

**EXECUTIVE**  
**20 SEPTEMBER 2011**

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 20 September 2011

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

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

**APOLOGY:** Councillor C. A. Ellis

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillors: J. B. Attridge, R. Baker, C. S. Carver, J. C. Cattermoul, A. J. Davies-Cooke, F. Gillmore, R. G. Hampson, G. Hardcastle, H. T. Isherwood, D. I. Mackie, E. W. Owen, A. P. Shotton and C. A. Thomas

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Environment, Director of Lifelong Learning, Head of ICT and Customer Services, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development, Democracy and Governance Manager and Team Manager – Committee Services

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Executive Member for Regeneration and Tourism informed the Executive that the Welsh Government (WG) had awarded Deeside one of five Enterprise Zones in Wales. He said it was fantastic news for the County and North East Wales as a whole and could result in up to 20,000 jobs across Deeside in the next five years. He thanked everybody involved for the hard work in securing Enterprise Zone status in Flintshire. The Chief Executive concurred with Councillor Wright's comments and explained that WG had aligned the five Enterprise Zones to themes, of which Flintshire's was advanced manufacturing. He passed on his congratulations to the four other Councils who had been successful in securing Enterprise Zone status.

**84. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2011 were confirmed as a correct record.

**85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor H. D. Hutchinson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item Number 21 – Demand Responsive Transport Re-Tendering.

**86. COMPACT FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN WELSH GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Executive Member for Corporate Management introduced the report which advised Members on the development of a Compact between

local government and the Welsh Government (WG) for national and regional collaboration.

The Chief Executive explained the background to the report, highlighting the recommendation from the Simpson Review which had been commissioned by the WG.

The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) was leading on the development of a Compact which would detail the development of collaborative and national service delivery. Flintshire County Council had been a major contributor to the development of the Compact having had representation on the Review Team and responding to the WLGA consultation response to the Compact. The Partnership Council endorsed a set of principles for drawing up the Compact which were detailed in the report as were the ten principal collaborative actions which combined existing commitments within local government and WG priorities.

Details of information from the Collaboration Workshop in Llandudno the previous week were provided which included the Partnership Council adopting the draft Compact in November 2011 before being considered by individual Councils. The Chief Executive suggested that an additional recommendation be included for further progress reports to be submitted to meetings of the County Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees which was supported.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the principles and collaborative actions of the Compact be noted;
- (b) That the North Wales Region and colleagues within Flintshire County Council who are actively committed to and working on seven of the ten Compact actions be recognised;
- (c) That further progress reports as appropriate be received; and
- (d) That further progress reports be made to County Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings

**87. FLINTSHIRE FUTURES – MID YEAR REVIEW**

The Executive Member for Corporate Management introduced the report which provided an overview of the Flintshire Futures Programme, in particular on cross-organisational change projects. In addition, endorsement of the scope of and the plans for the projects covered within the report was sought.

The Chief Executive provided details on the range of efficiencies from the programme identified to date which were included in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

The Flintshire Futures programme had been developed as a corporate programme for modernising and changing the organisation to make best use of its resources, improve services and to secure efficiencies.

The Flintshire Futures programme included a mixture of short, medium and longer term projects under four themes of “Quarters” which were depicted in a diagram attached as an appendix to the report; the content could change to add new projects or to stop projects if they were unlikely to deliver the objectives.

There were two closely linked projects, Flintshire Connects and Channel Shift which were primarily about improving customer service and experience and offered significant opportunities for efficiency savings. Full details on both projects were outlined in the report. Fulfilment of the aims of the projects would lead to a number of positive outcomes for the Council and its customers including agile working with employee performance being judged more on outcomes and not physical presence. Smarter ways of working and rationalising office accommodation would bring significant opportunities to make efficiencies through changed facilities management arrangements.

Directors and Corporate Heads provided details on the following key areas which included Flintshire’s approach and future plans:

- Customer workstream
- Assets workstream
- Agile working – Flintshire work styles
- Procurement workstream
- Finance workstream
- Employment workstream

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the scope of and plans for the projects outlined in the report be endorsed; and
- (b) That the range of efficiencies from the programme identified to date and their inclusion in the Medium Term Financial Plan be agreed.

**88. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (MTFP) AND BUDGET 2012/13**

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report which provided an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the planning for the 2012/13 Budget.

