

EXECUTIVE
22 JUNE 2010

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 22 June 2010.

PRESENT: Councillor A. Woolley (Chairman)

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors: K. Armstrong-Braun, F. Gillmore, P. G. Heesom, R. Hughes, D. I. Mackie, D. L. Mackie 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 Human Resources and Organisational Development, Head of ICT and Customer Services and Team Manager – Committee Services

APOLOGY:

Councillor H. Yale

32. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 1 June 2010 were confirmed as a correct record.

The Chief Executive provided an update on minute number 16 and explained that the final interviews for the Head of Streetscene post were scheduled to take place on 15 July. He emphasised that although the Authority supported collaboration and shared posts, the appointment would be a Flintshire County Council appointment only due to the demands of the post.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

34. CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Director of Environment presented the Council's Corporate Asset Management Plan 2010-2015 for consideration and approval. Central Government had published the Operational Efficiencies Programme (OEP) which concluded that there was scope for £15 billion of efficiency savings throughout the public sector by 2014.

A key issue for the authority was Asset Management. The effective management of assets could contribute significantly to the Welsh Assembly Government's (WAG) 'Making the Connections' programme. The discipline of challenging assets and the reason for retaining them was a fundamental element of Asset Management.

The Chief Executive said the authority would need to be ambitious in its sale of assets and release of stock. Office accommodation needed to be reduced and other public sector bodies in Wales were being asked to make available their Asset Management Plans to develop joint use proposals where advantageous.

RESOLVED

That the Corporate Asset Management Plan be approved.

35. FLINTSHIRE'S MUNICIPAL WASTE STRATEGY

The Executive Member for Waste Management introduced the Flintshire's Municipal Waste Strategy for consideration and approval. Consultation on the Strategy had taken place with the Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Planning and Development Control, Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) and members of the public via the internet.

Councillor A. Woolley praised the work of the team on the campaign trailer who promoted sustainable waste management practices and raised community awareness.

RESOLVED

That the Municipal Waste Strategy be approved.

36. RACE AND GENDER EQUALITY SCHEMES – ANNUAL REPORTS 2009-2010

The Chief Executive introduced the report on the progress of the implementation of the Council's Race Equality and Gender Equality Schemes during 2009-10 for approval. The report also provided an update on the progress in developing a Single Equality Scheme to meet the provisions of the Single Equality Act 2010.

The Chief Executive explained the importance of keeping the work in proportion and the legal and ethical reasons for the plans.

The Executive Member for Education suggested that the report should be submitted to the People and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to it being considered by the Executive which was agreed. The Chief Executive welcomed any observations by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED

That the report be referred to the People and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration with any comments being reported back to the Executive.

37. QUARTER 4/YEAR END PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2009/10

The Chief Executive introduced the performance reports for quarter 4 and a summary of the year end position. Also provided was the year end position of the Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges (SARC) for 2009/10.

Appendix 1 detailed the scheduled of all the Improvement Targets with analysis of the year end performance relating to target and trend. A summary of the positions of the present Red, Amber and Green (RAG) status for all of strategic risks and challenges was detailed in appendix 2. The Chief Executive added that a review of the SARC contents was underway to ensure that the risks listed in the register continued to reflect the current position. It was also intended to introduce a more sophisticated risk RAG status, taking into account the entirety of the risk description and not just progress against the described actions.

The Director of Environment explained that when SARC was introduced, a number of risks were identified. It was important that the list was maintained and monitored to ensure the risks were still relevant, along with ensuring that the risk descriptions were current.

RESOLVED

That specific issues for consideration be referred for management action and/or referral to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

38. 2009/10 PERFORMANCE REPORTING

The Chief Executive presented the report on the outturn performance for the period April 2009 to March 2010 against the sets of performance indicators and measures.

The report detailed the overall performance information, the performance against the 61 Improvement Targets and the performance of the Council's 25 Improvement Agreement targets.

Indicators could only provide an indicative view of performance of services across Wales. They could not provide the whole picture about performance within a service given the precise nature of each indicator. Where indicators had not been met, it was only by a marginal percentage. Any critical indicators were classed as improvement targets and developed with the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). A meeting had taken place with WAG officials to discuss the Improvement Agreement and WAG were supportive of the authority's performance and explanations on targets not met.

Additional analyses by each of the ten service areas would be provided to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees and would be published in the Annual Report.

The Director of Environment added that indicators needed to be considered broadly and qualitative analysis would be provided to Members.

RESOLVED

- (a) That Flintshire County Council's outturn performance for the period April 2009 to March 2010 against the various sets of performance indicators and measures:
- Improvement Targets (including those within the Improvement Agreement)
 - National (Welsh Assembly Government) Indicators
- be noted;
- (b) That the analysis undertaken of performance be noted; and
- (c) That a further report be produced by Corporate Management on the risks and actions required emerging from the analysis

39. REGULATION OF ACCUPUNCTURE, TATTOOING, SEMI-PERMANENT SKIN COLOURING, COSMETIC PIERCING & ELECTROLYSIS

The Executive Member for Leisure and Health and Safety introduced the report which sought approval to recommend to County Council the adoption of Model Byelaws for acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin colouring, cosmetic skin piercing and electrolysis. The Model Byelaws attached to the report were based on a model provided by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG).

