

**EXECUTIVE**  
**15 MARCH 2011**

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 15 March 2011

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

Councillors: H. Brown, 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, J. B. Attridge, F. Gillmore, R. G. Hampson, G. Hardcastle, D. I. Mackie, E. Owen 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 Development & Resources and Head of Housing

Following the recent tragic events in Japan, Councillor L. A. Sharps offered his sincere sympathies to those affected. It was agreed that the Chief Executive would contact the Deputy First Minister, MP's and AM's to indicate that Flintshire County Council would offer any assistance it could to companies in Japan and Japanese companies in Flintshire who were affected by the events. Also, sympathies were to be sent to those involved in the Japanese Youth Exchange.

**231. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2011 were confirmed as a correct record.

**232. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor N. Phillips declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item number 15 (Closure of the Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) Resource at Westwood Community School.

**233. SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL SERVICES FOR WALES: A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION**

The Executive Member for Social Services introduced the report which informed Members of the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) "White" paper on Sustainable Social Services for Wales: A Framework for Action.

To make the strategic change effective, the paper stated that a number of high level "game changing" actions were needed which were set out in the report.

The Chief Executive added that the Framework for Action was WAG's response to the "From Vision to Action" report from the Independent Commission on Social Services which was produced in November 2010.

The "White Paper" was a statement of policy intent and the policy aspirations of WAG needed to be realistic, feasible and affordable.

The WAG paper made recommendations for change where change was already underway, such as regional collaboration where North Wales was the most progressive region in Wales on collaborative working. Also recommended in the paper was the aspiration for new investment in workforce development at a time when national funding for training and development was being reduced.

The Executive Member for Social Services suggested that Flintshire County Council should write to WAG with its own response to the "White Paper", which was agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the report be received; and
- (b) Flintshire County Council write to WAG with its own response to the "White Paper"

**234. NORTH WALES PARTNERSHIP REVIEW**

The Executive Member for Corporate Strategy introduced the report on the final proposals and timescale for implementation of the outcomes of the North Wales Partnership Review. Information on the input made to the review by Flintshire, which reflected the preferred position for regional partnerships, was provided.

The Chief Executive explained that the Review had concluded and the outcomes and timetable were being reported to the respective partner organisations. Councils and partner organisations would be asked to endorse the review proposals between January and March 2011 with implementation of the proposals from April 2011.

The proposals made from the Review transformed the present partnership structure, thereby achieving efficiencies, reducing complexities and improving outcomes for the citizen.

Potential efficiencies that complemented the review had already been highlighted locally. For example, the Community Safety Partnership, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and the Youth Offending Team as shared partnerships across both Flintshire and Wrexham.

## **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the final proposals and timescale for implementation of the outcomes of the North Wales Partnership Review be endorsed; and
- (b) That the input made to the review by Flintshire to reflect the preferred position for regional partnerships be noted.

### **235. WORKFORCE COST REDUCTION MEASURES – WELSH LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

The Executive Member for Corporate Strategy introduced the report which informed Members of the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on workforce cost reduction measures. Formal endorsement was invited of the Memorandum as a Corporate Signatory.

The Chief Executive said the MOU constituted an all Wales Framework within which local authorities and Trades Unions could work together on a range of acceptable workforce cost reduction measures.

The framework did not place an obligation on local authorities to adopt any or all of the cost reduction measures. However the parties to the MOU agreed that each measure identified could be considered for adoption locally. One of the key aims of the MOU was to protect, to the maximum extent possible, the local government workforce in Wales from compulsory redundancies.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Memorandum as a corporate signatory be endorsed.

### **236. GOOD HEALTH, GOOD CARE IN FLINTSHIRE STRATEGY 2011-2014**

The Executive Member for Social Services introduced the report on the Flintshire Good Health, Good Care Strategy 2011-2014.

Flintshire County Council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board held joint responsibility for the development and implementation of a Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy for the local population. The current strategy, Good Health, Good Care 2008-2011, expired at the end of March 2011 and this third strategy built upon and responded to lessons learned during the implementation of the previous strategies.