The Head of Finance explained that the MTFP forecast in June 2011 identified a revenue shortfall of £13M over the three years 2012/13 to 2014/15 before the inclusion of new pressures, choice or demand led, or the effect of new efficiencies. For the Capital Programme, the June 2011 forecast identified £12.269M of resources available over the four years to 2014/15, before the inclusion of funding requirements for major priorities such as the schools

modernisation programme and investment needs across the Council's assets and infrastructure portfolio.

Over the summer months since the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was approved, Directorates and Corporate Services undertook detailed work to forecast further pressures to add to the MTFP and their values and efficiencies, savings or income generation opportunities arising from projects within the Flintshire Futures programme and from on-going 'good housekeeping' through budget management.

At this stage in the Budget process for 2012/13, total potential additional new pressures of £7M had been identified. Also, the work so far had identified £1.5M of additional efficiencies

On the basis of work to date on the Budget for 2012/13, the shortfall for 2012/13 of £3.378M, as reported in May and June, was reduced to £0.186M which was as a result of two items:

1. The underspend in 2010/11 had enabled the early repayment of the £1.613M taken temporarily from reserves to fund one-off expenditure in the 2011/12 budget. The effect was to remove a one-off pressure in the 2012/13 budget of £1.613M.
2. Potential efficiencies of £1.579M had been identified for consideration

Briefings from Ministers and officials at the Welsh Government (WG) indicated that settlements for 2012/13 and 2013/14 were unlikely to change markedly from those announced with the 2011/12 budget. For Flintshire, this would mean a reduction in Revenue Support Grant (RSG) of -0.4% in 2012/13 and an increase of +1.1% in 2013/14. The WG recently announced its budget timetable for 2012/13 and as a result, Councils would receive the provisional settlement on 18 October 2011 with the final settlement being received on 6 December 2011. This was eight weeks earlier than the previous year which would assist the budget planning process.

All Members would be invited to a session in mid-late October to commence the budget process. The session would include consideration of the revenue budget and the capital programme as work continued to make linkages between the two.

The Chief Executive emphasised the importance of the MTFP and he encouraged all Members to support the details provided in the report. The on-going strategy to manage the budget gap on reducing internal operating costs and compressing new pressures to minimise effects on customers and public services was critical.

The Executive Member for Leisure Services and Public Protection congratulated officers on their efforts to enable the repayment of £1.613M into the reserves. The Chief Executive explained that the repayment of £1.613M into the reserves was recommended for approval in agenda item number 15.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the work which has been undertaken and which is ongoing to update the Medium Term Financial Plan and the early preparation for the 2012/13 revenue and capital programme budget round be noted;
- (b) That the information provided about the Welsh Government (WG) budget planning and the settlement timetable be noted; and
- (c) That the intention to hold a budget session for all Members in mid-late October for involvement in the 2012/13 budget round be noted.

**89. PEOPLE STRATEGY UPDATE**

The Executive Member for Corporate Management introduced the report which described the approach for redefining the priorities, deliverables and capacity/resource requirements for the People Strategy and how they would be reported to Executive for the third and final year of the current strategy.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development explained that the project plan for delivering the People Strategy was complex with a number of inter-related workstreams which were reaching a critical point.

The Chief Executive commented on the recent recommendation made by the Wales Audit Office (WAO) in the 2011 Corporate Assessment Letter for Flintshire which emphasised the need to review the priorities and deliverables for the next 9-12 months, to be clear where there were inter-dependencies between projects and to identify the capacity and resources required to deliver priorities within the timetables determined. Work was being undertaken to consolidate the approach to prioritising, delivering and resourcing the workstreams under the strategy to strengthen the ability to deliver key priorities in the short to medium term.

Details on the current priorities and deliverables were detailed in the report.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the progress made in the delivery of the People Strategy be noted; and
- (b) That the plan to develop a clearer approach to the setting of priorities and reporting of the strategy, as described in the body of the report be supported. This work would be completed by the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development and the Corporate Management Team by the end of October 2011 to meet the agreement that had been made with the Wales Audit Office.

**90. FINAL DRAFT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report which outlined the final draft of the Social Services Annual Performance Overview Report.

The Director of Community Services explained that the final version of the Overview Report had been prepared following an in-depth review of current performance by service managers and performance officers and a period of consultation and challenge.

An initial meeting had taken place with the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW). Satisfaction was expressed with the report and additional supporting information was requested such as the feedback from the user satisfaction surveys.

