the families on the site bringing photographs of the children in school and to give the parents an update of the progress their children were making. The aim of this was to

- build relations between class teachers and parents;
- familiarise the parents with the concept of a parents evening and allay any fears they may have held;
- encourage parents to become involved in their children’s education;
- encourage parents to visit the school and attend future parents evenings; and
- provide feedback on each child’s progress.

There has been success in one Primary school in Flintshire, where parents are members of a parents group and are actively involved in school life. This has been done through encouragement, a long history of Travellers at the school, and an open door policy.

Are our proposed initiatives the right way to go? Yes**Are there other ways to get young people into, and to stay in school?**

In addition...

- ensure ease of access into alternative curriculum arrangements,
- allow part time timetables where appropriate at Secondary level, and encourage ESTYN to see this as positive rather than negative.
- improve distance learning opportunities in Wales. The ELAMP project in England, has been very successful, but is not available to Welsh pupils.
- through Youth work and education, and learning coaches.

We are aware that the issue of 'sports culture' has not been addressed in the draft Strategy.

Are there examples of this being used in education?

We are not aware of any.

How do we get children and young people from the Gypsy Traveller community involved in forums and school councils?

Involve parents and ensure the whole family supports any projects.

Use the Youth Service/ Learning coaches.

Secondary schools do not provide the right environment for this work. There needs to be an appropriate building/centre where young people feel comfortable.

Ask Travellers, most young Travellers are keen to be involved but miss out on opportunities because they are not asked directly, and often feel these opportunities are not aimed at them.

Allow spaces on councils for ethnic minorities, often pupils want to join but are not 'voted' on by peers, because they are not totally integrated into the schools.

Ensure pupils are accompanied and supported by someone they (and the family) trust, at least in the initial stages.

How would a forum be delivered?

Small scale with regional participation with a selection of Traveller/Settled young people, this would lead up to a national group.

TES would need to be involved.

What problems do health care practitioners experience with the Gypsy Traveller community accessing and maintaining health care?

Anecdotal evidence from the Travelling community suggests that:-

- GPs refuse to register families.
- Difficulties accessing Doctors, dentists and other health services when on an unauthorised encampment.

How we address these?

- Developing a UK health record system that can be accessed by health professionals.
- Medical training should cover Gypsy Traveller culture and equality.
- Accident and Emergency staff should be able to provide information on local services to Travelling families.
- Provide information about health services in different formats.

We already provide information on health services to families on unauthorised encampments but we some times experience difficulties when we have supported families to access the most appropriate service

Is there any way to address Long Term Care for elderly Gypsy

Travellers, as opposed to Residential Care Homes?

Information about choices for meeting care needs should be made available in different formats. Services need to actively engage with the Travelling community to understand their care needs and how best to meet those identified needs.

What level of health care can be provided on site?

Mainstream services should be making themselves known to families on permanent sites so that services will be designed to meet people's needs. Families on permanent sites should be able to access mainstream services if they are fully integrated in the community.

A different solution may be needed for unauthorised encampments, for example, the local Health Visitor has visited unauthorised encampments in Flintshire to give immunisations and make out prescriptions. However we have also made arrangements for them to visit local clinics to receive treatment.

How can we collect reliable and accurate data on Gypsy Travellers in particular in terms of health?

Any examples of where this has been successfully achieved?

We are not aware of any.

How can we develop skills of the Gypsy Traveller community to facilitate consultation with other members of the community rather than using other agencies? How would we do this? What format would this take? Any examples where this has been achieved?

How do agencies consult with Gypsy Travellers and is it working?

- We carry out face to face consultation with families through staff who already have a relationship with the families.
- We visit sites regularly.
- We ask views of families on unauthorised encampments.
- We sometimes work through the spokesperson for a particular group.
- We invite them to take part in local events.
- We provide information in different formats.

They would also be included mechanisms for gaining service user feedback, for example, Looked After Children.

Please add additional comments, views or examples of good practice.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Flintshire County Council welcomes the Gypsy Traveller Strategy; we see this as a commitment by the WAG to lead the agenda and influence future policy development.

We are delighted that WAG has developed the first national Strategy in

the United Kingdom; this affords an opportunity to bring about real changes that will improve life chances for the Travelling community and build bridges between the settled community, business community and Travelling community. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Strategy and appreciate the work the Welsh Assembly Government is doing with regard to meeting the needs of the Gypsy Traveller community. We believe that the public sector has a vital role to play in removing barriers between Travelling communities, the settled community and public services.

There is no 'one solution' and that any locally based approach must be multi-faceted. The Strategy should make this clear and particularly in a Planning context, as there can be misapprehensions that it is the sole responsibility of the Planning System to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers. Whilst the Planning System does have an important role to play particularly in relation to site identification and provision, it should not be seen as the panacea.

We are pleased the Strategy recognises the:

- cohesion issues that may arise with the community;
- cultural differences that exist;
- Travelling communities' views/approaches to health, education and accommodation; and
- entrenched discrimination faced by the Travelling community.

We would like to see a statutory framework in place to support the implementation of the Strategy. Without this, the commitment to the Strategy and ultimately its effectiveness in bringing about change will vary across agencies.

Thank you for taking time to read and respond to the Welsh Assembly Government draft Gypsy Traveller Strategy, "A Road Less Travelled".

We look forward to receiving your comments.

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 8

REPORT TO: **EXECUTIVE**
DATE : **26 JANUARY 2010**
REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**
SUBJECT : **SUPPORTING PEOPLE STRATEGY 2010-13**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To inform the Executive about the Supporting People Strategy and seek approval for the proposals detailed within the Strategy (summary attached at Appendix 1)

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 On 17th February 2009 the Executive received a report on the Supporting People Operational Plan (SPOP) for 2009-10, which was approved. The SPOP is updated and approved on an annual basis, overseen by the Supporting People Planning Group. Contained within the recommendations for 2009-10 was a proposal to develop a medium term Supporting People Commissioning Strategy to give more detail about the anticipated new developments which are required to meet the needs of vulnerable people in Flintshire.
- 2.02 The Supporting People Strategy aims to set a direction for the Supporting People Programme for the next three years. The document will be updated with annual action plans as required by the Welsh Assembly Government. The strategy has been developed by the Supporting People Team, in partnership with the providers of housing related support services, and overseen by the Supporting People Planning Group.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 The Strategy has seven key sections. A summary of the strategy is attached as appendix 1 to this report. The full Strategy, including the action plan is attached as appendix 2. There are a number of appendices to the strategy and these are available from Member Services. The Executive is asked to note the sections of the Strategy and approve the action plan and the proposed developments.
- 3.02 The action plan is split into three sections to reflect the three policy areas covered by housing related support services. This section of the report will provide an overview of the action plan and proposed developments:
- Community Care

Date: 19/01/2010

- Community Safety
- Homeless Prevention.

3.03 **Community Care**

The Community Care section covers those services which contribute to the strategic outcomes of Health and Social Care Services. The service user groups covered in this section are Learning Disabilities, Mental Health, Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment, Chronic Illness, Vulnerable Adults and Older People. The section provides detail on the reduction of Supporting People funding from core services, the realignment of funding into eligible services and also some new developments.

New developments in this section include an additional Keyring Service for vulnerable adults and additional post to support the Vulnerable Adults Social Worker.

3.04 **Community Safety**

The Community Safety section covers those services which contribute to the strategic outcomes of the Community Safety Partnership. The service user groups covered in this section are Domestic Abuse, Substance Misuse and Offenders. This section provides detail on the opportunity to remodel and improve existing services and proposals for new developments.

New developments in this section include providing a longer term commitment to the preventative floating support service for domestic abuse which is a pilot project with short term funding. Monitoring information to date demonstrates there is substantial need for this project. There is also a proposal for the development of dispersed safe houses for individuals fleeing domestic abuse. This will meet a recognised gap in provision for those individuals unable to access refuge provision including males and larger families.

3.05 **Homeless Prevention**

The Homeless Prevention section covers those services which contribute to the strategic outcomes within the Homeless Strategy. This section covers the homeless service user group including families, single people and young people who find themselves homeless or at risk of homelessness. This service user group will often have multiple support needs. This section identifies the opportunity to remodel existing provision to meet identified gaps including direct access, emergency placements and a smaller scheme for young people with complex needs.

New developments in this section include an innovative new service for young people linked to learning, work and education based on a social enterprise model. Flintshire has support from a national project to enable us to learn from best practice elsewhere and assist with this development.

4.00 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 That Executive notes the achievements to date within the Strategy.
- 4.02 That Executive approves the proposals in the Strategy.
- 4.03 That Executive approves the Supporting People Strategy for implementation.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 The Supporting People Grant is a specific grant for funding housing related support services. All new services and amendments will be contained within the grant funding available.
- 5.02 The Supporting People Operational Plan has identified a need to reduce funding to some services which are deemed ineligible for Supporting People funding. This will have an impact on Social Services for Adults' budgets.
- 5.03 The table below provides a summary of the impact on Social Services for Adults' budgets in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Reduction in SP Funding Summary		
	09/10	10/11
	£K	£K
Reduction in SSA SP allocation	627	431
Re-investment in SSA eligible services	313	231
Transfer of SP team costs to SP Grant	150	
Net reduction in SSA budget	164	200
Re-investment in new SP services	183	200
WAG re-distribution	0	0

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 There are no specific anti-poverty implications within this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 There are no specific environmental implications within this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 The Supporting People Programme was established to provide low-level accommodation support services to people with an assessed need for support. Access to these support services enables people to access wider community services.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 N/A

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

- 10.01 No further consultation is envisaged.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

- 11.01 Supporting People has held two provider forums over the summer to consult with providers of housing related support services. The team has also held one to one meetings with Senior Managers from within Flintshire County Council and Provider Organisations. The Supporting People Planning Group has agreed the draft. The strategy summary has been forwarded to a range of groups and forums for comment.

12.00 APPENDICES

- 12.01 Supporting People Strategy Overview 2010-13

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

none

Contact Officer: Katie Davis
Telephone: 01352 703518
E-Mail: katie_davis@flintshire.gov.uk

Flintshire Supporting People Strategy Overview 2010-13

Background

The Supporting People Strategy aims to set a direction for the Supporting People Programme for the next three years. The document will be updated with annual action plans as requested by the Welsh Assembly Government. The strategy has been developed in partnership with the providers of housing related support services.

The strategy has seven key sections and this paper will provide an overview of each section:

1. Key Achievements and Developments
2. Flintshire's Vision
3. Change
4. Need and Supply Overview
5. Commissioning Priorities
6. Commissioning Statement
7. Action Plan 2010-11

Key Achievements and Developments

The strategy starts by outlining the key achievements and developments in Flintshire. Many of the key developments address the issues highlighted in the reviews carried out in 2007 which assessed the local administration of the Supporting People Programme.

Flintshire has improved corporate ownership of the Supporting People Programme. The Local Authority has an Elected Member Champion and has committed to holding annual member seminars to keep members updated and increase awareness.

The team has developed a comprehensive review framework which includes assessing strategic relevance. Service reviews have commenced and improvement plans are being developed.

The total funding available for Supporting People services in Flintshire is made up Supporting People grant (SPG) of £5,311,825 and Supporting People Revenue Grant (SPPG) of £1,779,511. The Supporting People Operational Plan 2009/10 demonstrated Flintshire's commitment to reconfiguring services, by reinvesting £627k from SPG services which were not deemed eligible, into new services identified as a priority for development based on an analysis of need and supply.

The Local Authority has been involved in a number of Regional and National Initiatives aimed at improving service provision in Flintshire.

Flintshire's Vision

The starting point for the team was to work with providers to agree a vision for the Supporting People Programme. The vision developed is that in Flintshire Supporting People funds services that:

- ✚ Are accessible;
- ✚ Are effective and of a high quality;
- ✚ Empower those in need to develop and sustain independent living;
- ✚ Provide a range of housing related support regardless of tenure;
- ✚ Make best use of complementary resources;
- ✚ Prevent or delay the need for more intensive, higher cost health and social care interventions;
- ✚ Contribute to the strategic objectives of the county and its partners
- ✚ Contribute to the successful outcomes of wider housing, health and social care interventions;
- ✚ Improving service user consultation and participation in service planning, delivery and improvement.