RESOLVED

That the County Council be recommended to make the following resolutions in respect of the adoption of the new sets of Model Byelaws:-

- (a) to authorise the affixing of its Common Seal to the two sets of Byelaws
- (b) to authorise its officers to carry out the necessary procedure and apply to the Welsh Assembly Government for confirmation.

40. NORTH WALES PROCUREMENT PARTNERSHIP (NWPP) UPDATE

The Head of ICT and Customer Services introduced the report which provided an update on the work programme of the North Wales Procurement Partnership (NWPP) and the outcomes of the recent partnership review. The NWPP was established by the six North Wales Councils with the aim of delivering value for money improvements through collaborative procurement.

The North Wales framework agreements had been established and the savings potential up to March 2010 from these frameworks was £725,000. The Construction Trade Operatives framework was now in place so there was a projected increase to £1.8 million saving by September 2010. However, these savings could only be realised if the framework agreements were used by service departments within each of the six Councils.

The Chief Executive added that the efficiencies identified for the next three years had been done so based on the assumptions of the Partnership Management Board.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the progress of the NWPP to date be noted; and
- (b) That the commitment of Members to the partnership be confirmed along with their support for the outcomes of the review.

41. NORTH EAST WALES COMMUNITY PLAY PROJECT

The Director of Lifelong Learning introduced the report which sought authorisation to proceed with the employment of a new project team for the North East Wales Play (NEW Play) Project.

The Community Plan Project had been successful in securing £964,850 grant-aid from the second round of the Child's Play programme. The project was a three year funded scheme. At the end of the three year funding, the project would end unless sustainable funding had been secured by the Project team for beyond that period. £764,394 of the grant was required to employ a team of eleven with the remainder of the grant used to support project resources.

Following a question from the Executive Member for Leisure and Health and Safety, the Director explained that each team would target five play deprived communities of the three years of the project with a total of fifteen communities over Flintshire, Wrexham and Denbighshire. The communities involved would be identified on the basis of deprivation.

The Chief Executive explained that any activity undertaken would be of benefit and it would generate further community activity. He did however stress that the funding would cease after three years unless a decision was taken at that time to continue the scheme.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and the necessary action to employ a staff team of eleven full time workers, for a fixed term contract of three years, be approved.

42. OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION RELATING TO THE PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE WATS DYKE INFANTS AND MYNYDD ISA JUNIOR SCHOOLS

The Executive Member for Education introduced the report which detailed the outcome of the consultation meetings and subsequent responses to the consultations relating to the proposal to amalgamate Wats Dyke Infants and Mynydd Isa Junior Schools, and sought approval to publish the statutory notices.

On Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) indicators, the Executive Member for Environment said he would welcome information on the Indicator-Based Assessment (IBA) system which he felt was misleading. He said Flintshire had some of the best results in Wales but that was not reflected in the IBA. The Executive Member for Leisure and Health and Safety suggested that a seminar be arranged for all Members to provide them with an understanding of the IBA system. The Chief Executive said this could be arranged but said it was important not to overreact on single indicators. A number of Members commented that press reports from the IBA were misleading and damaging to both staff and pupils.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the issues raised in the consultation process be noted; and
- (b) That the progression of the proposal to the statutory stage, which would lead to the publication of the proposal, and establish the two month period for written objections, be approved.

43. OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION RELATING TO THE PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE BROUGHTON INFANTS AND BROUGHTON JUNIOR SCHOOLS

The Executive Member for Education introduced the report which detailed the outcome of the consultation meetings and subsequent responses to the consultations relating to the proposal to amalgamate Broughton Infants and Broughton Junior Schools, and sought approval to publish the statutory notices.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the issues raised in the consultation process be noted; and
- (b) That the progression of the proposal to the statutory stage, which would lead to the publication of the proposal, and establish the two month period for written objections, be approved.

44. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS

An information report on the actions taken under delegated powers was submitted.

The actions taken were as set out below:-

Chief Executive

- Appointment of a fixed term Project Director for Flintshire Futures Programme – the Chief Executive explained that this was a joint appointment with Wrexham County Borough Council for a fixed term period for a Programme Manager to identify required efficiencies

Finance

- Creation of 2 interim Corporate Finance Manager posts for 6 months to cover the vacant Corporate Finance Manager post
- Creation of Project Manager (agency) post for 3-6 months to lead the Corporate Finance workstream of the Finance Function Review
- Write off of Council Tax, Business Rates and Sundry Debtors in 2009/10 in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules

Environment

- Disposal of 1043 metres of land by lease for purpose of the Eirgrid Interconnector
- Disposal of land at High Street, Saltney (public conveniences)
- Disposal of land adjacent to Lixwm County Primary School to be incorporated as garden land within Ivy Cottage

45. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 9.30a.m. and ended at 10.55a.m.

46. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were 3 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

EXECUTIVE	DATE: 22 JUNE 2010
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
	NONE	