

**EXECUTIVE**  
**16 FEBRUARY 2010**

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 16 February, 2010.

**PRESENT: Councillor A. Woolley (Chairman)**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillors: J.B. Attridge, R. Baker, Q.R.H. Dodd, J. Falshaw and D. Mackie

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive, Director of Environment, Director of Lifelong Learning, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Finance, Head of ICT and Customer Services, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development, Head of Development and Resources and Head of Committee, Member and Electoral Services.

Mr Stephen Penny, the Project Director for the North Wales Regional Waste Treatment Partnership and Mike Reid of Grant Thornton were present for Agenda Items 19, 20, 21 and 22 (North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project).

**APOLOGY** – Councillor C. Ellis

The Chief Executive referred to the absence of the Director of Community Services who had been granted extended special leave.

**251 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2009 and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010, were confirmed as a correct record.

**252. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Arnold Woolley declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Items No 19, 20, 21 and 22 (reports of the Director of Environment and the Chief Executive of the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project) as a Director of Zero Waste Alliance UK and Councillor Nancy Matthews for the same items as a Member of the Joint Committee of the North Wales Regional Waste Partnership.

Councillor N.R. Steele-Mortimer declared an interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 15 (report of the Director of Environment) on the Rural Development Plan for Wales – Bid for Funding for Regeneration Projects as a representative on the Flintshire Rural Partnership.

## **253. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2010-11**

The Head of Finance presented a joint report with the Chief Executive which proposed a General Fund Revenue Budget for 2010/11 with details of proposals to meet the previously reported budget gap, following consultation with all Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the School Budget Forum. The report also advised on the proposed schools budget to be notified to the Welsh Assembly Government.

The Head of Finance referred to the initial budget proposals for 2010/11 which had been agreed by the Executive on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2009 and referred to all Overview and Scrutiny Committees for consideration.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees had met between 18<sup>th</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 and the Chief Executive and herself with the relevant Director/Corporate Head of Service had made a presentation on the overall budget proposals, together with details of pressures and efficiencies relevant to each individual Committee.

Members had offered comments and asked a number of questions in order to clarify issues and concerns and a summary of these, together with responses of officers, and were set out in Appendix 12 to the report. Most of this information was contained in the report but there were a number of matters which required further review and this information would be sent out to Members later in the week. (Copies were available at the meeting if required by Members.)

The Head of Finance referred to the Overview and Scrutiny consultation process and that the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee had recommended that the Executive look at providing match funding to Town/Community Councils, as partners, for play facilities in 2010/11. It was therefore proposed to increase the budget by £0.061m on a recurring basis to provide matched funding to facilitate improvement works at an estimated five areas per annum, including recurring maintenance costs.

After including this additional item of expenditure, the projected budget shortfall was £0.447m. This shortfall had now been addressed and it was recommended that the final budget proposals incorporate a number of adjustments.

- A 1% reduction in the price inflation allocation to zero, with the exception of education and commissioned care related expenditure where a 1% allocation had been maintained, this adjustment would reduce price inflation by £0.163m.
- A £0.244m reduction in the central loans and investment account pressure was recommended from £0.695m to £0.451m.
- Additional efficiencies resulting from the cessation of staff catering facilities at County Offices, Flint had totalled £0.040m.

As a result of these changes, the total expenditure now equated to the total funding figure of £278.005m as reported to the Executive on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2009.

The Chief Executive referred to the thorough budget process and welcomed the consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Following the

adjustments made, a balanced budget was now proposed. The revised proposals reflected the increase budget to provide match funding for improvement works at five play areas which had been a direct response to Members concerns. In conclusion, he emphasised the need to give early and urgent consideration to the future budgets considerations as soon as the 2010/11 budget was agreed.