Change

The strategy highlights that in order to achieve the vision, there is a need for a significant amount of change to the current programme. There are three main drivers for this change:

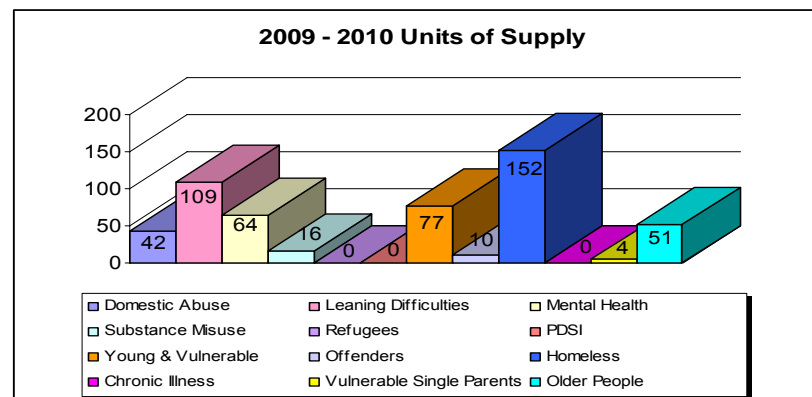
- ✚ **Possible changes to the level of Supporting People funding available as a result of redistribution.** The Welsh Assembly Government have set about redressing the uneven distribution of SP funding by developing a formula in order to distribute funding on a more equitable basis. This is likely to result in a reduced grant for Flintshire. The programme faces some difficult financial challenges. However, the Supporting People Planning Group (SPPG) are adopting a proactive approach and it is expected that as long as any reductions are phased then we will be able to work to maintain an efficient programme that will be able to deliver savings without cuts to valuable services.
- ✚ **Current gaps in provision.** There are a number of gaps identified in current service provision which has led to a number of priority services being identified for development in order to meet the needs of the County. Therefore, it is important that the work continues to realign the Supporting People budget.
- ✚ **Learning from best practice.** Since its creation in 2008, the Supporting People Team has had the opportunity to learn from Supporting People teams across England and Wales in order to examine areas of best practice. We have also been able to volunteer as a demonstrator area for pilot projects. The projects have proved to be a useful tool for Flintshire in the development of this strategy and with assisting to plan and prioritise future service development. The Supporting People team is committed to making progress by learning from best practice and believe that this will be a key driver for change.

Need and Supply

Supply

Since its inception in 2008, Flintshire Supporting People Team has worked closely with all of its providers to obtain a detailed understanding of the current supply levels of housing related support, within the County.

Supporting People Revenue Grant (SPRG) providers have submitted annual returns for their projects, which provide detailed information relating to referrals, acceptances and move-ons. The table below provides an overview picture of the current levels of supply for each client group:-



From the Annual Supply Monitoring information reported to the Supporting People Team, providers reported that 77% of the people supported during 2008/2009 moved on to complete independence or to another service where a lower level of support was provided.

Need

In 2008-2009, we received a total of 671 Needs Mapping forms completed by people requesting Supporting People services in Flintshire. 22% were from males and 74% were from females (4% - not specified).

47% were from the Under 25 age group, 52% were aged 25 to 55 and 1% were aged 55 plus.

Out of the 671 forms received 30 people identified that they were currently sleeping rough. A further 72 people stated that they had slept rough within the past 12 months.

Commissioning Priorities

The commissioning priorities outline some key principles we should be aiming to achieve from our support provision. It will be necessary to ensure action plans are in line with these commissioning priorities. There are some overarching commissioning priorities relevant to all groups and also some commissioning priorities relevant to our three core areas of provision; Homeless Prevention, Community Safety and Community Care.

The overarching commissioning priorities are:

- ✚ Provide a range of support and accommodation models across all vulnerable groups;
- ✚ Ensure existing services are high quality and delivering positive outcomes;
- ✚ Link with the Social Housing Grant (SHG) programme to facilitate new development;
- ✚ Improve access to services, to ensure that services are flexible and able to respond to a wider range of needs, are tenure neutral and where appropriate – cross authority;
- ✚ Provide a mix of generic and more targeted services; and
- ✚ Develop an outcomes framework for all services.

Commissioning Statement

The commissioning statement outlines commissioning principles for the programme in Flintshire. It demonstrates a commitment to fair and transparent commissioning but suggests options to avoid the unnecessary cost of tendering where there is no demonstrable benefit to be derived from carrying out this process.

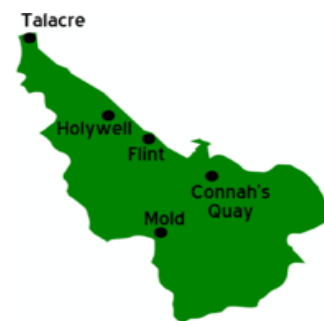
The County Council has responsibility for procurement, purchasing and contracting of all SPG funded services and the SPRG funded services for which it is the accredited support provider. Supporting People must abide by the Local Authority Contract Procedure Rules. In the case of Supporting People Services, it will sometimes not be feasible or beneficial to follow a tendering process.

It is anticipated that a full tender exercise would be undertaken for new services and for existing services in instances where the quality or the cost is not satisfactory. However, the statement recognises that there would be little or no benefit derived from tendering a service if the review process demonstrated that the existing contractor provides a quality service, which demonstrates value for money.

Flintshire County Council

Supporting People Strategy

2010 – 2013



Final Draft for Exec Approval 12th November 2009

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	3
1.1 Local and National Influences.....	3
1.2 Achievements and Developments	4
1.3 Developing the Strategy	5
2. Strategic Relevance	6
2.1 Flintshire’s Vision.....	7
2.2 Change	8
2.2.1 Current and future anticipated spend	9
2.2.2 Realigning the budget.....	10
2.2.3 Learning from best practice	10
3. Need and Supply Overview	12
3.1 Overview of Supply.....	12
3.2 Overview of Need	14
4 Commissioning Priorities	15
4.1 Overarching commissioning priorities	15
4.2 Community Care.....	16
4.2.1 Older People	16
4.2.2 Learning Difficulties	18
4.2.3 Mental Health	19
4.2.4 PDSI, Chronic Illness and Vulnerable Adults.....	20
4.3 Community Safety	21
4.3.1 Offenders.....	21
4.3.2 Substance Misuse	23
4.3.3 Domestic Violence.....	24
4.4 Homeless and Homeless Prevention.....	26
4.4.1 Homeless	26
4.5 Commissioning Statement.....	29
4.5.1 Where the service is re-commissioned.....	29
4.5.2 Where the service is re-modelled or transferred to another provider	30
4.5.3 Where the service is to be de-commissioned	30
5 Service Reviews	31
6. Action Plan – Proposals to Meet Need	32
6.1 Community Care.....	32
6.2 Community Safety	34
6.3 Homeless and Homeless Prevention.....	35

1. Introduction

Supporting People is required to submit an annual plan to the Welsh Assembly Government. However, the Supporting People Planning Group believes it is good practice to develop and publish an overarching Supporting People Strategy. This strategy has been developed following wide consultation with stakeholders and will set out a vision for the Supporting People Programme in Flintshire. The strategy will also include the annual plan for 2010-11 as required by the Welsh Assembly Government.

This will be the third Supporting People Operational Plan (SPOP) produced by Flintshire CC. There has been considerable progress over the last eighteen months in Flintshire. The aim of the developments from the last plan was to deliver a new focus and direction for Supporting People in Flintshire that makes a real difference to the way services are delivered. Building on these foundations – Flintshire now wish to look to the longer term future of the Supporting People Programme and work with its partners to develop a strategy that enables us to achieve our vision for Supporting People over the next three years.

The purpose of the strategy is to:

- Critically examine current Supporting People provision
- Focus on local need and how this will be met in the future
- Highlight gaps and how these will be addressed in the future
- Consider relevant local and national strategies and their ‘fit’ with supporting people
- Set out priorities for future supporting people development

1.1 Local and National Influences

The three year strategy for Supporting People in Flintshire will need to take into consideration a number of local and national factors which are detailed within this document.

Firstly, Supporting People will be led by the National Supporting People Housing Related Support Strategy which identifies the need for Supporting People services to “refresh and refocus our work in housing..... to ensure that this area of work is also ready to face the challenges ahead”.

Supporting People has also been identified as a key partner in delivering the actions identified in the Flintshire Homelessness Strategy which has been developed over the past 12 months. In addition to these two strategies, there are a number of other national and local strategies where supporting people can make an important contribution. A full list of strategy mapping is included at Appendix A.

There are a number of reasons that a significant level of change is needed to the Flintshire Supporting People Programme. These include possible changes to the level of Supporting People funding, identified gaps in provision and emerging strategic priorities. Supporting People is also committed to learning from best practice examples from other areas. The need for change is examined within section 2.

1.2 Achievements and Developments

The WAG preparedness report identified a number of key areas where Flintshire could improve the way it administered the Supporting People programme. An internal audit of the way in which SPG was utilised by the Housing Department and Social Services for Adults department identified areas requiring action.

There has been a significant level of change in Flintshire in response to these reports. An integrated Supporting People Team has been developed consisting of a Team Manager, Commissioning Officer, two Reviewing Officers and Admin Support. The Team sits within Community Services Directorate and is based within Development and Resources. The Supporting People Planning Group was re-launched in July 2008 with revised Terms of Reference and Membership.

An Elected Member Champion has been appointed who has been actively involved in Regional Events, Provider Forums and shadowing team members. The team has also worked closely with the Lead Executive Members for Housing and Social Services on a range of developments. An Elected Member Workshop was held in January to raise awareness of the Supporting People Programme. This was attended by service users who talked to Elected Members about their experiences.

Supporting People has developed a comprehensive review framework which includes assessing strategic relevance. Reviews are scheduled on the basis of a risk assessment which considers value for money and strategic relevance. The team has provided support and assistance to services that are administered by the Welsh Assembly Government. Strategic Reviews of SPRG providers have been carried out. This has provided the opportunity to work in partnership with providers and identify areas where changes were needed or more could be provided within the existing funding levels. Remodelling proposals were submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government and were taken forward from April 2009. More detail on service reviews is included in Section 5.

Flintshire submitted a Supporting People Operational Plan for 2009/10 which detailed priority developments based on an analysis of need and supply. The plan committed to reconfiguring services and these changes have been carried out over the last twelve months. In response to an identified need to re-align the Supporting People budget, £627k was withdrawn from SPG

Community Care services that were not deemed strategically relevant. Investment in priority services for SPRG groups has included:

- Supported Lodgings for young people
- Young People Floating Support
- Offender Floating Support
- Partnership Domestic Abuse Service linked to Neighbourhood Wardens
- YOT post in Housing Options Team
- Tenancy Support Team – Housing Options (and a joint SMAT funded post)
- BAWSO – BME domestic abuse regional service in partnership with Wrexham and Denbighshire

Supporting People is leading on other areas in partnership with Housing Strategy and the Housing Options Team. The team has developed a Supporting People Directory and this will be developed into a comprehensive Homeless Services Directory. Supporting People has been involved in a number of regional and national initiatives including a regional outcomes event, domestic abuse journey tracking and regional review. Supporting People collaborated with Housing Options and the Youth Offending Team and were successful in a bid to be a demonstrator area for a Section 180 funded project exploring innovative solutions to supporting young offenders. The team is recruiting a worker to facilitate the development of a service user forum for the County which will be based on best practice models from other areas of Wales.

1.3 Developing the Strategy

This strategy has been developed following wide consultation with stakeholders. The core strategic commissioning priorities were agreed by providers as part of a provider event organised to agree the key principles within the strategy. Supporting People has worked closely with the development of the Homeless Strategy and taken the opportunity to consult together on the Homeless and Supporting People Plan. A full list of consultation undertaken is included at Appendix B.

The strategy provides a direction of travel for Supporting People in Flintshire. Annual action plans will be developed to ensure that the vision is achieved.

2. Strategic Relevance

The strategic aim of Supporting People in Flintshire is to commission housing related support services that, in coordination with partners including housing, health, social care services and probation, promote or assist vulnerable individuals to live independently in their own home. This is achieved through the delivery of low level support that increases the individual's choices for independent living and complements existing services. Through funding Supporting People services, Flintshire SPPG aims to achieve a series of outcomes for service users. These outcomes meet the objectives of the programme as outlined above, and also contribute to the objectives of a number of local and national strategies. In Flintshire, there are a number of key policy areas where housing related support can make an important contribution to the delivery of strategic aims and targets. These include:

- ✚ Community Safety;
- ✚ Community Care; and
- ✚ Homelessness and Homeless Prevention

These objectives have been identified through a strategy mapping exercise, which examined a range of strategies and policies published by Flintshire County Council and its partners. Appendix A contains details of local and national strategies and how Supporting People can impact strategic objectives and targets.

This document is the three year strategy for the Supporting People programme. It offers a direction of travel for the next three years based on current strategic priorities. As such, it will need to be systematically reviewed annually to ensure that it meets local strategic aims and objectives, and reflects current national, regional and local policy making.

2.1 Flintshire's Vision

There is a considerable body of evidence demonstrating that when Supporting People funded activities are targeted and focused in an appropriate manner, significant benefits to the individual, their families and the community can be yielded. It is the intention in Flintshire to ensure that the Supporting People programme funds and supplies the most appropriate housing related support services for the county, in order to maximise the benefits produced.

We have consulted widely and providers and stakeholders have contributed to the following vision.