**RESOLVED:**

That the achievements and key improvement priorities be noted and the report for submission to the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CCIW) be endorsed.

**91. FLINTSHIRE'S CARERS STRATEGY COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS 2012-2015**

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report which sought approval for the Social Services Carers Strategy Commissioning intentions for 2012-2015 whilst explaining the underpinning rationale.

The Director of Community Services explained that the Strategy had been led by the multi-agency Carers Strategy Group with the intention of building on the success of the previous strategies. The Welsh Government (WG) Commissioning Guidance Framework checklist was closely adhered to, to ensure that the commissioning intentions to deliver on agreed local outcomes for carers and young carers were based on sound rationale.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the recommendations for 2012-2015, as detailed in the report, be approved; and
- (b) That the process for commissioning, as detailed in the report, be approved.

## **92. REVIEW OF DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY**

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report which proposed continuation of the current policy of Discretionary Rate Relief from 1 April 2012 and its application to existing and new applicants subject to satisfying eligibility criteria, following consultation with Executive Members.

The Head of Finance explained that although the scheme was approved by Executive annually, the principles and associated costs of the policy had not been considered since April 2000. The existing policy was outlined in the report.

In considering the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy, Executive Members had recognised the importance of rate relief to charities and voluntary sector organisations in both rural and urban areas and wanted to continue to provide support to such organisations and the valuable work which they undertook within the community.

In recommending continuation of the current policy, Executive Members had taken into account the following:

- the cost to the Council of providing discretionary rate relief
- the identification of organisations and charities which currently benefited from relief
- the potential for adverse impact on organisations as a result of a change in policy
- the need to ensure eligibility criteria against the policy were met by existing and new applications for relief

### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That continuation of the current policy of Discretionary Rate Relief with effect from 1 April 2012 be approved;
- (b) That existing and new applications receive relief in accordance with the policy subject to satisfying the eligibility criteria; and
- (c) That the outcome of the review is notified to ratepayers.

## **93. WELSH-MEDIUM EDUCATION STRATEGY**

The Executive Member for Education introduced the report on the statutory requirement to produce a draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for the Flintshire Local Authority by December 2011.

The Director of Education explained that the WESP was central to the national planning system and the new plan would be the successor to the current Welsh Education Scheme. The Framework for the WESP was published in July 2011, with a timetable for completion by December 2011.

WESPs would be required to demonstrate the progress made by local authorities against the national targets set out in the Welsh Education Strategy.

The timetable for establishing the framework was outlined in the report. In order to plan and deliver the strategic plan for Flintshire a Welsh Education Forum would be formulated involving stakeholders which were detailed in the report. The Executive Member added that he would be a representative on the Forum. A discussion took place on the Forum meetings possibly including a Welsh speaking Member and also for the meetings to be bi-lingual.

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Environment asked for an assurance that parental choice would not be removed from the policy due to the targets outlined in the report. The Director explained that there was surplus capacity in Welsh Medium Schools in some areas of the county, and shortfalls in others, nevertheless, parental preference would not be affected. The Plan would aim to improve any perceived barriers for those wishing to access education through the medium of Welsh.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the statutory requirement for the production and delivery of Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for Flintshire be noted; and
- (b) That Members look forward to receiving and approving a draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) in December 2011.

The Executive Member for Leisure Services and Public Protection abstained.

**94. QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2011/12**

The Executive Member for Corporate Management introduced the Quarter 1 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.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That any specific issues outlined within the report be referred to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for management action;
- (b) That the quarter end position of the Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges (SARC) contained within the performance report be noted; and



- (c) That the progress made against the Improvement Target Action Plans contained within the performance report be noted.

**95. GREEN DRAGON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

The Executive Member for Corporate Management introduced the report which sought approval for the deferral of the accreditation of the next level of the Green Dragon Environmental Management Standard until 2012.

The Chief Executive explained that the Standard recognised a management system which was relevant to the specific needs of the Council and rewarded actions taken to achieve environmental improvements. The site scope of the management system was based upon the activities and functions of each site. These were currently undergoing change with depot reorganisation and asset rationalisation and services were moving to different sites which required work to be undertaken to meet the Standard.

The environmental standards were good practice and accreditation would be applied for on finalisation of the depot relocation in 2012.

**RESOLVED:**

That deferral of the application for the next level of the Green Dragon Environmental Management Standard until 2012 be endorsed.