## **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the final draft Good Health, Good Care in Flintshire Strategy 2011-14 be approved; and
- (b) That the proposals for developing regional/sub regional Health Social Care and Well Being Partnership Board(s) be noted.

**237. CHARGING POLICY FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL SERVICES FOR ADULTS**

The Executive Member for Social Services introduced the report which sought approval to open a full review of the Charging Policy and eligibility criteria for transport as commissioned by County Council and for interim changes to the Policy and the proposed rates for 2011/12.

The first part of the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) Social Care Charges (Wales) Measure 2010 would come into force on 11 April 2011 and would make provision for and in connection with the imposition and recovery of charges for the provision of non residential social care services.

The Chief Executive added that the Council would formally ask WAG to reconsider the transport exemption under the Measure and to give Councils the option to charge.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That the interim charges to the Charging Policy for Non-residential Social Services for Adults be approved; and
- (b) That a review of the Charging Policy be commissioned and the eligibility criteria for transport to include the following:
  - All social care services for adults and children
  - Housing related support
  - Eligibility for transport, including needs assessment, independent alternatives and ability to pay
  - Methods of transport provision by the Council
  - Comparison with neighbouring councils; and
  - The outcomes of the regional fleet management review

The review to be concluded and reported back to Executive by July 2011, following consultation with all stakeholders and the completion of an equalities impact assessment.

**238. 'DEESIDE MOVING FORWARD – TURNING THE TIDE' – A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO REGENERATING DEESIDE**

The Executive Member for Regeneration and Tourism introduced the report which set out proposals for a strategic approach to regenerating Deeside which focused Flintshire's regeneration priorities on the area of the county that demonstrated not only the greatest regeneration need but also the greatest economic opportunity currently available in Flintshire and the wider North Wales region.

The Director of Environment said the Deeside proposal represented the greatest concentration of multiple deprivation in Flintshire and was one of the largest areas of employment in North Wales. It was considered that the area fully met the Welsh Assembly Government's (WAG) key designation criteria,

at the same time as offering a major opportunity and challenge for both Flintshire and the wider North Wales region. Within the proposed area there were a number of committed and emerging programmes in place, within both the public and private sectors which were detailed in the appendix to the report.

The proposed approach represented a major opportunity to tackle deprivation in Deeside and co-ordination of physical investment works with actions to meet the needs of the local community could bring significant additional benefits such as employment and regeneration of town centres.

It was a major, wide ranging and ambitious programme, however some parts were already in place and significant private sector commitment had already been secured.

A case would need to be developed for 'Deeside Moving Forward – Turning the Tide', based on wide ranging support from national, regional and local representatives, community organisations, the private sector and other partners. It was recommended that those discussions commence nationally, regionally and locally.

In response to comments from the Executive Member for Environment, the Chief Executive said it was important that Flintshire's priorities were recognised in the Spatial Plan which would strengthen any applications for European funding. He said he would take on board the comments made on who would lead the project on behalf of the County Council.

### **RESOLVED**

That support be given, in principle, for the development of a case for 'Deeside Moving Forward – Turning the Tide'. This will involve formal discussions at a National/Regional/Local level.

## **239. QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2010/11**

The Executive Member for Corporate Strategy introduced the report which detailed the Quarter 3 service performance reports produced at the Head of Service/Divisional level under the adopted business model of the Council. The update of the Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges (SARC) summary was contained within the performance reports.

The Chief Executive explained that Appendix 1 to the report contained a schedule of all of the Improvement Targets which were reported on a quarterly basis. This was in line with the revised list of Improvement Targets endorsed by Executive on 18 January 2011.

### **RESOLVED**

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

#### **240. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11 (MONTH 9)**

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report which provided the latest capital programme information for 2010/11.

The Head of Finance explained that the previously reported programme total of £36.317M had increased to £37.241M, details of which were provided in the report.

The latest budget monitoring information indicated that a Council Fund total of £0.681M funded by way of general (non-specific) financing resources (unhypothecated supported borrowing/general capital grant/capital receipts) could be released for alternative scheme purposes and had been included in the total available funding resources for 2011/12 Capital Programme.