Flintshire's vision for the Supporting People programme is to fund services that:

- ✚ Are accessible;
- ✚ Are effective and of a high quality;
- ✚ Empower those in need to develop and sustain independent living;
- ✚ Provide a range of housing related support regardless of tenure;
- ✚ Make best use of complementary resources;
- ✚ Prevent or delay the need for more intensive, higher cost health and social care interventions;
- ✚ Contribute to the strategic objectives of the county and its partners
- ✚ Contribute to the successful outcomes of wider housing, health and social care interventions;
- ✚ **Improving** service user consultation and **participation** in service planning, delivery and improvement.

The Supporting People Planning Group are committed to developing and delivering services that offer the highest standards of equality and diversity, including:

- ✚ Equal treatment regardless of race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief
- ✚ Working to eliminate unlawful discrimination
- ✚ Promoting equal opportunities
- ✚ Promoting community cohesion, including good relations between people from different racial groups
- ✚ Facilitating reasonable access to interpretation or support on request
- ✚ Responding to the needs of all eligible groups and working to engage all eligible sections of the community.

2.2 Change

Through the provision of Supporting People funded services that meet the aims and vision of the programme, prevention of more intensive and expensive support in the future can be achieved. The findings set out within this document suggest that in order to achieve this, a significant level of change is required to the current programme.

This is as a result of a number of developments:

- ✚ Possible changes to the level of Supporting People funding available as a result of Redistribution
- ✚ Current gaps in provision
- ✚ Learning from best practice

The commissioning process will drive the change in the Supporting People programme. The Supporting People Planning Group will lead this and they will seek to commission services that meet all of the following criteria:

- ✚ Meet the strategic aims of the three key policy areas set out above;
- ✚ Complement the vision;
- ✚ Meet the needs of the county;
- ✚ Meet the programme's assessment of contemporary best practice;
- ✚ Are flexible;
- ✚ Are sustainable;
- ✚ Are cost effective, providing value for money;
- ✚ Fit with the strategic priorities of partners;
- ✚ Are high quality; and
- ✚ Are eligible and deliver the outcomes of the Supporting People programme.

Over the next three years the Flintshire Supporting People programme will move towards the provision of housing related support services regardless of tenure. The programme will ensure that it provides a mix of service types dependent on service user needs and aspirations.

2.2.1 Current and future anticipated spend

The Supporting People funding in Wales is currently split into two funding streams:

Supporting People Grant (SPG) – SPG funds housing related support services to Older People and Community Care related schemes. This includes sheltered housing, community alarms, group homes for people with learning disabilities, mental health and PDSI. The services funded through SPG often provide support on a longer term than those provided by SPRG

Supporting People Revenue Grant (SPRG) – SPRG is paid to Accredited Support Providers (ASP) by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). Services funded by SPRG are shorter term services that are generally provided for a maximum of 2 years. For example SPRG provides funding to Women's Refuges, Homeless Hostels and Floating Support delivered in peoples own homes.

The Welsh Assembly Government allocates funding to each local authority on an annual basis and according to legacy funding allocated in April 2003.

The Welsh Assembly Government and the Welsh Local Government Association have set about redressing the uneven distribution of funding by developing a formula in order to distribute available funding on a more equitable basis. A feasibility study has been carried out by LE Wales, an economics and policy consultancy. This has recommended that developing a distribution formula for Wales is feasible and has proposed a number of options. It is recognised that the new formula must allocate the existing pot of funding based on need rather than historical allocation.

The objective is to achieve fairer access to housing related support across Wales. In order to plan for the next three years, Flintshire has had to work out some modelling options based on possible reductions to the grant. We are aware that the implication for Flintshire could result in a cut of up to 10% of the total grant allocation, which would equate to £700k.

It is clear that Flintshire may face some extremely difficult financial challenges within the Supporting People Programme over the lifetime of the strategy. The SPPG is adopting a proactive approach and it is expected that as long as any reductions are phased then we will be able to work to maintain an efficient programme that will be able to deliver cost efficiency savings without cuts to valuable services.

2.2.2 Realigning the budget

Supporting People has identified that a significant proportion of funding invested in SPG/Community Care services, is not eligible (following the criteria detailed earlier in this document P8). In addition, Supporting People has identified significant gaps in SPRG provision. Therefore, there is a need to invest this funding in strategically relevant, priority need services. The total amount of funding to be re-aligned is £1,666,654. It is expected that much of this realignment will be a move from SPG to SPRG.

On 2nd October 2008 the Corporate Management Team (CMT) agreed that this re-alignment would be phased in over 4 years in order to protect service users, and would be used to meet identified priority need areas for Supporting People funding.

Supporting People have already withdrawn £627k and have invested this into priority need services. This will continue over the next three years.

2.2.3 Learning from best practice

Since its creation in 2008, the Supporting People Team has had the opportunity to learn from Supporting People teams across England and Wales in order to examine areas of best practice. We have also been able to volunteer as a demonstrator area for pilot projects. The projects have proved to be a useful tool for Flintshire in the development of this strategy and with assisting to plan and prioritise future service development.

In addition Flintshire have been actively involved in the following areas of practice development:-

Outcomes for Service Users

Supporting People has been involved in a number of initiatives to look at a shift from the current service aims that are monitored at review to an outcome focused approach to services, whereby the service user defines the outcomes that they would like to achieve and the provider plans the service delivery to meet these outcomes.

The All Wales Supporting People Information Network (SPIN) have developed a core set of Supporting People Outcomes (Appendix C), which will be piloted in volunteer authorities throughout 2009/2010. Flintshire has volunteered to be a pilot area and a number of providers have expressed their willingness to become involved.

Supporting People in Flintshire recognise the importance of being able to monitor and measure realistic, achievable outcomes for service users which demonstrate their individual journeys and the progress they have made towards achieving or maintaining independent lives within the community.

Working in Partnership

For the past 12 months Supporting People has been keen to develop their working relationships with all providers and stakeholders. In 2008 the Supporting People Planning Group (SPPG) was re-launched with new Terms of Reference and member representatives from across the Voluntary Sector, Health, Housing and Social Care.

Regular Provider Forums are held by the SP Team, where providers are updated on new developments and are consulted on future proposals.

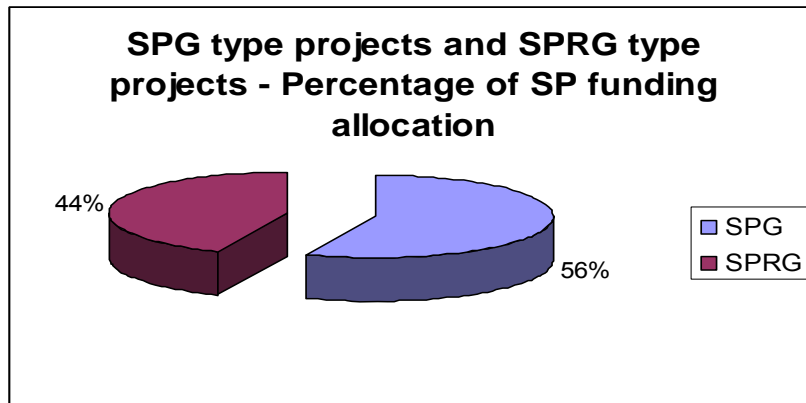
Flintshire are also keen to further develop the opportunities for voluntary and statutory agencies to work in partnership. Pooling resources, skills and specialist knowledge and expertise will assist providers to develop targeted services that are outcome focused and are able to deliver services which achieve the aspirations of service users. The move towards outcome focused commissioning will involve service users being able to access services which meet all their housing support needs and can be delivered seamlessly.

Flintshire have demonstrated their commitment towards this by joint commissioning with SMAT, and also encouraging providers to work together in partnership on a new pilot project which will deliver floating support to people who have experienced domestic abuse.

Flintshire Supporting People is committed to developing services and moving forwards by learning from best practice in other areas. We will seek to continue to learn from best practice examples and other authorities experiences.

3. Need and Supply Overview

Flintshire Supporting People has demonstrated its commitment to continue to develop SPRG projects throughout the county that address the support needs for people who fall below the eligibility for support from statutory services. The chart below demonstrates the current eligible SPG type and SPRG type projects – and the percentage of funding received:-



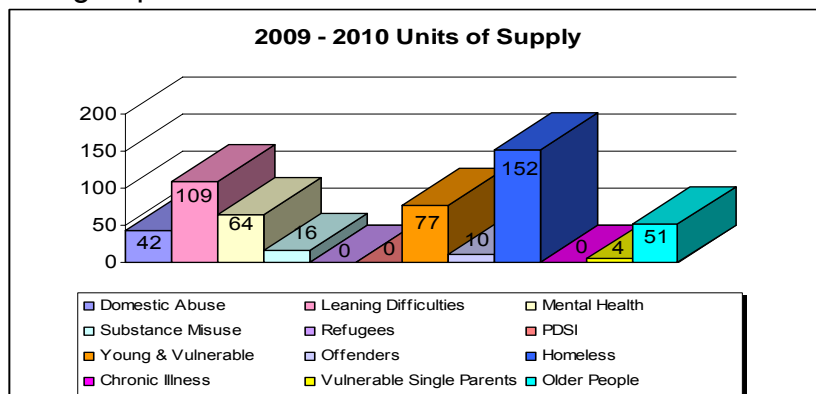
NB: The SPRG percentage includes all projects that are contracted on SPRG tariff levels.

In order to develop services that are specifically tailored to meet the needs of the residents of the County, Supporting People has analysed a large range of need and supply information.

3.1 Overview of Supply

Since its inception in 2008, Flintshire Supporting People Team has worked closely with all of its providers to obtain a detailed understanding of the current supply levels of housing related support, within the County.

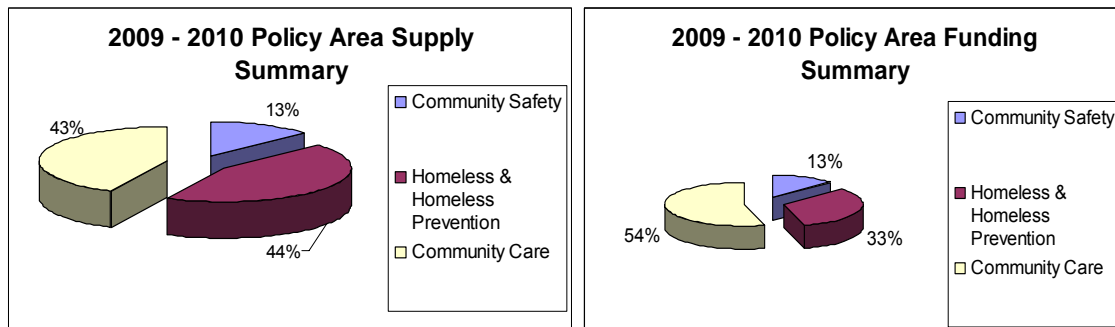
All SPRG providers have submitted annual returns for their projects, which provide detailed information relating to referrals, acceptances and move-ons. The table below provides an overview picture of the current levels of supply for each client group:-



For the purpose of analysing the levels of supply – all SP projects have been included except Sheltered Housing and Community Alarm services.

There are no services provided currently to people whose primary need is physical disabilities, chronic illness or refugees.

The pie chart below demonstrates the current level of supply and funding split by the policy areas:-



From the Annual Supply Monitoring information reported to the Supporting People Team, providers reported that 77% of the people supported during 2008/2009 moved on to complete independence or to another service where a lower level of support was provided.

As part of this monitoring exercise, providers were also requested to record the number of people who had maintained their accommodation six months post service. Not all providers returned this information (of the 267 successful move-ons – only 125 were monitored at the 6 month stage). From the information returned, the figures show that 93% had successfully maintained their accommodation for a period of at least six months.

A detailed breakdown of the supply information is attached at Appendix D, Appendix E and Appendix F.

3.2 Overview of Need

Supporting People is reliant upon various sources and partner agencies for information relating to the needs of service users.

The predominant source of needs data is the Needs Mapping Exercise (NME) forms which are submitted by all SPRG providers for people accessing their services. Alongside this information, Supporting People also receives performance information from Social Services for Adults, which demonstrates the number of cases that fell below their eligibility criteria. North Wales Probation also provide their OASys (Offender Assessment System) figures, which provide information on Offenders' accommodation needs.

Whilst writing this strategy the Supporting People Team has utilised this information to form the basis of consultation with providers and key stakeholders.

In 2008-2009, we received a total of 671 Needs Mapping forms completed by people requesting Supporting People services in Flintshire. 22% were from males and 74% were from females (4% - not specified).

47% were from the Under 25 age group, 52% were aged 25 to 55 and 1% were aged 55 plus.

Out of the 671 forms received 30 people identified that they were currently sleeping rough. A further 72 people stated that they had slept rough within the past 12 months.

151 (22.5%) forms were from people whose current accommodation was in a local authority other than Flintshire. 51% were from people who currently reside in Cheshire and a further 20% from people who currently reside in Wrexham.

