

EXECUTIVE
9 MARCH 2010

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 9 March, 2010.

PRESENT: Councillor A. Woolley (Chairman)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors: K. Armstrong-Braun, J. B. Attridge, S. R. Baker, P. J. Curtis, A. Davies-Cooke, H. T. Isherwood, D. I. Mackie, D. L. Mackie, A. P. Shotton and C. A. Thomas

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 Social Services for Children and Team Manager – Committee Services

278. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 16 February 2010 and 17 February 2010 were confirmed as a correct record.

279. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

280. RESPONSES TO UDP PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS REPRESENTATIONS AND ADOPTION PROCESS

The Executive Member for Environment, Regeneration and Tourism introduced a report of the Director of Environment on the outcomes of the consultation exercise carried out late in 2009 on the Proposed Modifications to the Emerging Flintshire Unitary Development Plan (EFUDP).

The report recommended responses to the representations made and sought agreement to proceed to adopt the FUDP.

The Executive Member said if the Plan was approved, it would be possible for the Council to submit an application to the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) for approval to commence the Local Development Plan (LDP) process, which would enable Members to influence the County's strategic land use planning development from 2015.

The Director of Environment added that the UDP had been extensively scrutinised by the Inspector and the recommendations of the Inspector were accepted at Executive and County Council in July 2009. He said the valid

concerns of the public which remained would be dealt with through the planning process.

The Chief Executive said the management of the representations received had been exhaustive and WAG was eager that the UDP was adopted so that Flintshire had an up to date Plan in place. The LDP was a creative process with more flexibility than the UDP; many Welsh authorities were close to adopting their respective LDP.

RESOLVED

That recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 4 below be submitted to County Council on 9 March 2010 for approval:

- (1) that the recommended responses to the Proposed Modification representations contained within appendices 1 – 14 previously circulated be agreed
- (2) that public notice of the Council's intention to adopt the Flintshire Unitary Development Plan as soon as possible following the meeting be given
- (3) that officers be given delegated authority to publish a notice of adoption of the UDP after 28 days from publishing the notice referred to in (2) above
- (4) that officers be given delegated authority to prepare the final version of the Plan for publication, including the need to address any final minor errors or matters of consistency that may come to light following the meeting

281. NORTH WALES ADOPTION SERVICE

The Executive Member for Social Services presented a report of the Director of Community Services on the progress in the development of the North Wales Adoption Service. The report sought approval of the policies across North Wales, the draft Partnership Agreement and the future merger of the Flintshire and Wrexham Adoption Panels.

The Head of Social Services for Children explained that the six North Wales local authorities had agreed, in principle, to establish a North Wales Adoption Service (NWAS). This had been progressing under the framework of the Regional Partnership and Collaborative Agenda.

The Executive Member added that the total cost of providing the service was estimated to be £758,493 which would be funded from the 6 North Wales Authorities. Flintshire's financial contribution would be £169,902 and this would be met from the existing Adoption budget. The Executive Member explained that this was however an 'Invest to Save' initiative.

The Chief Executive welcomed the report which was a good example of collaboration.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the progress to date in implementing the North Wales Adoption Service be noted;
- (b) That the draft Partnership Agreement be approved;
- (c) That the financial contribution required by Flintshire by the new service be noted; and
- (d) That the future merger of the Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Councils Adoption Panels be approved.

282. SHORTBREAK PROVISION AT AROSFA

The Executive Member for Social Services presented a report of the Director of Community Services which sought approval to develop and increase the range of shortbreak provision for children and young people with disabilities at the residential unit known as Arosfa.

Expanding the current service would reduce the number of children who were waiting for placement and could in future provide care packages for children who would otherwise require an out of county placement. Moving the unit to the Arosfa site would provide for further expansion in the future when finances allowed.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the opportunity to expand the shortbreak provision provided within Flintshire be endorsed; and
- (b) That the proposal for a tendering and procurement process to be instigated be accepted which will seek to test the market for providers interested in operating and managing the unit, under the service specification as set down by the Local Authority be accepted. It was envisaged that the current provider, Action for Children, would be interested in re-tendering for the unit.

283. THE PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING RENEWAL & IMPROVEMENT POLICY 2010

The Executive Member for Housing Management and Function presented a report of the Head of Housing which proposed the Private Sector Housing Renewal & Improvement Policy to Members for approval. The County-wide Policy took account of the seminar held on 27 January and a subsequent session held on 24 February 2010. The Policy had also been the subject of consultation with key internal stakeholders and Flintshire residents.

It was best practice to regularly review the Policy. As part of the development of the Renewal Area function, in addition to the Council's

traditional functions, it was timely to review and update the current Policy which was last updated in 2007.