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management said only 40% of the capital spend had been spent at this time and more worryingly it was 8% less than the previous year. The Director of Environment explained that the Corporate Asset Management Group (CAMG) recognised the programme slippage during the year and that the same had happened in 2009/10. CAMG were in the process of developing proposals to hopefully ensure all Directorates managed their elements of the Programme more effectively in the future.

The Chief Executive explained the difference between the various capital funding regimes, including the Council's own receipts, saying that most of the Programme could be carried forward into the 2011/12 financial year if it remained unspent in 2010/11.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the report be noted and approved.

#### **241. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2010/11 (MONTH 9)**

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report which provided Members with the most up to date revenue budget monitoring information (Month 9) for the Council Fund and the Housing Revenue Account in 2010/11.

The Head of Finance explained that the projected year end position was estimated at Month 9 as a net overspend of £0.460M (overspend of £0.717M at Month 8) on the Council Fund and a net overspend of £0.033M (underspend of £0.092M at Month 8) on the Housing Revenue Account.

The 2009/10 final outturn reported to Executive on 10 August showed unearmarked reserves at 31 March 2010 (above the base level of £5.269M) of £1.008M, after the setting aside of funding for 2010/11 one-off pressures of £0.352M.

The movements to date on unearmarked reserves and the estimated level of contingency sum were detailed in the appendix to the report. As a result of those movements currently projected, the net amount available in the Contingency Reserve was £0.988M, of which £0.440M was ringfenced for Flintshire Futures organisational change costs.

Detailed in the appendix to the report were the reasons for significant variances to date on the Housing Revenue Account and the actions planned to deal with them. The net effect of the revised balance brought forward, the additional allocations from balances and the projected overspend of £0.033M was that there would be balances in hand at the end of the year of £1.024M which at 4.2% of budgeted expenditure was greater than the minimum level of 3% recommended by the Head of Finance. The projected year end balance was £0.227M less than the £1.251M that was projected when the 2011/12 HRA budget was approved at the Council meeting on 15 February 2011.

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That the estimated County Fund Contingency Sum as at 31 March 2011 be noted; and
- (c) That the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account be noted.

## **242. HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION POLICY**

The Executive Member for Waste Management introduced the report which sought approval of the Household Waste Collection Policy developed by Members of the Streetscene Task and Finish Group in order to support the introduction of the new Managed Weekly Collection service.

The introduction of a Managed Weekly Collection service was one of the key actions listed in the approved Municipal Waste Strategy and would change the way the Council collected domestic waste by introducing a wheelie bin for residual waste, replacing the black sacks currently provided to residents.

The Director of Environment confirmed that weekly residual waste collections would take place over the Christmas period to take account of additional waste during that time.

Members were reminded of the assistance that could be given to help elderly and disabled residents.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Household Waste Collection Policy be approved.

**243. INTRODUCING ALTERNATIVE WORKING PATTERNS INTO THE STREETSCENE SERVICE**

The Executive Member for Waste Management introduced the report which sought approval for the introduction of an alternative working pattern for the staff in the Streetscene service in order to maximise the efficiency of the service.

Whilst the Streetscene service currently operated Monday-Friday there was a requirement for some services to be delivered over the weekend/evening period. Currently this requirement was staffed by volunteers and paid for at overtime rates. The alternative working pattern would cover all of the planned service functions required to be delivered by Streetscene, consolidating them into the standard working week for the service.

By introducing a 6 day week for specific Streetscene service areas the service would operate for 55.5 hours each week with Streetscene staff working on a fixed rota working 37 hours over 4 days of every week.

The Director of Environment added that the new arrangements would require a smaller fleet size which would reduce the overall leasing cost of the Streetscene vehicles. Due to lease agreements the full saving from the service would be generated over a period of 4 years, with savings being accrued as vehicles reached the end of their lease and not being replaced.

The Chief Executive added that by reducing the number of operational staff in the depot during any single shift, the required depot footprint would be significantly reduced. This would allow the Streetscene service to be rationalised into a single depot without extensive land purchases.

**RESOLVED**

That the proposed changes set out in the report for consultation be approved and delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development in consultation with the associated Executive Members, to consider any representations made by the Trades Unions or staff and agree and implement the new working patterns, noting that any revised terms and conditions will be consistent with those to be recommended as a Part 3 Agreement alongside the eventual Single Status Agreement.