Everyone completing the NME form is asked to identify their main support need in line with the eligible categories defined by the Welsh Assembly Government. The majority of people requesting support (346 out of the 671 forms returned) identified their lead need as E10 – People who are homeless or potentially homeless and in need of support.

A full breakdown of the needs analysis is attached at Appendix G.

4 Commissioning Priorities

Within the context of change and striving to ensure that the Supporting People programme is strategically relevant, supporting statutory and non-statutory services in meeting the needs of local people, a series of commissioning priorities have been developed to shape and drive change in the Supporting People programme for future years.

4.1 Overarching commissioning priorities

A series of overarching key commissioning priorities have been identified that should be applied to all services commissioned by Flintshire Supporting People.

- ✚ Provide a range of support and accommodation models across all vulnerable groups;
- ✚ Ensure existing services are high quality and delivering positive outcomes;
- ✚ Link with the Social Housing Grant (SHG) programme to facilitate new development;
- ✚ Improve access to services, to ensure that services are flexible and able to respond to a wider range of needs, are tenure neutral and where appropriate – cross authority;
- ✚ Provide a mix of generic and more targeted services; and
- ✚ Develop an outcomes framework for all services.

Commissioning priorities for specific client groups are set out below. Client groups have been grouped into three core headings (Community Care; Community Safety; and Homeless and Homeless Prevention). Each contains an overview of the current situation and the anticipated change required.

4.2 Community Care

Following consultation with providers and stakeholders we have agreed a direction of travel for commissioning for Community Care. The priorities are detailed below.

4.2.1 Older People

Older People (aged 50+ as defined by the WAG Strategy for Older People) equate to one third of Flintshire's population. The number of older people aged 65 years or over has risen by 26.7% between 1991 and 2001 and is predicted to increase from a current proportion of 14.9% to 18.0% by 2018.

Current Supply

Supporting People currently fund a number of services for Older People. The total amount of annual funding currently provided to this client group is £1,198,913.18. This is all currently SPG funding.

The services provided are as follows:-

	Units of Support	Funding
Extra Care	50	£84,255.00
Reablement	30	£68,842.50
Flintshire Wellcheck	20	£41,100.00
Sheltered Housing		
Abbeyfield Flint	6	£14,386.32
Abbeyfield Mold	1	£718.29
Clwyd Alyn Housing Assoc.	174	£23,153.19
Wales & West	102	£19,102.88
FCC	2628	£847,355.00

Needs Information

The Supporting People Needs Mapping Exercise does not provide information on the needs of older people. We are reliant on information from Social Services and other agencies. Consultation with key stakeholders has identified that there are a number of gaps within the provision of support services for this client group. These include:-

- ✚ Access to services for people in rural areas
- ✚ Flexible support that moves to the individual and can fluctuate with needs
- ✚ Accessibility of services
- ✚ Low level preventative support for older people with substance misuse or mental health issues

Commissioning Priorities

As a result of population changes, experience of current provision and gaps identified, the following commissioning priorities have been identified:-

- ✚ Providing a range of support and accommodation models across all vulnerable groups
- ✚ Ensure existing services are high quality and delivering positive outcomes
- ✚ Link with the Social Housing Grant to facilitate new development
- ✚ Improve access to services – ensure services are flexible and able to respond to a wider range of need, and are tenure neutral and where appropriate cross authority
- ✚ Consider options for joint commissioning services with Social Care
- ✚ Investment in assistive technology
- ✚ Move to a balance between accommodation based model of housing related support and a community based floating support service
- ✚ Supporting People complementing the overarching aim for extra care and investing in specific elements of services that are eligible

Actions planned for 2010/11 and 2011/12 are included in the Action Plan at Section 6.

4.2.2 Learning Difficulties

During the lifespan of the three year strategy the Supporting People programme will seek to offer greater choice to people with learning difficulties which will enable them to live as independently as possible.

Current Supply

Supporting People currently fund a number of services for people with learning disabilities. All of these services are funded via SPG and total £2,382,566.88 per annum. There is also an amount of funding to services which have been identified as not strategically relevant. For the purposes of supply, this funding has not been included in this section.

	Units of Support	Funding
LD Group Homes	76	£2,054,496.00
Keyring	27	£126,336.26
NEWT LD Group Homes	6	£201,734.62

Needs Information

As part of the consultation process with stakeholders, Supporting People has identified the need to further develop options for people with learning disabilities as part of a pathway to independence.

It is important to ensure that the benefits of the Supporting People programme are maximised and therefore that services funded are eligible. In the future, services will fit the Supporting People criteria and are likely to provide low-level housing related support that enables individuals and offers continuous improvement or maintenance.

The following gaps in services have been identified:-

- ✚ Floating support for individuals in their own home
- ✚ Provision for individuals outside of Social Services
- ✚ Range of provision between Community Living option and Independent Living Option

Commissioning Priorities

As a result of reviews of current provision, needs information and gaps identified, a number of commissioning priorities have been identified:-

- ✚ Invest in Ty Nyth Project as part of pathway to independence
- ✚ Develop a floating support service for individuals in their own home linked to Social Services
- ✚ Commission a new Keyring Project and remodel existing Keyring Services to provide an open referral route

Actions planned for 2010/11 and 2011/12 are included in the Action Plan at Section 6

4.2.3 Mental Health

Supporting People has consulted widely in relation to this client group. Information received suggested that the need for mental health services spanned the three key policy areas of Community Care, Community Safety and Homeless and Homeless Prevention.

Current Supply

The current provision for Mental Health services consists of floating support for service users who have involvement with Social Services for Adults. This support is provided in two parts – community living support and assistance with education, employment and training.

	Units of Support	Funding
MH Community Living	56	£238,936.36
Next Steps	10	£27,045.00

Needs Information

There are currently no Supporting People services for people who are not involved with Social Services. As part of the Needs Mapping Exercise 24% of individuals identified themselves as having support needs in relation to mental health.

During the Summer, Social Services for Adults have also been undertaking their own Needs Mapping Assessment for service users in relation to their housing support needs. At the time of writing there is no statistical information available in relation to this study – but it will be used to form part of any future planning.

Following needs mapping and consultation the following gaps in current provision have been identified:-

- ✚ Lack of emergency provision – supported accommodation on a temporary basis for people with mental health needs and young people;
- ✚ Lack of provision for individuals not involved with Social Services

Commissioning Priorities

In order to address the gaps identified, Supporting People propose to:-

- ✚ Ensure SPRG homeless providers can provide appropriate support to individuals with mental health needs.
- ✚ Develop regional schemes linked to resettlement following hospital discharge
- ✚ Develop a range of low level preventative services
- ✚ Carry out comprehensive and integrated needs analysis of this group to inform actions in future annual plans
- ✚ Link support to accommodation for this group ie Doorstop model

Actions planned for 2010/11 and 2011/12 are included in the Action Plan at Section 6

4.2.4 PDSI, Chronic Illness and Vulnerable Adults

Supporting People do not currently provide any services to these client groups.

The current level of funding provided to Social Services for Adults – PDSI, has been identified as no longer strategically relevant. This funding amounts to £182,921.00 per annum and is included in the total budget realignment figure referred to earlier in this document.

The lack of strategically relevant services has highlighted the need to identify options for future service development that fits within the eligibility criteria for Supporting People and is based on priority need.

Needs Information

The Supporting People Needs Mapping Exercise does not cover community care services. We have received figures from Social Services of numbers of individuals who receive an assessment but then do not get a service. This gives us an indication of the number of individuals who may fall below the level of Social Services eligibility and who may benefit from a housing support service.

Due to the lack of services available to these client groups, information on the needs of these client groups has been provided by way of consultation with stakeholders.

Information provided by Social Services showed a need for support services for these groups to complement the work of Social Services. Vulnerable Adults, in particular, had limited resources and were identified as a priority for a Supporting People service.

The following gaps have been identified:-

- ✚ No Supporting People PDSI or Chronic Illness projects
- ✚ No provision for those not involved with Social Services
- ✚ No HIV/AIDS support projects

Commissioning Priorities

As a result of the consultation process Supporting People has identified the following commissioning priorities:-

- ✚ Develop a range of low level preventative services
- ✚ Providing a range of support and accommodation models
- ✚ Consider options for joint commissioning services with Social Care
- ✚ Link with SHG programme to facilitate new development
- ✚ Conduct research into the housing related support needs of this group
- ✚ Learn from best practice in other areas

Actions planned for 2010/11 and 2011/12 are included in the Action Plan at Section 6

4.3 Community Safety

Flintshire Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment details the CSP priorities. These include; reduce alcohol related crime, reduce serious domestic violence incidents, reduce re-offending of prolific and priority offenders and anti-social behaviour.

Supporting People has a commitment to providing generic tenancy related support services. Although support services within the Community Safety Group may be targeted at client groups, the services will be providing housing support and will signpost to professional or statutory services where they are needed. Supporting People Services will not provide specialist mental health or substance misuse care or treatment.

Following consultation with providers and stakeholders we have agreed a direction of travel for commissioning for services that contribute to Community Safety. The priorities are detailed below.

4.3.1 Offenders

Housing related support services provided for offenders directly contribute to community safety strategic objectives. The aim of support services for this group is to enable individuals to maintain stable accommodation and therefore prevent re-offending and contribute to safer communities.

Current Supply

In June 2009 Supporting People commissioned a new service with ARCH Initiatives to provide floating support to offenders or those at risk of offending. This is a SPRG funded project and the total amount of grant allocated per annum is £60,845.20.

	Units of Support	Funding
ARCH floating support	11 – 20	£60,845.20

Needs Information

The needs information relating to this group is limited. From the needs mapping forms that have been returned, there appears to be a clear link between this client group and those who have support needs in relation to alcohol or drug misuse. We are aware that the needs mapping exercise under represents the level of need of this group. Therefore, we have supplemented the needs information with information which has been obtained from the OASys data provided by North Wales Probation. This provides a clearer picture of need within Flintshire.

The Offender Assessment System records information about individuals involved with probation. The assessment includes information about housing need and current housing situation. The data shows the level of need and current accommodation status of offenders who are on licence or subject to a

community order. The figures demonstrate that across North Wales 953 people recorded a 4+ (high need) in relation to accommodation. Of these, 126 people (13%) were Flintshire residents.

As a result of the needs information and following consultation, the following gaps have been identified:-

- ✚ Service linked to MAPPA providing a high level flexible service
- ✚ A need to link support to accommodation for this group

Commissioning Priorities

As a result of the needs information Supporting People has identified the following commissioning priorities for this client group:-

- ✚ Develop services in partnership with the wider Community Safety Partnership.
- ✚ Providing a range of support and accommodation models for these groups
- ✚ Improve access to services – ensure services are flexible and able to respond to a wider range of need, are tenure neutral and where appropriate cross authority.
- ✚ Ensure SPRG services can provide appropriate support for these groups. Ensure training available for staff in homeless projects to ensure an awareness of offending issues.
- ✚ Ensure Supporting People services can link individuals to the appropriate professional/specialist services where necessary.

Actions planned for 2010/11 and 2011/12 are included in the Action Plan at Section 6

4.3.2 Substance Misuse

Supporting People can play a key role in providing innovative solutions for housing related support for people with substance misuse issues. We recognise that any approach has to be part of a wider partnership with statutory and voluntary agencies.

Current Supply

The current supply for this client group includes floating support and supported housing. The total amount of funding currently provided to this client group is £82,307.89 SPG and £56,149.79 SPRG, making a total of £138,457.68 per annum.

The services provided are as follows:-

	Units of Support	Funding
Doorstop	6	£56,149.79
CDAT Floating Support	16	£82,307.89

Needs Information

The needs mapping process and consultation with key stakeholders has identified that there are a number of potential gaps or issues within the provision of support services for this client group. These include:-

- ✚ Services for those not involved with the CDAT Team
- ✚ Older people with alcohol issues
- ✚ Individuals with alcohol needs and no related drug issues

Commissioning Priorities

As a result of the needs information, experience of current provision and consultation with stakeholders, the following commissioning priorities have been identified:-

- ✚ Develop services in partnership with the wider Community Safety Partnership and SMAT Strategy Group.
- ✚ Providing a range of support and accommodation models for this group
- ✚ Improve access to services – ensure services are flexible and able to respond to a wider range of need, are tenure neutral and where appropriate cross authority.
- ✚ Innovative solutions to encourage chaotic service users to engage

Actions planned for 2010/11 and 2011/12 are included in the Action Plan at Section 6

4.3.3 Domestic Abuse

Flintshire Supporting People Team is currently participating in an all Wales review of domestic abuse services. As part of this Flintshire participated in a pilot project to track the journeys of individuals accessing domestic abuse services in order to identify gaps or problems with provision through the eyes of the service user. This work is nearing completion and will provide valuable information into the needs of service users for future planning of service delivery.

Supporting People is aware that any development of domestic abuse services needs to be coordinated in partnership with neighbouring local authorities due to the cross boundary implications for service users.