## **RESOLVED**

- (a) That it be recommended to the County Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010;
- i. that the 2010/11 General Fund Revenue Budget requirement be set at £240,407,500 which was £739,418 below the calculated Standard Spending Assessment (paragraph 3.06);
  - ii. that there be a 3.3% increase in Council Tax at Band D and an assumed 99% collection rate (paragraph 3.07);
  - iii. the inclusion of Improvement Agreement Grants of £1.482m in the budget (paragraph 3.08);
  - iv. that the budget be adjusted to reflect the actual level of specific grant received (paragraph 3.09);
  - v. that items of non-standard inflation are only allocated out to services when the actual increase in cost is known (paragraph 3.12);
  - vi. that the levels of inflation assumed in the budgets (paragraphs 3.10 – 3.13);
  - vii. the amounts included in the budget relating to transfers into and out of the settlement (paragraph 3.14);
  - viii. the inclusion of £8.081m of pressures to be funded from base budget provision (paragraph 3.15 and Appendix 4 a-d);
  - viiii. that the practice adopted since 2004/05 continues and that resources to fund new pressures be approved for the purposes set out and any proposals to vary the use of sums allocated, are to be subject of a further report to Executive (paragraph 3.15);
  - x. the inclusion of pressures totalling £0.352m to be funded from the contingency reserve (paragraph 3.16 and Appendix 5);
  - xi. the inclusion of efficiencies of £6.151m in the budget (paragraph 3.18 and Appendix 7 a-b);
  - xii. that if it should become apparent that achievement of any of the savings (in full or in part) is proving to be not as anticipated that this be dealt with corporately, with the Corporate Management Team bringing alternatives to Executive for consideration (paragraph 3.18);

- (b) That the Executive note that the effect of the budget proposals would be to increase the budget requirement by £7.073m over the level in 2009/10 and increase the Band E Council Tax rate by 3.3% on the level in 2009/10.

#### **254. GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010 WEEK 11 TO 2013/14**

The Director of Environment presented a joint report of the Head of Finance, Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Environment and Director of Lifelong Learning. The report provided details of the proposed General Fund Capital Programme for the period 2010/11 to 2013/14 following consultation with the Corporate Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Director referred to the proposals for the General Fund Capital Programme 2010/11 to 2013/14 which had been reported to the Executive on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2009 and were recommended for approval to the County Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010 subject to consultation with the Corporate Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This Committee had met on 26<sup>th</sup> January and a number of comments had been made and a number of questions asked. Details, together with the responses provided, were set out in Appendix B to the report.

During the consultation, concern had been expressed on the level of resources available and there was, therefore, a need to be aware of alternative funding sources.

The Chief Executive referred to national government predictions that capital would reduce by approximately 50% in the public sector and there was, therefore, a need to seek alternative means in raising additional funding to fund priorities and strategies, such as prudential borrowing, and to have strategies available which would meet Welsh Assembly Government funding priorities and guidelines.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Executive agrees the General Fund Capital Programme 2010/11 to 2013/14 for recommendation to the County Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010.

#### **255. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2010/11**

The Head of Development and Resources presented the report of the Head of Finance and Director of Community Services for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget proposals for the 2010/11 financial year. It included proposed rent and service charge increases, key areas of income and expenditure, and the level of closing balance at the year end. The details followed consultation with the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and needed to be recommended to the Council.

The HRA proposals had been considered by the Executive on 26<sup>th</sup> January and had been referred to the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee which had met on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010. A summary of the questions raised at this meeting and the responses were included at Appendix 5 to the report. The HRA summary, as set out at Appendix 1, remained the same as previously reported to the Executive on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

The Head of Finance referred to the 26<sup>th</sup> January Executive when final determinations on the rent levels from the Welsh Assembly Government were still awaited and reported. These had now been received and there were no changes from the consultation document. The recommendation of the report was to recommend the proposals to the County Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> February which would enable consultation with all tenants over any rent increases which had to take place and must be at least 28 days before any rent increase was due to come into effect.

### **RESOLVED**

That it be recommended to County Council on 17<sup>th</sup> February that:

- (a) The proposed HRA budget for 2010/11 as set out in Appendix 1 incorporating the proposals in Appendix 2 and the pressures and efficiencies in Appendix 3;
- (b) That the level of rent and service charges for 2010/11 be as set out in paragraphs 3.01 – 3.03; and
- (c) That the level of projected balances at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 of 5% of total expenditure.

### **256. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11**

The Head of Development and Resources presented the joint report of the Head of Finance and Director of Community Services which provided details of the proposed HRA Capital Programme 2010/11 following consultation with the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He referred to the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 and to a number of comments that had been made and a number of questions asked, details of which together with the responses provided, were included in Appendix B to the report.