**244. CLOSURE OF THE APPLIED BEHAVIOURAL ANALYSIS (ABA) RESOURCE AT WESTWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

Councillor N. Phillips left the room during discussion of this item (minute number 232).

The Executive Member for Education introduced the report which sought approval to begin the Notice of Closure on the Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) Resource at Westwood Community School.



The ABA Resource was a joint commissioned provision between Wrexham and Flintshire local authorities and provided Key Stage (KS) 1 pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Lead officers from both local authorities were in agreement with the proposal to close the provision from September 2011.

The Director of Lifelong Learning said whilst the provision had been successful, there had been limited opportunity for integration into mainstream education. The school did not consider itself to be in a position to increase integration due to the complex needs of the pupils.

The provision currently supported 6 children with projected numbers for the next academic year being 2. The Authority recognised that the Centre had skilled and experienced staff; every attempt would be made to redeploy the existing staff but there was the possibility of staff redundancies or retirement was an option for some staff.

#### **RESOLVED**

That approval be given to begin the Notice of Closure of the ABA Resource.

#### **245. FIELDS IN TRUST: QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS CHALLENGE**

The Director of Lifelong Learning introduced the report which advised Members of the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge Programme.

Fields in Trust (F.I.T) was the operating name used by the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) and to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, F.I.T had launched a new initiative to identify and then protect 2012 recreation grounds across the United Kingdom.

In support of the programme, it was recommended that all Town and Community Councils be contacted and invited to nominate a recreation ground within their community in the ownership of the County Council or Town/Community Council which they would like to see protected. These nominations would be returned to the County Council for discussion with F.I.T prior to further consideration by Members for determination.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the principle of this new programme be supported and nominations from Town/Community Councils be invited prior to a further report back to Executive.

#### **246. THE PAVILLION, FLINT: PROPOSED RE-DEVELOPMENT**

The Executive Member for Leisure Services and Public Protection introduced the report which outlined re-development proposals received for The Pavillion, Flint.

Alliance Leisure Services had been invited to examine investment opportunities, in particular, to explore the potential to incorporate new leisure provision. The potential opportunities were identified as 8-lane ten pin bowling, 4-rink indoor bowling, soft play and cafeteria with party rooms, studio space and refurbishment of the fitness suite to mirror the enhanced provision at Deeside.

The proposals for the re-development of the Sports Hall would require the relocation of some activities, principally badminton. Many of the activities would be accommodated on site with the provision of studio/multi-activity rooms with the benefits of retaining that proportion of sports hall income. Some activities would need to be re-located within the town to the sports facilities at Flint High School. The proposal included refurbishment work of changing facilities at Flint High School.

The Chief Executive said Deeside Leisure Centre and The Pavillion, Flint were priorities for re-development as they offered a commercial return to subsidise other leisure facilities and services. Any future re-development of dual use centres would require funding through 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and prudential borrowing.

### **RESOLVED**

That the re-development proposals for The Pavillion, Flint be approved and officers be authorised to conclude a works contract.

## **247. HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY**

The Executive Member for Housing introduced the report which outlined the proposed revised Allocations Policy following consultation with stakeholders and customers over the last three months.

On the wide ranging Welfare Reform proposals, some of the changes take effect earlier than others. Provision for the impact of the known changes should be addressed within the current Housing Allocations Policy to enable the Council to plan ahead and best manage the allocation of housing stock for the future. A preventative approach could be adopted whilst the policy was under review.

The Head of Housing explained that the policy could require further review once the outcome of the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) consultation was known but officers had tried to pre-empt what some of that might be in this policy review.

### **RESOLVED**

That the final proposed changes to the Allocations Policy following the Statutory consultation and consideration of the impact of planned Welfare Reform Changes be supported.

**248. DURATION OF MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 9.30a.m. and ended at 11.00a.m.

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

There were 2 members of the press and 5 members of the public 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: 15 MARCH 2011</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
N. Phillips	Closure of the Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) Resource at Westwood Community School	232