The Head of Housing explained that the revision of the Policy must consider the need for assistance across the County to ensure that vulnerable people were able to access it. Following Member feedback and good practice, the new Policy included some loan assistance in the form of zero interest charges which would be registered against the equity of the property concerned.

Area based renewal and the group repair of properties was proposed and would be piloted initially in the Renewal Area. A Group Repair scheme involved the external improvement of a group of properties which would be organised by the Council.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the revised Private Sector Housing Renewal & Improvement Policy for implementation on 1 April 2010 be approved;
- (b) That the acquisition of land and property within the Renewal Area on the terms set out in the report be approved; and
- (c) That the commissioning of a Private Sector Stock Condition and Energy Survey as detailed in this report be approved.

284. CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The Executive Member for Environment, Regeneration and Tourism presented a report of the Director of Environment which sought approval for the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement in Flintshire, and that the application to the Welsh Assembly Government for a Civil Enforcement Area within the County, with the exception of Trunk Roads and associated slip roads, be progressed as soon as practicable.

The Director of Environment explained that it would take approximately 12/18 months to achieve the Civil Parking Enforcement Status; a Business Plan needed to be submitted to WAG for approval.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement in Flintshire, excluding the trunk roads and associated slip roads be approved;
- (b) That an application for a Civil Enforcement Area within Flintshire is developed, including an appropriate business case, and submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government. A target implementation date has been provisionally set as June 2011 with update reports to the Executive at appropriate points in the process; and

- (c) That the creation of a temporary 12 month post to deliver (a) and (b) be approved.

285. POST 16 EDUCATIONAL PROVISION

The Executive Member for Education and Youth Services presented a report of the Director of Lifelong Learning which requested that a review of post 16 educational provision in Flintshire in line with the School Modernisation Strategy be commissioned. The purpose was to develop a plan for post 16 structures in Flintshire that promoted high quality provision and was both viable and sustainable across post 16 and pre 16 secondary education.

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) had, through its Transformation Programme, prioritised modernisation of learning delivery across Wales so that it worked more efficiently and effectively.

The Director of Lifelong Learning explained that the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee had recognised the need to make rapid progress in addressing the positive challenges of the Learning and Skills Measure and heightened increasing pressures from the national Post 16 Funding Mechanism.

RESOLVED

- (a) That a post 16 provision review for Flintshire be commissioned; and
- (b) That the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee be commissioned to monitor and evaluate the progress of the review.

286. QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2009/10

The Chief Executive presented the 2009/10 Quarter 3 performance reports which had been produced at Head of Service/Divisional level under the adopted business model of the Council. He explained that copies of the detailed performance reports were available in the Members' Library and on request. Also, Members would receive respective reports when circulated with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agendas.

The Executive Member for Housing Management and Function said the data on page 163 on Housing – Landlord Services appeared to be a drop in performance. She explained that if the hard to let properties were included in those figures it would actually show an improvement.

RESOLVED

That the 2009/10 Quarter 3 Performance Reports be endorsed, and referred to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees for consideration.

287. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 (MONTH 9)

The Head of Finance presented the latest capital programme information for 2009/10 at month 9. Section 3.00 of the report set out how the programme had changed during 2009/10, with details of particular schemes and programme areas being set out in detail.

The report noted that the capital receipts position continued to be monitored closely in the light of the current economic downturn. As at the end of month 9, receipts were £0.930m below the budgeted level; the shortfall would be recouped in 2010/11 at no detriment to the overall planned capital programme.

The report also noted that recorded capital expenditure at month 10 stood at £18.826m out of a total programme of £37.279m. Members were assured that the Corporate Asset Management Group continued to manage the programme carefully, but it may be that some schemes and their funding would now take place or be completed after 1 April rather than in 2009/10.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

288. 2001 CENSUS

The Chief Executive presented a report which provided an update on the Council's participation in the planning and organisation of the 2011 Census. He emphasised the importance of the promotion of the Census to the workforce (as potential census recruits) and to the local communities.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

289. FLINTSHIRE REGISTRATION SERVICE – REVIEW OF FEES

The Head of ICT and Customer Services presented a report which sought approval to revise the fees charged by Flintshire County Council for the registration of premises in accordance with the principles set out in the European Service Directive and for the attendance of staff at premises licensed as a venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships.