The final HRA Capital Programme 2010/11 was proposed on the basis of available funding of £7.871m and details of all programmed schemes were provided in Appendix 8 to the report which had been amended to reflect some adjustments and a copy was tabled at the meeting.

The Head of Finance referred to the adjustments made to take account of comments made at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Members were still being consulted on the broad programme.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the HRA Capital Programme 2010/11 be agreed for recommendation to the County Council on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

**257. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY STATEMENT 2010/11**

The Head of Finance presented a report which sought approval to recommend to the County Council to adopt the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2009 and to approve the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement including key indicators, limits and investment strategy for 2010/11.

The Head of Finance referred to the meeting of the Audit Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010 which had reviewed the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement and Treasury Management Practices. A training session had been arranged prior to the Committee and had been undertaken by the Council's Treasury Management Advisers.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That it be recommended to the County Council that it adopts the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2009 and as such adopts the clauses in 3.07 of the attached Audit Committee report on financial procedures;
- (b) That it be recommended to the County Council that it approves the Council's Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement for 2010/11 which included all Treasury Management indicators and limits required by CIPFA and Welsh Assembly Government; and
- (c) That it be recommended that the new investment strategy be implemented immediately after approval by the County Council.

**258. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2010/11 TO 2012/13**

The Head of Finance presented a report which set out proposals for setting a range of Prudential Indicators in accordance with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

The Head of Finance referred to the background to the report and that Local Authorities were required by Regulation to have regard to the Prudential Code when carrying out their duties under Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003. CIPFA had recently issued a fully revised second edition of the Code (2009) with a refocusing of attention towards capital planning and asset management aspects of capital investment.

**RESOLVED:**

That it be recommended to the County Council on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010:

- (a) The Prudential Indicators as detailed in section 3 of the report:
  - Capital expenditure (section 3.05)
  - Ratio of financing cost to net revenue stream (section 3.06)

- Incremental impact of capital investment decisions on the Council Tax (section 3.07)
  - Incremental impact of capital investment decisions on Housing Rents (section 3.07)
  - Capital financing requirement (section 3.08)
  - Net borrowing and the capital financing requirement (section 3.10)
  - Authorised limit for external debt (section 3.11 and 3.13)
  - Operational boundary for external debt (section 3.12)
  - Adoption of CIPFA Treasury Management in the public services : Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes (section 3.14); and
- (b) Delegated Authority for the Head of Finance to effect movements between the separately agreed limits within the authorised limit for external debt and the operational boundary for external debt (sections 3.11 and 3.12)

#### **259. MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION 2010/11**

The Head of Finance presented a report which outlined the proposals for the setting up of a prudent minimum revenue provision for the repayment of debt in 2010/11 as required under the Local Authority's (Capital Finance Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.

The report outlined the options for prudent provision which were regulatory methods; capital financing requirements; asset life method and depreciation method.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That it be recommended to the County Council on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010:

- (a) Option 1 – (Regulatory Method) be used for the calculation of the minimum revenue provision in 2010/11 for all supported borrowing; this represents a continuation of the approved and adopted Policy for 2009/10; and
- (b) Option 3 (Asset Life Method) be used for the calculation of the minimum revenue provision in 2010/11 for all unsupported (prudential) borrowing; this would also represent a continuation of the approved and adopted policy for 2009/10.

#### **260. SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2011**

The Executive Member for Education and Youth Services introduced a report of the Director of Lifelong Learning which advised on the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise on the admission arrangements for September 2011 and to recommend submission to the County Council on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010 for approval.

The Executive Member referred to the Council's Policy on nursery admissions which had been amended by the Council the previous year and would take effect for September 2010 nursery admissions. The impact of the change of policy would be monitored in terms of the number of refusals compared to previous years. He also referred to concerns about 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 investigated in detail with the Members concerned in order to resolve these issues.

The Director of Lifelong Learning reported that the vast majority of parental preferences were met and the number of appeals in Flintshire was low. There were, however, a number of "hot spots"; these would be addressed through the School Modernisation Strategy and the Transport Policy as referred to by the Executive Member. In regard to the statutory consultees, there had been no specific responses to the Policy.