Supporting People is committed to enabling individuals subject to domestic abuse to be able to stay in their own home whenever this is appropriate. Preventative services will be developed with this in mind. This will be balanced against a recognition that there will be times when individuals need to leave the property and emergency refuge or safe accommodation will be needed.

Current Supply

There are a number of projects within Flintshire that provide services to people fleeing domestic violence. The total amount of funding currently provided to this client group is £418,161.91 of SPRG per annum and £77,992.40 of SPG per annum, making a total of £496,154.31 per annum.

The services provided are as follows:-

	Units of Support	Funding
Delyn Womens Aid (Refuge)	7	£166,183.88
DASU (Refuge)	4	£90,094.41
Hafan Cymru – Holywell (Sup. Housing)	5	£57,025.35
Hafan Cymru – Deeside (Sup. Housing)	5	£57,025.35
Hafan Cymru (Floating Support)	7	£47,832.92

Flintshire Supporting People Team is currently commissioning the following pilot projects:-

	Units of Support	Funding
BAWSO (Floating Support)	3	£11,062.68
Positive Outlook Service (Floating Sup.)	11 (min)	£66,929.72

The team will transfer all SPG funded projects over to SPRG where that is the appropriate funding stream.

Needs Information

The needs mapping process has demonstrated 26% of individuals required refuge provision, 55% required ordinary accommodation with support.

The All Wales Domestic Abuse Journey Tracking exercise highlighted that there is a need for improved partnership working between organisations dealing with victims of domestic abuse. The needs information, consultation with key stakeholders and service users and the mapping of services for the all Wales review has identified that there are a number of gaps within the provision of support services for this client group. These include:-

- ✚ Voids within refuges and lack of move on
- ✚ Provision for individuals with complex needs, substance misuse issues and families with older sons
- ✚ Lack of options for individuals fleeing domestic abuse
- ✚ Low level preventative support to individuals in their own home

Commissioning Priorities

As a result of the needs information, experience of current provision and consultation with stakeholders, the following commissioning priorities have been identified:-

- ✚ Floating support services to enable individuals to remain in their own home or quality temporary housing
- ✚ Develop a more regional approach to domestic abuse needs
- ✚ Refuge provision which meets standards and is accessible for complex needs.
- ✚ Improve access to services – ensure services are flexible and able to respond to a wider range of need, are tenure neutral and where appropriate cross authority.
- ✚ Providing preventative low level support

Actions planned for 2010/11 and 2011/12 are included in the Action Plan at Section 6

4.4 Homeless and Homeless Prevention

4.4.1 Homeless

Supporting People is aware that the homeless group will include individuals with one or a number of support needs covered by the E1-12 numbers. (For a full list of eligible client groups/E numbers – please refer to Appendix H). The aim is to provide a range of high quality housing support for individuals who are homeless or who are at risk of becoming homeless irrespective of their support needs.

We are committed to ensuring providers have a clear understanding and capability to support individuals with a range of needs including multiple and complex needs. This will be done by providing and promoting training courses and encouraging providers to collaborate and work in partnership.

The homeless group includes young people under 25, single people over 25 and families. It is necessary that there is adequate supported housing for all these groups. However, we would expect that floating support can deliver to all three groups.

Current Supply

The following supply has been broken down into the relevant client groups within homeless. Where a provider works with a number of client groups then for the purpose of the supply map the main client group has been used. The following symbols indicate which groups the service supports (F- families S- single over 25 Y – young people under 25)

E8 – Young single Homeless

	Units of Support	Funding
Llys Emlyn Williams (y)	17	£368,795.62
The Quay Project (y)	16	£123,465.49
Sunraye (y)	11	£176,694.58
Young People Floating Support (y)	28	£61,952.80

Flintshire Supporting People Team is currently commissioning the following pilot project:-

	Units of Support	Funding
Supported Lodgings (y)	5	£59,299.29

E10 – Homeless or potentially homeless

	Units of Support	Funding
Clwyd Alyn Floating Support (y,f,s)	12	£33,189.65
Plas Bellin (f)	19	£352,479.92
18 Ash Grove (f)	3	£23,564.65
163 High Street (f)	3	£23,564.65
108 Chester Road (f)	1	£7,854.89
96 High Street (f)	3	£23,564.65
220 High Street (f)	1	£7,301.72
Shelter Floating Support (f,y,s)	44	£121,675.84
Additional Support to Parents (f)	15	£41,780.40
Greenbank Villas (s,y)	10	£171,350.01
Erw Groes (f)	11	£36,867.73
Tenancy Support Team (y,f,s) (joint fund 1 post with SMAT)	30	£61,650.00

E12 – Vulnerable Single Parents

	Units of Support	Funding
Ty Heulfan (f)	4	£45,620.27

The supply shows a lack of units available to single people over 25.

Needs Information

Supporting People has consulted widely in relation to the needs for these groups. We have considered the needs of young people, single people and families separately in order to ensure that we could critically examine the current supply and compare this against the emerging needs information.

In addition to the needs mapping and consultation carried out by the Supporting People Team, Flintshire has also been involved as a demonstrator area for a research project being undertaken by Llamau. The project is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and is looking at ways to develop effective accommodation and support services for young offenders throughout Wales.

As a result of these pieces of work, the following gaps have been identified:-

Young People:-

- ✚ Emergency provision
- ✚ Smaller supported housing/safe house for more vulnerable individuals
- ✚ Social Enterprise Project – links to work and education

Single Homeless:-

- ✚ Direct Access provision
- ✚ Provision for homeless over 25's

Families and Single Parents:-

- ✚ Number of mother and baby units
- ✚ Support for families with high level needs i.e. anti-social behaviour etc.

Commissioning Priorities

As a result of the needs information, experience from our current provision and consultation, the following commissioning priorities have been identified :-

Homeless

- ✚ Ensure existing provision is high quality and delivering outcomes
- ✚ Ensure that there is a range of support and accommodation models available for homeless people
- ✚ Improve coordination between services to prevent duplication

Young People Under 25

- ✚ Prevent the need for homeless young people to be referred to hostels out of the county
- ✚ Explore support and accommodation options for the most chaotic young people (those that fail to sustain their place in existing hostels)
- ✚ Develop links to work, learning and training – awards achieved within the schemes

Single Homeless Over 25

- ✚ Provide innovative services to prevent repeat homelessness
- ✚ Work to develop services across Local Authority boundaries where necessary
- ✚ Continue the shift towards prevention

Families and Vulnerable Single Parents

- ✚ Establish clear move-on opportunities for families and single parents
- ✚ Ensure adequate provision of support and accommodation for teenage parents

Actions planned for 2010/11 and 2011/12 are included in the Action Plan at Section 6

4.5 Commissioning Statement

The County Council has responsibility for procurement, purchasing and contracting of all SPG funded services and the SPRG funded services for which it is the accredited support provider (ASP). The remaining services are funded directly from the WAG or through an alternative ASP. The County Council does not have a procurement, purchasing and contracting role with these providers but does have strategic responsibility for these services. Supporting People need to comply with the Local Authority's contract procedure rules and financial regulations in all its commissioning activities.

The Local Authority contract procedure rules detail guidance in relation to full tendering processes for goods and services that are required to be followed, unless there are specific reasons which would justify an exemption.

In the case of Supporting People Services, it will sometimes not be feasible or beneficial to follow a tendering process and it will be necessary to seek approval for an alternative methodology for the procurement of existing and new Supporting People Services.

For the commissioning of new services it would be anticipated full tender exercises would be undertaken in accordance with the Local Authority's financial regulations.

However, there are the following general circumstances when a request might be made that the Local Authorities' financial regulations to complete a tender exercise may be waived:

- ✓ Where a tender exercise is required but this has been satisfied by the completion of a tender process by an alternative agency or authority.
- ✓ Where there is only one capable provider or a few who will work in partnership to deliver the service.

For existing services, the determination of whether to re-tender or to extend a contract will depend on the outcome of the Service Review. Possible outcomes include re-commissioning, remodelling/transferring and de-commissioning. The approach to tendering would vary depending on the circumstances as follows:

4.5.1 Where the service is re-commissioned

We recognise that there would be little or no benefit derived from tendering the service **if** the review process demonstrated that the existing contractor provides a quality service, which demonstrates value for money. Therefore, in line with Contract Procedure Rules, it is proposed that future contracts will be flexible to allow for extensions in these circumstances.

4.5.2 Where the service is re-modelled or transferred to another provider

It is proposed that a contract extension is applied where the following circumstances apply in relation to remodelling. The service review has established the need, eligibility, quality and value for money of the service and there are benefits derived from the remodel.

If there is a change of provider or the service is to undergo significant remodelling then it will be necessary to tender the remodelled service. It would be appropriate to continue with the interim contract in the transitional period.

4.5.3 Where the service is to be de-commissioned

The recommendation on action that should be taken varies depending on the circumstances around de-commissioning.

- ✚ **If the service is still needed but not eligible to receive Supporting People Grant.** The Supporting People Team should negotiate with other agencies regarding how the service should be funded and who is responsible for the funding. It would be appropriate to continue with the Interim Contract in the transitional period although this should be kept to a minimum.
- ✚ **If the service is not needed** then notice should be served on the Service provider in accordance with the terms and conditions within the contract.
- ✚ **If the service is still needed but the current contractor does not provide a service of satisfactory quality** then after considering all options for improving the quality, a tender exercise should follow to obtain an alternative service provider. It will be necessary for the Supporting People Team to manage the transitional period.
- ✚ **If the service is still needed but the contractor does not provide a value for money service** then a tender exercise should follow to secure an alternative service provider who is able to provide a value for money service.

5 Service Reviews

Since 2003 Supporting People in Flintshire has carried out the initial service reviews of SPG funded services. Over the last twelve months, a comprehensive review process for SPG and SPRG funded services has been developed in order to provide more information about the services in Flintshire and assess their strategic relevance.

The Supporting People Team has responsibility for carrying out full reviews of the SPG funded services and strategic reviews of the SPRG funded services. Providers often acknowledge the benefit of a full review and the support provided from Reviewing Officers. The team will offer to carry out a full review of SPRG projects which are administered by the Welsh Assembly Government.

The Supporting People Team is currently in the process of undertaking reviews of all services across Flintshire. A review timetable has been developed scheduling services in a priority order.

Decisions on which to base the prioritisation of services will be made in relation to the following criteria:

1. **Strategic Relevance** – the extent to which the service is provided in accordance with Flintshire’s strategic relevance criteria:

Provision of low level support to enable individuals to live as independently as possible which contributes to the following strategic objectives:

- ✓ Contributing to Community Safety
- ✓ Addressing homelessness
- ✓ Reducing pressure on health and social care services

2. **Value for Money** – the extent to which the service is providing value for money. This score is determined through a matrix which considers the cost of the project and the level of outcomes delivered.

The table below demonstrates the framework on which the prioritisation of service reviews will be based.

Is it strategically relevant?	Does it provide value for money?	Service Review Priority Outcome	Anticipated Commissioning Outcome
Yes	No	High	Remodel
Yes	Yes	Low	No change
No	No	Very High	Decommission
No	Yes	High	Remodel

6. Action Plan – Proposals to Meet Need

6.1 Community Care

Timescale	Client Group	Action	Remodel / New Service/ Decommission / Service Improvement	Financial Cost (+, -, neutral)
2010/2011	Learning Difficulties	Invest in Ty Nyth as part of a pathway to independence	Remodel	Neutral
	Learning Difficulties	Develop an additional Keyring service in Holywell or Flint	New Service	+ £35,000
	Learning Difficulties	Reduction to Social Services for Adults Learning Disabilities SPG funding for services that are not eligible	Decommission	- £80,000
	Mental Health	Ensure that staff within SPRG projects have the opportunity to attend mental health awareness training	Service Improvement	Neutral
	PDSI, Chronic Illness and Vulnerable Adults	Joint commission Greenfield Acquired Brain Injury Bungalows. (review level of SP funding after 12 months)	Remodel	Neutral
	PDSI, Chronic Illness and Vulnerable Adults	Develop support worker post to work alongside the Vulnerable Adults Social Worker	New Service	+ £30,000
	PDSI, Chronic Illness and Vulnerable Adults	PDSI Young People Transition Workers	Remodel	Neutral
	PDSI, Chronic Illness and Vulnerable Adults	Reduction to Social Services for Adults PDSI SPG funding for services that are not eligible	Decommission	- £40,000

	Older People	Continue to work alongside the Sheltered Housing Officer and Member Group on the Improvement Programme	Service Improvement	Neutral
	Older People	Invest in preventative support as part of the Living Well Dementia Scheme	Remodel	Neutral
	Older People	Additional investment in Reablement Scheme following SP Review	Remodel	Neutral
	Older People	Reduction to Social Services for Adults Older People Services SPG funding for services that are not eligible	Decommission	- £40,000
	Older People	Reduction to Social Services for Adults Home Care Services SPG funding for services that are not eligible	Decommission	- £40,000
2011/12	Mental Health	Contribute to project which resettles individuals leaving the Ablett Unit (an existing Denbighshire Project which currently excludes Flintshire residents)	New Service	+ £30,000
	Mental Health	Link accommodation to existing support for this group	Service Improvement	Neutral
	PDSI, Chronic Illness and Vulnerable Adults	Develop a disability outreach worker to deliver support in the community	New Service	+ £30,000
	PDSI, Chronic Illness and Vulnerable Adults	OT support provided to those following an OT service to build wider links within the community	New Service	+ £30,000
	Older People	Develop a telecare contract which will fund installation and monitoring to individuals across all tenures	Remodel	To be confirmed