RESOLVED:

That the registration fees below be approved from 1 April 2010:

Application for new premises to be licensed and approved as a venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships	£930.00
Renewal application for premises to be licensed and approved as a venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships	£824.00
Attendance of registration staff at an approved venue to conduct a civil marriage or civil partnership:	
Monday to Friday	£222.00
Saturday	£267.00
Sunday and Bank Holidays	£313.00
Celebratory Services:	
Monday to Friday	£140.00
Saturday	£162.00
Sunday and Bank Holidays	£194.00
	<i>All Subject to VAT</i>

290. WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT (WAG) CONSULTATION “PAYING FOR CARE”

The Executive Member for Social Services presented a report of the Director of Community Services on the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) Green Paper “Paying for Care in Wales: creating a fair sustainable system”.

The proposals for charging for non-residential care services would set a maximum charge of £50 per week, which would potentially benefit 430 people in Flintshire. This would reduce the Council’s income by approximately £500,000, but WAG had indicated that it would make up the shortfall resulting from the cessation of the Joint Working Special Grant.

The Executive Member explained that, of the five main funding options for paying for care, WAG had reject the first three so two options remained. It was unclear what the financial implications would be on local authorities when the final decision was made. She added that the Executive had made it known that they were against attendance allowance being included in paying for care as it was felt it would take away independence and choice.

The Head of Social Services for Children echoed the comments of the Executive Member and said the indicative financial assistance offered by WAG needed to be closely scrutinised in future years, given the potential increase in demographics.

The Chief Executive said that if the Green Paper was adopted, services would need to be maintained with the costs being met by WAG in coming years.

RESOLVED

That the consultation response on behalf of the Council be endorsed.

291. PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS – MYNYDD ISA

The Executive Member for Education and Youth Services presented a report of the Director of Lifelong Learning which sought approval for officers to carry out a series of consultations relating to the proposed amalgamation of Mynydd Isa Wat's Dyke Infant School and Mynydd Isa Junior School.

The Director of Lifelong Learning said meetings with the full Governing Bodies of the schools and with staff indicated that there was general support for the amalgamation of the schools to form an all-through Primary School, which would occupy the existing accommodation.

RESOLVED

That a period of consultation with staff, governors and parents of both Mynydd Isa Wat's Dyke Infant School and Mynydd Isa Junior School in relation to the proposed amalgamation be approved. The outcome will be reported back to Executive in a subsequent report.

292. PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS - BROUGHTON

The Executive Member for Education and Youth Services presented a report of the Director of Lifelong Learning which sought approval to carry out a series of consultations relating to the proposed amalgamation of Broughton Infant and Junior Schools.

The existing schools were physically linked via a corridor which was currently used by the public lending library and as a consequence, was secured from the existing schools by lockable doors. Proposals to re-configure some of the library and school accommodation would enable the linking corridor to be used and minimise any building works that would be necessary to provide a co-located Key Stage One and Key Stage Two provision.

RESOLVED

That a period of consultation with staff, governors and parents of both Broughton Infant and Junior Schools in relation to the proposed amalgamation be approved. The outcome will be reported back to Executive in a subsequent report.

293. OUT OF COUNTY BUDGET REVIEW

The Director of Lifelong Learning presented a report which was a joint one with the Director of Community Services. It included an action plan

based upon the findings of the Out of County Placement Budget Review Group.

The Director stressed the pressures in meeting the needs of children with significant learning needs and explained that there were added cost pressures because of demography.

The action plan had been considered at a joint meeting of the Lifelong Learning and Social and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a more detailed seminar would be held in April 2010. Progress reports would be submitted to Executive and Overview and Scrutiny.

In addition, the Director highlighted a further significant budget pressure for 2010/11. Notification had been received on post 16 out of county funding; there was a significant difference in the initial allocation against what the authority expected to incur.

The Executive Member for Social Services asked that an amendment be made to the recommendation outlined in 4.03 to read 'following a joint meeting of Lifelong Learning and Social and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee' which was agreed.

The Chief Executive said, to be notified in February of the budget pressure was not acceptable. The Authority could not have foreseen the pressure when it consulted on the budget.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the draft action plan be approved;
- (b) That reports be submitted to the Executive twice a year on the progress of actions undertaken within the plan; and
- (c) Following the joint Lifelong Learning and Social and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, a seminar for all Members be arranged to consider the range of needs and services across the client group.

294. ESTYN INSPECTION REPORT – ACTION PLAN

The Executive Member for Education and Youth Services presented a report of the Director of Lifelong Learning which was to consider the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan following the 2009 Estyn inspection.

Specific areas for further improvement were identified in paragraph 3.07 of the report.