**RESOLVED:**

That the proposed admission arrangements for September 2010, as attached to the report, be agreed.

**261. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10 (MONTH 9)**

The Head of Finance presented a report which provided the updated Revenue Budget monitoring information at month 9 for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account in 2009/10.

The Head of Finance referred to the discussions at the meeting of the Corporate Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous day regarding efficiencies and in-year budget monitoring and that a summary of this would be sent out to all Members.

The projected position at month 9 was a net overspend of £0.208m on the General Fund compared to an overspend of £0.322m at month 7 and a net overspend of £0.100m on the Housing Revenue Account compared with £0.434m at month 7. She explained that the month 8 monitoring report was initially scheduled to be reported to this meeting but officers had been able to finalise the information for month 9 and it was appropriate to report the very latest information to this meeting. The significant in-year projected variances were detailed in the Appendices to the report and reference was made to the severe weather conditions throughout January which had resulted in a number of additional pressures across a range of Council services. At this stage, the additional costs were £0.322m and work was ongoing to identify other costs which had resulted from the severe weather which had impacted on other Council services. Paragraphs 3.05 to 3.08 provided an overview of the movements between month 7 to month 9.

The Head of Finance referred to the Housing Revenue Account and the main reason for the reduced overspend related to the funding of stock option costs. Provision had been made in the 2009/10 HRA budget for potential costs of £0.5m



stock option activities. Based on the previous WAG Housing Transfer Guidelines, such costs could be deemed to be chargeable to the HRA. However, the latest version of the transfer guidelines made it clear that the majority of costs would be reimbursed by WAG. A small amount for statutory consultation costs would be met by the Council but this would be borne by the General Fund. This had resulted in a significant saving to the HRA in 2009/10 and beyond.

The Chief Executive emphasised the importance of this report in relation to the current financial year and also referred to the Corporate Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the previous day and the need to manage efficiencies and to identify efficiencies for the next financial year. As a result, continued discipline would be required on budget management for future years.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the overall report be noted;
- (b) That the carry forward of funding in respect of fire risk assessment works (paragraph 3.10) be approved;
- (c) That the General Fund contingency sum available as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 (section 5) be noted; and
- (d) That the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account (paragraph 6.05) be noted.

**262. WORKFORCE INFORMATION REPORT**

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development presented the third quarter Workforce Information reports for head count, establishment, diversity summary and absence.

It was reported that the employee turnover figures which were normally provided as part of this report, had not been included as the data had been adversely impacted by essential cleansing work on “starters” and “leavers” on the Midland Trent system. The figures would, however, be reinstated for the quarter 4 report.

The sickness absence figures had increased for the third quarter and at 3.26 days lost (fte calculation) represented 6.13%, an increase from the previous quarter and an anticipated trend given the time of year. The Council was compared absence rates with other local authorities across North Wales for the first two quarters in 2009/10. A table at paragraph 3.08 of the report provided a comparison with Denbighshire, Gwynedd and Wrexham which indicated that Flintshire was on a par with the other three local authorities.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development referred to the development of an attendance management policy and attendance management strategy as part of the revised People Strategy which had been endorsed by the Corporate Management Team and the implementation process was underway across the organisation. The strategy provided clear guidance as to

the roles and responsibilities of all parties in managing attendance effectively and it was intended that this would be implemented and fully operational by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010.

The Executive Member of Environment, Regeneration and Tourism sought clarification as to whether there were any targets in mind for reducing absenteeism; the effectiveness of the proposed strategy; the working relationship and assistance with the Trade Unions and suggested that a Member-Officer Workshop be held when further information could be provided on the strategy. He made particular reference on the longer term sickness rates which could distort the overall figures.

In response to the questions raised, the Chief Executive referred to targets to be set for attendance, and to an all Wales discussion on the efficiency savings that could be achieved through reducing sickness and absence rates. The Corporate Management Team was setting a 1-2% improvement in 2010/11 but this would need a concerted approach and manager support. He welcomed the suggestion to hold a Workshop and confirmed the excellent relationships with the Trade Unions who could also be invited to the Workshops. These would be an investment in training and development of Managers in the process and there would be senior management support to Managers in their roles.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development referred to the comparisons with other authorities and whilst the benchmark data provided in the report was a starting point, it would be appropriate to compare Flintshire's performance with the best performing Councils.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the workforce information for the third quarter, be noted.