6.2 Community Safety

Timescale	Client Group	Action	Remodel / New Service/ Decommission / Service Improvement	Financial Cost (+, -, neutral)
2010/2011	Domestic Abuse	Commit longer term to the preventative support service developed in 2009	New Service	+ £60,000
	Domestic Abuse	Remodel existing domestic abuse provision to a mix of grouped and dispersed 'target hardened' safe houses	New Service	+ £45,000
	Offenders	Continue to highlight the need to link single accommodation units to support for this group	Remodel	Neutral
	Substance Misuse	Utilise spare capacity to deliver additional floating support through the Doorstop Project Remodel units to single flats (ongoing)	Service Improvement	Neutral
	Substance Misuse	Analyse findings of needs assessment carried out by Social Services for Adults to inform developments for remodelling	Service Improvement	Neutral

6.3 Homeless and Homeless Prevention

Timescale	Client Group	Action	Remodel / New Service/ Decommission / Service Improvement	Financial Cost (+, -, neutral)
2010/2011	Young People	Monitor the progress of the pilot Supported Lodgings Scheme to assess the need to commit longer term and increase units	Remodel	+ £40,000
	Young People	Develop a new support project for young people willing to engage in learning, work and education – a social enterprise model for individuals proved ready to move on from existing hostels	New Service	+ £60,000
	Young People	Remodel 2/3 units of Llys Emlyn Williams for use as emergency beds let for emergency cases while appropriate accommodation is identified. These units would accept referrals from Children's Services and Housing Options only The key aim of this development will be to prevent young people being placed in hostels out of the county	Remodel	Neutral
	Generic	Remodel 4/5 units of Llys Emlyn Williams to provide direct access supported accommodation. One wing to be remodelled into a separate entrance for self referrals 24 hours a day. Intensive support to be provided to individuals with the aim to move on to a longer term project or identified accommodation within 4 weeks	Remodel	Neutral

	Generic	Greenbank Villas – transfer from SPG to SPRG (identified as appropriate funding stream)	Remodel	Neutral
	Generic	Housing Accommodation Workers – transfer from SPG to SPRG (identified as appropriate funding stream)	Remodel	Neutral
	Families	Remodel Erw Groes and Ty Heulfan into one supported housing project with higher levels of support provided. Maintain a number of units for Housing Options referrals only	Remodel	+ £50,000
	Families	Carry out a review of Save The family provision for families and develop an improvement plan. Ensure projects are delivering outcomes which contribute to the strategic priorities of Flintshire County Council and its partners. Implement the remodelling to the correct number of units.	Remodel	Neutral
	Families	Erw Groes – transfer from SPG to SPRG (identified as appropriate funding stream)	Remodel	Neutral

2011/2012	Young People	<p>Develop a 4-bed high level supported housing project for vulnerable young people with complex needs. The project will be for those individuals who are chaotic and unlikely to succeed in a hostel environment. There will be a focus on stabilisation and non-exclusion.</p> <p>Proposal to remodel 4-bed house which is currently a step down house which forms part of the Quay Project. The property will form a separate project taking direct referrals and the project will deliver intensive support and provide 24 hour staffing</p>	Remodel	+ £40,000
	Generic	<p>Continue to monitor the demand for additional floating support for vulnerable individuals which will enable them to maintain living independently within the community</p> <p>Ensure floating support is accessible to a range of agencies and individuals and can appropriately support individuals with a range of complex needs</p>	New Service	+ £30,000

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 9

REPORT TO: **EXECUTIVE**
DATE : **26 JANUARY 2010**
REPORT BY: **HEAD OF FINANCE AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**
SUBJECT : **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2010/11**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To consider the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget proposals for the 2010/11 financial year, including proposed rent and service charge increases, key areas of income and expenditure, and the level of closing balance at the year-end.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 As the Council has a stock of Council housing, it is required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to keep a HRA in accordance with proper accounting practices, and to budget to avoid an end of year deficit.
- 2.02 The HRA is a “ring-fenced” account of certain defined transactions relating to Local Authority Housing. The ring-fenced nature of the account means that funding cannot be transferred between the General Fund and the HRA and vice versa, other than in certain prescribed circumstances.
- 2.03 Although there is a legal requirement to avoid an end of year deficit, it is also considered to be good practice to budget for a closing balance of at least 3% of the total expenditure of the HRA.
- 2.04 Prior to the start of each financial year, the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) consults with Local Authorities on the draft Housing Revenue Account subsidy and Item 8 determinations. These are the key financial determinations set each year by the WAG which influence Local Authority rent increases, and also the amount of Housing Revenue Account subsidy payable by the Council. The two main elements of the consultation are the “guideline rent increase” and the Management and Maintenance element of Housing Revenue Account subsidy.
- 2.05 The guideline rent increase is the amount by which WAG considers the Authority should increase weekly rents in order to make progress towards achievement of the WAG policy objective of “benchmark” rents where Local Authority and Registered Social Landlords (RSL) rents for similar properties in similar areas are broadly the same.

Date: 19/01/2010

- 2.06 The management and maintenance allowance element of Housing Revenue account subsidy is the amount which the WAG considers each Local Authority needs per HRA dwelling to manage and maintain the housing stock held within the HRA.
- 2.07 The WAG consultation letter on the Draft Housing Revenue Account subsidy and Item 8 determinations was received on 10th December 2009. The proposed guideline weekly rent increase for the Council for 2010/11 as per the consultation is £1.12 per week (52 week collection basis) which equates to a percentage increase of 1.77%. The Management and Maintenance allowance element of Housing Revenue Account Subsidy is proposed to be increased to £2,083 per dwelling for each local authority, which reflects an increase of £77 per dwelling (3.8%) on the 2009/10 allowance.
- 2.08 Although the WAG policy objective is to achieve "benchmark" rents through their rent convergence policy, the consultation on the draft determinations reflects a proposal to temporarily suspend this convergence policy and apply a real increase of 2 % to both Local Authority guideline rents and RSL benchmark rents. One of the factors influencing this proposal is that lower rent increases may in the view of the WAG help households recover from the effects of the recession.
- 2.09 The Council sent a formal letter of response to the consultation on 23rd December 2009. This response was submitted following consultation with Councillors Woolley and Mackie in their respective roles. The response expressed concerns regarding the levels of proposed increases in guideline rents and also the Management & Maintenance element of HRA subsidy. The significant reductions in the level of percentage increases compared with previous years was considered to be potentially detrimental to the HRA's ability to continue to make CERA contributions to support the HRA capital programme at levels consistent with previous years.
- 2.10 The final version of the Housing Revenue Account subsidy and Item 8 determinations including the final guideline rent increase are due to be communicated by the WAG by the end of January 2010.
- 2.11 A meeting of the Community & Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been scheduled for 1st February 2010, at which it is recommended that the HRA budget proposals will be considered.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 Although the Council is free to determine the level of any rent increase, the practice followed in recent years has been to apply the WAG guideline rent increase. If a rent increase lower than the final WAG guideline increase were to be applied, there would be a reduction of rent income to the HRA which would not be matched by a reduction in the amount of HRA subsidy deficit payable to the WAG. This is because the HRA subsidy framework assumes

that the Council charges rent based on the guideline rent for the year, and requires the deficit subsidy amount payable to reflect a notional rent income based on this guideline rent level. It is recommended that the final guideline rent increase as advised by the WAG is applied as a common percentage increase to all current weekly dwelling rents.

3.02 Rent Increase - Garages

It is recommended that a 2 % increase is applied to all garage rents, which equates to an increase of 7 pence per week. If this recommendation is approved, the new rent level for all HRA garages in 2010/11 will be £3.64 per week.

3.03 Service Charges - Communal Heating Schemes

A review of current costs and charges applicable to the Communal Heating schemes provided for certain groups of tenants has been undertaken. This will result in a range of increases to the service charges where appropriate in order to ensure that tenants contributions are sufficient to cover the costs of energy provided under their respective schemes. In setting the 2009/10 HRA budget, no increases were proposed for these service charges. However the final outturn for 2008/09 reflected a deficit on the accounts caused by increases in gas prices. This deficit was funded by use of the ringfenced reserve which held surpluses from the account from previous years. The increases proposed are necessary as there is unlikely to be any remaining reserve after 2009/10 to meet the cost of any deficit which would otherwise arise in 2010/11.

Details of the proposed charges in 2010/11 for each scheme are provided at Appendix 4.

3.04 The key areas of expenditure within the HRA are :-

- Housing subsidy deficit payable to WAG
- Loan charges
- Housing Management
- Allocations and Welfare
- Repairs and Maintenance
- Support costs from within Community Services and other Council departments
- Revenue Contribution to Capital Expenditure

The proposed apportionment of these costs and the income generated from the proposed increases are set out in Appendix 1. The assumptions upon which the proposed Housing Revenue Account budget is based are set out in Appendix 2.

3.05 Revenue Contribution to Capital Expenditure

This is also known as Capital Expenditure from Revenue Account (CERA) and enables additional investment in the HRA Capital Programme. The use

of this additional source of financing for capital improvements helps to progress the efforts to achieve the requirements of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS). This is the amount remaining after all other essential expenditure has been budgeted for and a contingency amount has been set aside to maintain the HRA closing balance at the guideline of 3% of total expenditure. It is proposed to set the initial contingency for 2010/11 at 5%. This will result in £2.150m being allocated from the HRA budget in 2010/11 for this purpose. This compares with the original 2009/10 budgeted sum of £1.252m, which was subsequently increased to £1.682m when a higher than envisaged closing balance at the end of 2008/09 was achieved.

3.06 Repairs & Maintenance

This is the largest element of expenditure within the HRA (36.9 %) and in round terms equates to a unit cost of in excess of £1,100 per property. This equates to just over half of the proposed Management and Maintenance allowance element of HRA subsidy for 2010/11.

3.07 Building Services Trading Account

The current trading position as reflected in the 2009/10 Period 8 budget monitoring report is a projected annual deficit of £0.528m. Considerable activity has taken place in 2009/10 and will continue into 2010/11 to further reduce the budgeted deficit position including tighter financial controls and improved operational practices. Therefore a budgeted deficit of £0.450m is recommended for 2010/11. In the longer term, the Authority is working to achieve a trading surplus and the forecast deficit on the trading account will be kept under constant review and reported to Members through budget monitoring.

3.08 Home Ownership

There has been a dramatic decrease in the number of Right to Buy sales in the last two years. Therefore for budget purposes zero sales have been assumed for 2010/11. This has a minimal impact on the revenue budget as the only reduction of revenue income is the minor administration fees which are recoverable against the usable element of the capital receipt.

3.09 Allocations and Welfare

The majority of these costs relate to the tenancy applications and allocations service. Also included within this area are the budgets for communal laundries and community meeting rooms for tenants.

3.10 Tenants Consultation on possible Housing Stock Transfer

During 2010/11 (and 2011/12) there will be considerable expenditure incurred as a consequence of the Council decision to consult with and subsequently ballot housing tenants on a possible stock transfer. Most of these costs will be reimbursable by the WAG in the event of a "No" vote, and will be met from either the valuation receipt or WAG dowry in the event of a "Yes" vote.

- 3.11 The WAG Housing Transfer Guidelines 2009 indicate that costs of the statutory consultation are considered to be in connection with the management and maintenance of houses held within the HRA and therefore must be charged to the HRA. Provision has therefore been made in the proposed 2010/11 HRA budget for such costs which are estimated at £0.031m. Further such costs estimated at £0.067m are expected to be met in the early part of the 2011/12 financial year.
- 3.12 Provision was made in the 2009/10 HRA budget for potential costs of £0.500m for Stock Options activities. Based on the previous WAG Housing Transfer guidelines published in 2002, such costs could be deemed to be chargeable to the HRA. However, the latest version of the transfer guidelines published in 2009, make it clear that with the exception of the specific costs identified in paragraph 3.09, any costs which are not reimbursable by WAG must be charged to the General Fund. This has resulted in a significant saving in 2009/10, and there is only a small budget requirement for 2010/11 for those costs which the 2009 WAG transfer guidelines indicate are chargeable to the HRA.
- 3.13 Supporting People Contribution to General Fund
When setting the 2009/10 HRA budget, the Tenants Garden maintenance service and some elements of the Community Centres service were returned from the General Fund to the HRA. This was necessary as they were not deemed to be eligible for funding by way of Supporting People grant. The previous level of contribution to the General Fund to support the costs of these services was reduced by an amount equivalent to the costs of those services. The reduced amount of contribution remains within the HRA pending future review of support costs and related recharges.
- 3.14 Finance and Support
An independent review of the Council's process for calculation of support services and related recharges was carried out recently. The outcomes of the review are still being assessed, but it is apparent that some future changes to the level of recharges to the HRA may need to be made. It is intended that this work will be completed within the next six months. The proposed budget for 2010/11 assumes no additional cost, but following the conclusion of the assessment of this review later this year, consideration will need to be given to how any changes necessary will be managed. This may result in cost reductions in some areas and increases in others.
- 3.15 Budget Pressures & Efficiencies
The significant budget pressures and efficiencies, resulting in changes within the HRA are set out in detail in Appendix 3. The total pressures amount to £0.846m and include £0.526m within the Housing Repairs service, of which £0.250m is allocated to progress a phased reduction in the repairs backlog, and £0.112m is to enable redecoration of communal housing areas. A further £0.100m, is provided within the repairs service to meet potential one-off early voluntary retirement costs which may arise from future phases of the

Housing Services restructure. The total of HRA budget efficiencies is £0.101m, resulting in a net budget pressure of £0.745m.