The Director of Lifelong Learning explained that the action plan had been submitted to the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Rather than look at just the six recommendations, it had been decided to

widen the process and look at additional indicators; significant progress had been made across all areas of the action plan. Further work needed to be undertaken on three areas – 1 = review of recharges-traded services, 2 = undertake an audit of the Welsh speaking one to one support and specialist advice in the inclusion service and 3 = broadband for schools. The Head of ICT and Customer Services explained that broadband was only required for a small number of schools; the vast majority had broadband that met WAG standards

RESOLVED

That the progress in the implementation of the post-inspection Action Plan be noted.

295. LETTINGS CHARGES – YOUTH CENTRES

The Executive Member for Education and Youth Services presented a report of the Director of Lifelong Learning which sought approval for the increase of lettings charges for Youth Centres with effect from 1 April 2010.

The current scheme of charges created the effect of subsidising community groups from the Youth Service budget. Details of the costs incurred for a letting were outlined in the report.

The Executive Member said the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been analysing Playground funding pressures in recent months. The recommendations from that work needed to be considered along with the proposals set out in the report. He recognised that there were issues with the funding of Playgroups and said it was being looked into to see how it could be better funded without having an impact on the Youth Service budget.

The Director of Lifelong Learning said it was important that the charges were increased to recover costs.

The Chairman invited Councillor C. A. Thomas, a Member of the former Playgroup Funding Task Group, to address the Committee. She said she had been advised by an officer that the increase would not be made this year and asked for clarification. The Director said there was a misunderstanding as that was not the advice that the officer said had been given.

The Head of Finance added that as part of the budget strategy, the authority was required to look at charges on an annual basis for council services provided. This process needed to be regularised as part of the budget; charges were expected to increase in line with inflation. Another factor was subsidy. If the authority wanted to subsidise a service, e.g. Playgroups, it needed to be open and transparent and not be a hidden subsidy.

RESOLVED

That a programme of incremental increases to Youth Centre lettings charges be implemented from 1 April 2010 as outlined in paragraph 4.01 of the report.

296. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS

An information report of the Chief Executive, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The purpose of the report was to inform Members of actions taken under delegated powers.

The actions taken were as set out below:-

Environment

- Disposal of former garaging site at the head of Park Crescent, Penyffordd for the provision of affordable housing
- Disposal of land adjacent to "Brooklea", 2 Chester Road, Saltney for the land to be acquired to be fenced off to provide access security to St David's High School
- Disposal of six square metres of land adjacent to 23, St Cynfarch's Avenue, Hope to assist with local traffic management
- Unresolved objections to Traffic Regulation Orders associated with the installation of pedestrian/cycle facilities in Mostyn and Ffynnongroyw as part of the All Wales Coastal Path and also the Dee Coastal Path and to confirm the Executive Members delegated decision to overrule the objections
- Unresolved objection following the public advertisement for the installation of waiting restrictions on the B5125, between the Post Office and the roundabout by St David's Park, and to recommend that the Executive Member overrules the objection

Lifelong Learning

- Fees and charges (Libraries) – proposed amendments 2010-11
- Appointment of a temporary Principal Museums Officer – Maternity Cover

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

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting as the following items were considered to be exempt by virtue of paragraphs 12, 14 and 15 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

298. SECURITY/CARETAKING SERVICE REDESIGN

The Director of Lifelong Learning presented a report which sought approval for the consultation with employees about a review of the Security, Caretaking and CCTV services at County Hall.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the review of the Security and Caretaking provision at the County Hall Campus be approved;
- (b) That consultation be approved to take place with the affected employees and their Trade Union representatives in order to develop a detailed proposal for restructure, including a potential need for redundancy; and
- (c) That a further report be commissioned after the initial consultation to focus on detailed implementation proposals.

299. HEAD OF CULTURE AND LEISURE

The Director of Lifelong Learning presented a report which sought approval for initial consultation on developing integrated leadership arrangements for Culture and Leisure.

RESOLVED:

That initial consultation be approved in relation to the creation of a combined Head of Culture and Leisure post.

300. DEESIDE LEISURE CENTRE: APPOINTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNER

The Director of Lifelong Learning presented report which provided information on the progress in the procurement process for a Development Partner.

Members expressed their thanks to Mike Hornby and Stuart D'Henin for their work on the project. The Executive Member for Environment, Regeneration and Tourism said it was an exciting scheme which would be a credit to Flintshire County Council.

RESOLVED:

That Company B be approved as the preferred Development Partner and to authorise the preparation of a Partnering Contract and the subsequent commencement of detailed design work of the phased re-development at Deeside Leisure Centre.

301. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 9.30a.m. and ended at 11.15a.m.

302. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were 2 members of the press in attendance and no members of the public.

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Chairman

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

EXECUTIVE	DATE: 9 March 2010
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
	None were received.	