#### **263. MATRIX CONTRACT UPDATE (MANAGED AGENCY STAFF SOLUTION)**

The Executive Member for Corporate Management and Strategy introduced the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development report which provided an update on the contract for the provision of agency workers. This report was an excellent example of collaboration between local authorities and the benefits that could be achieved.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development referred to the report and to the improving position and that there was a steadily decreasing trend from 249 agency workers for October to 172 agency workers for December. The report also provided details of the length of placement of agency workers and whilst the majority of placements were for less than six months and between six and twelve months there were a number that had been placed for over twelve months and work was being undertaken with Directors to address this.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development referred to the financial implications in the report and the projected savings of £217,000 which had been approved for the 2009/10 financial year. The net savings for the third quarter were £90,037.13 which indicated that the Council had already exceeded the projected savings for 2009/10 with a total net savings made for the first three quarters of £232,266.09.

The Chief Executive welcomed the progress being made and referred to the comments made by the Executive Member on collaboration with other authorities. There was a need to promote this project nationally as the Welsh Assembly Government was looking for projects that could be replicated, such as this project.

**RESOLVED:**

That the update be noted and the approaches being taken to manage the use of agency workers more closely and to explore further options for increasing efficiency savings for Flintshire, be endorsed.

**264. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR WALES – BID FOR FUNDING FOR REGENERATION PROJECTS**

The Executive Member for Environment, Regeneration and Tourism introduced the Director of Environment's report which sought Executive approval to submit funding applications to the Welsh Assembly Government's Rural Development programme to support projects in the Flintshire Rural Development area.

The Director of Environment referred to his comments made earlier in the meeting on the need to find alternative funding sources and this report was an example. The Welsh Assembly Government had invited expressions of interest for projects under the Rural Development Plan for Wales programme for delivery in the period 2011/2013 and expressions of interest needed to be made by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010. It was proposed that formal expressions of interest be submitted in respect of Flintshire Destinations, Linking Flintshire's Communities and the Flintshire Rural Flecsi service and details of each project were contained in the report. If the Welsh Assembly Government support was forthcoming, then a business case for each project would be submitted at a later date.

**RESOLVED:**

That the proposal to submit expressions of interest for the projects, be supported.

**265. COUNTY COUNCIL DIARY OF MEETINGS 2010/11**

The Executive Member for Corporate Management and Strategy presented the Chief Executive's report on the diary of meetings for 2010/11 which was set out as an attached schedule to the report and which was recommended for approval to the County Council.

The Chief Executive referred to the adjustments that had been made to the schedule of meetings and the recommendation to hold Executive on a four weekly cycle which would enable more timely reporting to Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The draft diary had been based on the resolution of the Constitution Committee of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009 for People and Performance and Corporate Management Overview and Scrutiny Committees to be merged into one Committee called Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. However, the resolution of the

Constitution Committee would not be considered by the County Council until the Annual Meeting and if the recommendation was not adopted, the dates would revert back to meetings for the original Overview and Scrutiny Committees. In addition, and where possible, meetings had been avoided in the main school holidays.

The Chief Executive referred to the cycle of County Council meeting dates and it was recognised that they needed to be reviewed. In drafting the diary, it was suggested that the usual 10 weekly County Council meetings be combined with those meetings required on specific dates for items such as the Statement of Accounts. This was suggested to avoid meetings being held in close proximity. In drafting the diary this way, there were 5 meetings of the County Council scheduled.

In the original draft, a date was included for a County Council meeting in December for receiving the Annual Letter. As this is no longer a requirement in this form, the proposed date for this special Council meeting to consider the Letter was deleted thereby creating the gap between September 2010 and March 2011 as referred to by Members.

At this juncture, the Chairman, referred to the impending retirement of Graham Connah the following week and thanked him for his service to the County Council and offered his best wishes for the future.

**RESOLVED:**

That the draft diary be agreed for adoption by the County Council subject to further consideration of the dates for meetings of the County Council.