- 3.16 The budgeted level of closing balance is 5 % of total budgeted expenditure. This is after making provision for an increased CERA contribution of £2.150m, and net budget pressures of £0.745m as summarised in para 3.15 and detailed in Appendix 3.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 Members are asked to approve that the proposals contained within the report be submitted to the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee for their consideration at the meeting to be held on 1st February 2010. Comments will then be reported back to the Executive at the meeting on 16th February 2010, and subject to consideration of these comments, approval of Executive will be sought for submission of the following recommendations to the Council meeting on 17th February 2010 :-

- i. That the rent and service charge increase proposals and apportionment of resources within the HRA outlined above and detailed within the attached appendices are approved and implemented.
- ii. That the proposed changes to the budget as set out in Appendix 3 are approved and implemented.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 The Council has a statutory duty to review the income and expenditure of the HRA, and to set a budget for the forthcoming financial year which avoids a deficit closing balance position. This report sets out how this can be achieved for the Council in 2010/11. The key financial assumptions on which this is proposed are set out in Appendix 2. The proposed budget estimates a closing balance of 5 % of total expenditure.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 HRA activity helps alleviate poverty by providing safe and secure homes that are energy efficient and economical to run. The ongoing capital programme maintains the impetus to upgrade heating, etc., to minimise fuel use and thereby boost disposable income.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 There are no direct environmental impacts arising from the HRA budget proposals as outlined within the report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 There are no direct equalities impacts arising from this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Consultation with all tenants over any rent increase must take place and must be at least 28 days before any increase is due to come into effect. Furthermore, it is intended that the budget proposals will be the subject of a special consultation meeting with the Flintshire Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 No consultation with tenants or other stakeholders has taken place to date.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 HRA Summary - Appendix 1
HRA Budget Proposals - Appendix 2
HRA Budget Pressures and Savings - Appendix 3
Summary of proposed Communal Heating Scheme service charges - Appendix 4

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

Consultation Version of the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy and Item 8 Determinations for 2009/10

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

HRA SUMMARY - Appendix 1

Description	2009/10				2010/11		
	Budget	Probable	Variance	%	Budget	Variance	%
	£	£	£		£	£	£
<u>INCOME</u>							
Rents (Council Dwellings & Garages)	-23,247,446	-22,985,120	262,326	-1.13%	-23,428,353	-180,907	0.78%
Capitalised Salaries	-453,413	-257,789	195,624	-43.14%	-317,255	136,158	-30.03%
Interest on RTB Mortgages	-4,000	-4,000	0	0.00%	-4,000	0	0.00%
	-23,704,859	-23,246,909	457,950		-23,749,608	-44,749	
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>							
HRA Subsidy (Negative/Deficit)	6,357,205	6,423,145	65,940	1.04%	6,263,362	-93,843	-1.48%
Capital Financing - Loan Charges	2,405,298	2,460,509	55,211	2.30%	2,351,636	-53,662	-2.23%
Building Maintenance Trading Account	400,000	527,528	127,528	31.88%	450,000	50,000	12.50%
Estate Management	1,347,197	1,158,137	-189,060	-14.03%	1,284,586	-62,611	-4.65%
Home Ownership	32,657	3,894	-28,763	-88.08%	32,686	29	0.09%
Allocations and Welfare	445,756	454,019	8,263	1.85%	451,180	5,424	1.22%
Repairs and Maintenance Other	1,026,070	1,154,728	128,658	12.54%	1,182,299	156,229	15.23%
HRM Repairs and maintenance Client account	6,645,125	6,770,125	125,000	1.88%	7,015,866	370,741	5.58%
Capitalised Salaries	453,413	257,789	-195,623	-43.14%	317,255	-136,158	-30.03%
Welsh Housing Quality Standard - CERA	1,252,000	1,682,000	430,000	34.35%	2,150,000	898,000	71.73%
Supporting People Contribution to General Fund	33,211	33,211	0	0.00%	33,543	332	1.00%
Finance and Support	1,934,211	2,059,019	124,808	6.45%	2,152,601	218,390	11.29%
Stock Options	553,736	0	-553,736	-100.00%	31,000	-522,736	-94.40%
	22,885,880	22,984,106	98,225		23,716,015	830,134	
(Surplus) / Deficit for the year	-818,978	-262,803	556,175		-33,593		
Opening Balance	-890,000	-890,000	0		-1,152,803		
HRA Closing Balance	-1,708,978	-1,152,803	556,175		-1,186,397		
% of Total Expenditure (Guideline 3%)	7.47%	5.04%	2.42%		5.00%		

HRA BUDGET PROPOSALS - Appendix 2

Ref	Code	Description
1	-	1.0% Inflation on all applicable expenditure price items
2	-	1.0% Inflation on all applicable employee pay items
3	-	2.0% Inflation on all applicable income items
4	HRG	Anticipated Right To Buy sales of zero in 2009/10 and beyond; this reflects the continuing downward trend in sales activity
5	HRB	Assumes the Building Maintenance Trading Account will operate at a deficit of £0.450m in 2010/11
6	HRX	CERA contribution to Capital
7	HRP/HRR	Capital Financing Charges
8	HRX	Insurance policy costs assumed to be set at 5% uplift in order to align to historical expenditure patterns
9	HRD	2% increase applied to Garage Rents for 20010/11. Charge per week.
10	HRD	Garage Voids rent loss assumed at 12.95% 10/11 onwards
11	HRD	Guideline Rent applied for 20010/11 @ 1.77%, and this level assumed for future years
12	HRD	Guideline Rent av. Rent based on 50 weeks
13	HRD	M and M allowance
14	HRD	M and M allowance average per property
15	HRD	Dwelling voids rent loss assumed at 2.5%

HRA BUDGET PRESSURES & EFFICIENCIES OPTIONS - Appendix 3

Ref	Code	Bid Ref	BUDGET PRESSURES	20010/11 £ Rec.	Notes
1	HRM		4th Tier restructure costs	100,000	Anticipated redundancy/pension fund strain costs
2	HRX		Recruitment and advertising - Restructure	10,000	Unbudgeted one-off expenditure arising from restructure
3	HRE	R	Neighbourhood Housing Management - Housing News	10,000	Housing Magazine - increased production from twice yearly to quarterly
4	HRX		HRA Training for staff following restructure	50,000	Requirement identified following the skills audit undertaken as part of the housing structure redesign process.
5	HRE	R	Holywell Office - CCTV Holway Estate	7,000	Town Council funding no longer available - to enable continued service provision
6	HRM	R	TV aerial contract	63,500	Budget insufficient for the increased contract due to run until Dec 2019. Increases due to additional properties and digital switchover.
7	HRE	R	Cleaning	6,000	Budget insufficient to meet internal recharge increases.
8	HRE	R	Neighbourhood Housing Management - Resident Involvement Strategy	9,000	Funds would help deliver the actions outlined in the Councils Residential Involvement Strategy - some of which include the development of a tenants satisfaction survey.
9	HRM	R	Cyclical painting contract	112,500	Painting contract insufficient to meet the needs of the communal housing areas.
10	HRD	R	Voids - Sewerage, T.V and Water void losses	82,095	Utility charges for void rent losses have been excluded from the budget in previous years.
11	HRD	R	Voids - Garage rent losses	43,775	Not previously included in the budget.
12	HRE	R	Anti social behaviour grant Building Safer Communities - Now in General Fund	30,000	Loss of funding from specific grant
14	HRX	R	Head of Housing adjustment in recharge	25,925	Budget split between general fund and HRA housing services reviewed.
15	HRM	R	Backlog of Repairs - Responsive	100,000	A phased reduction in backlog repairs over the next few years.
16	HRM	R	Backlog of Repairs - Voids	150,000	A phased reduction in backlog voids over the next few years.
17	HRX	R	Special Projects manager	46,006	New temporary position - to be reviewed as part of ongoing restructuring
Total Pressures				845,801	

			BUDGET EFFICIENCIES		
1	HRE	R	Estate management - Lower giro charges	(7,000)	Reduction in charges
2	HRE	R	Reduction of court costs	(40,600)	Lower activity levels
3	HRX	R	HRX - Savings due to realignment of staff recharges	(53,736)	Salary now realigned and charged to Env general fund.
Total Efficiencies				-101,336	

Housing Revenue Account 2010/11 Budget :**Summary of proposed Communal Heating Scheme Service Charges**

<u>Scheme Location</u>	<u>Proposed Increase</u> £	<u>Proposed Average Charge Per Week</u> £	<u>Percentage Increase</u> %
Bolingbroke Heights, Flint	0.25	7.93	3.25
Richard Heights, Flint	0.25	7.93	3.25
Coleshill Lea, Flint	0.25	9.83	2.60
Earls Lea, Flint	0.25	9.83	2.60
Feathers Lea, Flint	0.25	9.83	2.60
Hills Lea, Flint	0.25	9.83	2.60
Castle Heights, Flint	0.25	11.26	2.27
Mumforth Walk, Flint	0.25	12.48	2.04
Swan Walk, Flint	0.25	12.59	2.02
Sydney Walk, Flint	0.25	12.40	2.05
Rosemary Walk, Flint	0.25	12.59	2.02
Perrins Walk, Flint	0.25	12.59	2.02
Muspratt Walk, Flint	0.25	12.52	2.04
Mount Walk, Flint	0.25	12.52	2.04
Duke Walk, Flint	0.25	11.98	2.13
Llwyn Beuno, Holywell	0.85	11.88	7.70
Llwyn Aled, Holywell	0.85	11.56	7.94
Panton Place, Holywell	0.85	8.98	10.46
Beechcroft, Bagillt	0.85	9.01	10.42
Acacia Close, Mold	0.85	14.16	6.39
Glan-y-Morfa Court, Connah's Quay	0.85	6.70	14.53
Garratt Close, Connah's Quay	0.85	9.21	10.17
Chapel Court, Connah's Quay	0.85	8.91	10.55
Average	0.46	10.72	4.94

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 10

REPORT TO: **EXECUTIVE**
DATE : **26 JANUARY 2010**
REPORT BY: **HEAD OF FINANCE AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**
SUBJECT : **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To propose a final Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme for 2010/11, subject to consultation with the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 Initial 2010/11 HRA Capital Programme proposals were presented to Executive on 22nd December 2009, on the basis of anticipated funding of £5.721m.

2.02 The initial programme as presented, assumed no available revenue account funding by way of CERA (Capital Expenditure financed from Revenue Account) - the availability of CERA was to be determined at the conclusion of HRA revenue budget work, consequent to the receipt of guideline rent increase and other determinations from the Welsh Assembly Government.

2.03 That initial programme funding included an estimated £0.466m in respect of capital receipts from land sales, and recommended that this be ringfenced to the Heating Replacement Programme and not committed until those receipts are actually realised.

2.04 A schedule of supplementary programme schemes was included in the report to Executive - supplementary schemes would be added to the programme if and when further funding was made available; these supplementary schemes totalled £1.009m.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The Housing Revenue Account 2010/11 report, as included elsewhere on the agenda, now identifies an available CERA funding total of £2.150m for 2010/11 Capital Programme purposes (compared to £1.682m in 2009/10) which, in addition to the £5.721m as detailed in Section 2.01 above, produces a final available funding total of £7.871m as detailed in Table 1 below.

Date: 19/01/2010

Table 1: Available Funding	
	2010/11
	£m
Capital Receipts - RTB (Usable Element @ 25%)	0.055
Capital Receipts - Land Sales	0.466
Grants & Contributions - Major Repairs Allowance (MRA)	5.200
Capital Expenditure financed from Revenue Account (CERA)	2.150
Totals	7.871

- 3.02 The total funding available for capital in 2010/11 is partially dependant on capital receipts from land sales of £0.466m i.e. no increase from that included at the initial programme stage. The approach then recommended, by ringfencing these to one particular scheme (Heating Replacement), is confirmed in this final proposed programme.

There are always a number of competing demands for the Council housing capital programme each year. To date, programmes have been decided on the basis of a mix of stock condition information, analysis of requests for responsive repairs, customer complaints and members' priorities.

A proforma was developed in 2008/09 for the Council's General Fund capital programme as a means of aiding prioritisation and agreeing schemes for expenditure. This covers assessment of risk, meeting legislative requirements and health and safety needs, as well as value for money and spend to save initiatives etc. It is proposed that a similar proforma is developed for the HRA capital programme. This, and member consultation will be used to finalise the 2010/11 capital programme. Members are asked to agree the broad areas of expenditure as detailed below.

- 3.03 The increased funding total of £7.871m, provides for the 2010/11 programme proposals as set out in Table 2 below. The analysis shows the initial proposals of £5.721m, the additional schemes previously listed as dependent upon funding availability of £1.009m and £1.141m for further schemes now affordable.

	Initial Programme Executive 22/12/09	Additional Programme Executive 22/12/09	Further Allocation Following CERA Determination	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Void Works - Responsive	0.830	-	-	0.830
Stock Condition Survey Works	0.063	-	-	0.063
Fire Risk Assessments	0.180	-	0.200	0.380
Smoke Alarm Installations	0.112	-	-	0.112
Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) Access Audits	0.030	-	0.050	0.080
Heating Replacement - Programme (See Note 1)	1.330	0.089	-	1.419
External Refurbishment Works - Roofing	0.475	-	0.100	0.575
External Refurbishment Works - Lintels and Gables	0.150	-	-	0.150
Kitchen Replacements - Programme	0.194	0.520	0.461	1.175
Asbestos Survey and Removal (Ongoing Programme)	0.100	-	0.030	0.130
New Damp Proof Courses/Condensation Solutions	0.050	-	-	0.050
Electrical Rewiring - Programme	0.400	-	-	0.400
Concrete Footpaths - Renewal	0.100	-	-	0.100
Fencing Renewal	-	-	0.100	0.100
Off Street Parking	-	-	0.200	0.200
Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) - Mandatory	1.400	0.400	-	1.800
Capitalised Salaries	0.307	-	-	0.307
	5.721	1.009	1.141	7.871

Note 1. This item constitutes both a base amount of £0.953m where funding is more certain, and an additional amount of £0.466m dependent upon capital receipts from land sales. This latter amount will only be progressively committed as the capital receipts are actually realised.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 Members are asked to approve that the proposals contained within the report be submitted to the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee for their consideration at the meeting to be held on 1st February 2010. Comments will then be reported back to the Executive at the meeting on 16th February 2010, and subject to consideration of these comments, approval of Executive will be sought for submission of the following recommendations to the Council meeting on 17th February 2010

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 As set out in the report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

601 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 None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

2010/11 budget papers, including related Welsh Assembly Government papers.

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

EXECUTIVE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME **MONTHS 11/09 to 04/10**

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:-

Chief Executive Update

- Single Equality Scheme Proposals
(Deferred until 16 February as more time is needed for reporting on the progress)

ICT and Customer Services Update

- ICT Strategy Progress Report
(Reported on 8 December)

Community Services Update

- Phase 3 Housing Restructure
(Deferred until 16 February as work is still ongoing)

Environment Update

- Regional Transport Plan – Outcome 2010-11
(Deferred until 16 February as notification has only just been received)
- Update Report – Progress in Relation to Food Waste
(Deferred until 16 February. The Business Case and Inter Authority Agreement is being concluded together with exploration of wider North Wales regional partnership opportunities)

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS – NOVEMBER 2009 – APRIL 2010

MEETING DATE	DIRECTORATE / DIVISION	TOPIC	REPORT TYPE (Strategic / Operational)	PORTFOLIO
17 November 2009	Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Strategy and Local Service Board: Mid Year Review ○ Gypsies and Travellers Unauthorised Encampment Protocol - Final ○ Improvement Targets Review ○ Business Continuity ○ Clwyd Theatre Cymru Annual Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Operational Operational Operational Operational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Management & Strategy Corporate Management & Strategy Corporate Management & Strategy Corporate Management & Strategy Leisure, Public Protection and Clean Team Activity
	HR and Organisational Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ People Strategy ○ Workforce Information Quarterly Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Operational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Management & Strategy Corporate Management & Strategy
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council Tax Base for 2010/11 ○ Local Taxation Policies 2010/11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational Operational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance & Asset Management Finance & Asset Management

	Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Respite Care for Children with Disabilities 	Strategic	Social Services
	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Making the Connections – Specialist Planning Services ○ Food Waste Project Update Report ○ Highways Asset Management Plan ○ Municipal Waste Strategy ○ Carbon Reduction Strategy ○ E-Coli Action and Audit Checklist ○ ERDF Bid Shotton/Travel Plan ○ Environmental Conditions at Hawarden 2 Cemetery 	<p>Strategic</p> <p>Strategic</p> <p>Strategic</p> <p>Strategic</p> <p>Strategic</p> <p>Operational</p> <p>Operational</p>	<p>Housing Strategy & Planning</p> <p>Waste Management, Strategy & Function</p> <p>Environment, Regeneration & Tourism</p> <p>Waste Management, Strategy & Function</p> <p>Finance & Asset Management</p> <p>Leisure, Public Protection and Team Clean Activity</p> <p>Environment, Regeneration & Tourism</p> <p>Leisure, Public Protection & Team Clean Activity</p>
	Lifelong Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welsh Public Library Standards 2009-2012 ○ Deeside Leisure Centre Progress Report 	<p>Operational</p> <p>Operational</p>	<p>Education & Youth Services</p> <p>Leisure, Public Protection and Team Clean Activity</p>

8 December 2009	Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welsh Language Scheme 2009 – 2012 ○ Organisational Redesign Phase 2 Review ○ Improvement Agreement: Mid Year Review ○ Strategic Partnerships: Mid Year Review ○ Q2 Performance Reports ○ Regulatory Plan Update ○ Voluntary Sector Grant Management Mid Year Review ○ Census 2011 	Strategic Strategic Operational Operational Operational Operational Operational Operational	Corporate Management & Strategy Corporate Management & Strategy Corporate Management & Strategy Corporate Management & Strategy Corporate Management & Strategy Corporate Management & Strategy Corporate Management & Strategy
	ICT and Customer Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Organisational Redesign Programme – Corporate Services Business Development and Administration Review 	Operational	Corporate Management & Strategy
	HR and Organisational Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HR Policies Implementation Plan Update 	Operational	Corporate Management & Strategy
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General Fund/Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budget Monitoring 09/10 (Month 6) 	Operational	Finance & Asset Management

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capital Programme 2009/10 (Month 6) ○ Procurement Strategy Update 	Operational	Finance & Asset Management
			Operational	Finance & Asset Management
	Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review of Children's Safeguarding 	Operational	Social Services
	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Development Plan – Programme for Delivery ○ Progress Update - NWRWTP ○ Corporate Asset Management Plan ○ Traffic Calming ○ Highways Asset Management Plan ○ Car Park Management Study 	Strategic	Housing Strategy and Planning
			Strategic	Waste Management, Strategy & Function
			Strategic	Finance & Asset Management
			Strategic	Environment, Regeneration & Tourism
			Strategic	Environment, Regeneration & Tourism
			Strategic	Environment, Regeneration & Tourism
	Lifelong Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Strategy for Flintshire Libraries 	Strategic	Education & Youth Services
22 December 2009	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Final Settlement and Draft Budget Proposals (Excluding HRA) 2010/11 	Operational	Finance & Asset Management

5 January 2010	Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disability Equality Scheme ○ Annual Letter 2009/10 	Strategic	Corporate Management & Strategy
			Strategic	Corporate Management & Strategy
	HR and Organisational Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HRMIS Update 	Operational	Corporate Management & Strategy
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General Fund/Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budget Monitoring 09/10 (Month 7) 	Operational	Finance & Asset Management
	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Response to Representations on the Proposed Modifications to the UDP 	Strategic	Housing Strategy and Planning
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ERDF Shotton Station 	Operational	Environment, Regeneration & Tourism
	Lifelong Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School Admission Arrangements 2011 	Strategic	Education & Youth Services
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School Modernisation 	Strategic	Education & Youth Services
26 January 2010	Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Single Equality Scheme Proposals 	Strategic	Corporate Management & Strategy
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Government Measure: Consultation Response 	Strategic	Corporate Management & Strategy
	ICT and Customer Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ICT Strategy Progress Report 	Strategic	Corporate Management & Strategy

	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Budget Proposals 2010/11 (HRA) 	Operational	Finance & Asset Management
	Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phase 3 Housing Restructure 	Operational	Social Services
	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regional Transport Plan – Outcome 2010-11 ○ Update Report – Progress in Relation to Food Waste ○ Progress Update - NWRWTP 	Strategic Strategic Strategic	Environment, Regeneration and Tourism Waste Management, Strategy and Function Waste Management, Strategy and Function
16 February 2010	Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regulatory Plan 2010/11 ○ Governance Plan 	Operational Operational	Corporate Management & Strategy Corporate Management & Strategy
	ICT and Customer Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Organisational Redesign Programme – Customer Services Review 	Operational	Corporate Management & Strategy
	HR and Organisational Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Workforce Information Quarterly Report 	Operational	Corporate Management & Strategy
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General Fund/Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budget Monitoring 09/10 (Month 8) ○ Final Budget Proposals 2010/11 	Operational Operational	Finance & Asset Management Finance & Asset Management

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Treasury Management Policy & Statement 2010/11 	Operational	Finance & Asset Management
	Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review of Adult Safeguarding 	Operational	Social Services
	Lifelong Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School Admission Arrangements 2011 (Post Consultation) 	Strategic	Education & Youth Services
9 March 2010	Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Q3 Performance Reports 	Operational	Corporate Management & Strategy
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Census 2011: Update 	Operational	Corporate Management & Strategy
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General Fund/Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budget Monitoring 09/10 (Month 9) ○ Capital Programme 2009/10 (Month 9) ○ Prudential Indicators 2010/11 ○ Minimum Revenue Provision 2010/11 ○ Procurement Strategy Update 	Operational	Finance & Asset Management
			Operational	Finance & Asset Management
			Operational	Finance & Asset Management
			Operational	Finance & Asset Management
			Operational	Finance & Asset Management
	Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Neighbourhood Renewal Area 	Strategic	Housing Management and Function
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adoption Inspection 	Operational	Social Services

30 March 2010	Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Business Continuity 	Strategic	Corporate Management & Strategy
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General Fund/Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budget Monitoring 09/10 (Month 10) 	Operational	Finance & Asset Management
	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parking Strategy – Update ○ Property Review of the Agricultural Estate ○ Progress Update - NWRWTP 	Strategic Strategic Strategic	Environment, Regeneration and Tourism Finance & Asset Management Waste Management, Strategy and Function
	Lifelong Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School Modernisation Update 	Strategic	Education & Youth Services
20 April 2010	ICT and Customer Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ North Wales Procurement Partnership Annual Report ○ North Wales Regional Collaboration ○ Organisational Redesign Programme – Design and Print Review Progress Report 	Strategic Strategic Operational	Corporate Management & Strategy Corporate Management & Strategy Corporate Management & Strategy
	Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual Council Reporting Framework – Annual Report 2007/08 	Operational	Social Services
	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update Report – Progress in Relation to Food Waste 	Strategic	Waste Management, Strategy & Function

FOR INFORMATION

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: EXECUTIVE
DATE: 26 JANUARY, 2010
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

<u>Directorate</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Chief Executive	Approval of applications to the Welsh Church Acts Fund July – December, 2009
Environment	Disposal of land within rear garden area of 16 Tryfan Court, Pentre Lane, Buckley Granting of licence of first floor premises, Arosfa, Mold to Action for Children
Head of Human Resources and OD	Amendments to the Policy for the provision Of Criminal Records Checks (Disclosures)

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

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - EXEMPT INFORMATION SHEET

COMMITTEE: Executive

DATE: 26 January 2010

AGENDA ITEM NO: 13

REPORT OF: (Director of originating Department)

Director of Lifelong Learning

SUBJECT:

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)

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	
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: Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)
AUTHOR: Tom Davies
MEETING AND DATE OF MEETING: Executive on 26 January 2010

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:

Paragraph 15

Factors in favour of disclosure:

Transparency

Prejudice which would result if the information were disclosed:

Disclosure would be likely to undermine labour relations within the authority as dealing with collaboration proposals involving re-organisation in public would be contrary to good human relations advice.

My view on the public interest test is as follows:

On balance I believe that the prejudice caused by publication would outweigh the benefit arising from transparency as the public interest requires confidence in the consideration process.

Recommended decision on exemption from disclosure:

That the report is exempt from disclosure.

Date: 12/01/2010

Signed:



Post: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

I accept the recommendation made above.



Proper Officer

Date: 12/01/2010