**266. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS**

An information report of the Chief Executive was submitted, the purpose of which was to inform Members of the actions taken under Delegated Powers. The actions taken were as set out below:-

- Environment - Granting of a 20 year Lease to Northop Hall Bowling and Tennis Club
- Disposal by way of Lease – Land for the provision of a Scout Group Hall with car parking off Church Lane, Gwernaffield
- Community Services - Mental Health Service – Next Steps – Approval to extend the service to people with mild/common mental health problems by increasing the number of support workers from 2 to 3 within the existing budget.

**267. NORTH WALES RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT – OPTIONS APPRAISAL FOR FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Executive Member for Waste Management, Strategy and Function introduced the joint report of the Director of Environment and Chief Executive which provided an overview of work undertaken to assess how the Council should

approach the treatment of its residual municipal waste in the future specifically as an individual Authority or in collaboration with the North Wales Authorities.

The Executive then received a presentation from Mr Steven Penny, the North Wales Regional Waste Treatment Project Director in relation to this report and the three other waste treatment project reports to be considered on the Agenda. The presentation included an introduction and context, the options appraisal and details of the Welsh Assembly Government targets from 2009/10 through to 2024/25. Information was provided on the Outline Business Case (OBC) reference project identification, the comparison between options and the financial aspects of the reference project or the do nothing option. Finally, reference was made to the inter-authority agreement between the partner authorities which set out the key principles and roles and responsibilities of each partner.

Mr Mike Reed, a representative of Grant Thornton outlined the financial implications and the need for a robust model to be explored.

The Chief Executive referred to the importance of the project, the business reasons for the partnership, and the robust models to be tested for the avoidance of risk, penalties and to conform with the Welsh Assembly Government guidelines. He explained that the other North Wales local authorities who were involved in the partnership were receiving similar reports and presentations in parallel.

**RESOLVED:**

That support for the NWRWTP Regional Partnership be confirmed as the option most likely to deliver best value for money for the Council in the future.

**268. NORTH WALES RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT – INTER-AUTHORITY AGREEMENT**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services presented the joint report of the Director of Environment and Chief Executive, the purpose of which was to seek approval of the Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) between the five authorities collaborating in the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project. He explained that the IAA was at an advanced stage of completion by the North Wales Legal Officers but there was still some work to be undertaken to resolve minor details.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Inter-Authority Agreement attached at Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed and that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be delegated powers to make amendments to the draft, in consultation with the Project Director and Executive Member for Waste Management and Strategy.

**269. NORTH WALES RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT- OVERVIEW OF THE OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE**

The Executive Member for Waste Management, Strategy and Function introduced the joint report of the Director of Environment and Chief Executive which provided details on the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the North Wales Residual

Treatment Project and noted that the detailed Outline Business Case and appendices were to be considered as exempt agenda items later in the meeting and that specific approval of the Final Business Case would be required of the County Council.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the report, as outlined, be accepted noting that the detailed Outline Business Case was contained within the agenda as a Part 2 exempt item;
- (b) To note that Council approval would be sought for moving to preferred bidder stage of the procurement and that approval of the Final Business Case to the Welsh Assembly Government, following completion of the procurement process and contract award; and
- (c) That the draft OJEU notice attached as appendix 3 to the report, be noted.

**270. 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 the joint report of the Director of Environment and Chief Executive which was considered to be exempt by virtue of paragraph 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

**271. NORTH WALES RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT – OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE**

The Executive Member for Waste Management, Strategy and Function introduced the joint report of the Director of Environment and Chief Executive. The report provided a summary of the financial background information in relation to the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project and also included a copy of the Outline Business Case.

The Executive received a further presentation from Mr Steven Penny, the NWRWTP Project Director, which provided details on exempt information in relation to costs compared to budget.

**RESOLVED:**

That the recommendations as outlined in Section 4.00 of the report, be approved.

**272. DURATION OF MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and ended at 11.40 am.

**273. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE**

There were two members of the press in attendance.

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Chairman

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

<b>EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>DATE: 16 February 2010</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
Councillor A. Woolley Councillor N. R. Steele- Mortimer	General Fund Revenue Budget 2010/11	253