**96. BUSINESS PERFORMANCE OF SEMI COMMERCIAL FUNCTIONS**

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report which outlined the financial and productivity outputs of the Council's Semi-Commercial Functions for 2010/11.

The Chief Executive explained that the reporting of Semi-Commercial Functions in summary format dated back to the response to the report from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) in 2008. In the intervening period, performance reporting arrangements within the Council had been improved and were reported through a variety of routes including Quarterly Performance Reports and the Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges (SARC). Those reporting routes provided the opportunity for more detailed reporting and Member scrutiny and as such, it was recommended that productivity and financial performance be reported through the more recent established routes and that there be no further updates in this format to avoid duplication.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the financial and productivity outputs of the Council's Semi-Commercial Functions for 2010/11 be endorsed; and
- (b) That the productivity and financial performance continues to be reported through the now established routes as set out in 3.07 of the

report and that there be no further updates in this format to avoid duplication.

#### **97. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2011/12 (MONTH 3)**

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management presented the most up to date revenue budget monitoring information (Month 3) for the Council Fund and the Housing Revenue Account in 2011/12.

The Head of Finance explained that the projected year end position as estimated at Month 3 was:

- Council Fund – net overspend of £0.223M
- Housing Revenue Account – net overspend of £0.153M

The significant in-year projected variances to date were detailed in the appendices to the report. The net overspend of £0.223M was made up of £0.619M on services offset by a contribution of £0.396M from Corporate Services. It was the intention of Management to contain the currently projected variation within the overall agreed budget.

The utilisation of the unearmarked reserves was considered within the medium term financial planning work, as reported in July 2011, taking into account the need to repay in 2012/13 the £1.613M taken temporarily from reserves to balance the 2011/12 budget. This was now recommended to be repaid in 2011/12 from the additional unearmarked reserves.

Appendix 6 to the report detailed the movements to date on unearmarked reserves and the level of contingency sum available. As a result of the movements projected, the net amount available in the Contingency Reserve was £1.876M. This would reduce to £0.263M if Members approved to repay the £1.613M from reserves as detailed above.

The 2011/12 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget provided for a total revenue contribution of £3.235M towards the funding of Capital Expenditure funded from Revenue Account (CERA). As a result of the need to meet increased revenue expenditure on vacant properties as outlined in the report, it was recommended that £0.450M be reallocated from the budgeted sum for CERA to the revenue repairs and maintenance budget.

The overall projected overspend of £0.153M on the HRA represented a decrease of £0.123M on the initial position at Month 2. The HRA had a closing balance at Period 3 of £0.967M which at 3.8% of total expenditure satisfied the prudent approach of ensuring a minimum level of 3%.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the report be noted;

- (b) That the repayment in 2011/12 of £1.613M temporarily taken from reserves be approved;
- (c) That the Council Fund Contingency Sum available as at 31 March 2012 be noted;
- (d) That the virement of £0.450M from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for CERA to the revenue repair and maintenance budget to fund additional expenditure on vacant properties be approved; and
- (e) That the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account be noted.

**98. HOUSING/COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT SANCTION & PROSECUTION POLICY AND ANTI-FRAUD STRATEGY**

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the updated Housing/Council Tax Benefit Fraud Sanction and Prosecution Policy.

The Head of Finance explained that, although the Council had a Corporate Anti-Fraud Strategy, it was considered good practice to also have in place a specific Housing/Council Tax Benefit Anti-Fraud Strategy.

**RESOLVED:**

That the updated Sanction & Prosecution Policy and the new Housing/Council Tax Benefit Anti-Fraud Strategy be endorsed.

**99. WORKFORCE INFORMATION REPORT**

The Executive Member for Corporate Management introduced the Workforce Information Report.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development explained that the report provided details on:

- Establishment
- Headcount
- Agency numbers
- Turnover
- Diversity
- Absence

Members were advised that during the first quarter of 2011/12, 77% of employees had attained 100% attendance.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**100. MATRIX CONTRACT UPDATE (MANAGED AGENCY STAFF SOLUTION)**

The Executive Member for Corporate Management introduced the report which provided an update on the contract for the provision of agency workers.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development explained that the report provided details on quarter 1 savings and provided an update on the development of procedures to maximise efficiencies and improve practice in relation to the use of agency workers.

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Environment said the total savings of £358,271.48 for the financial year 2010/11 were excellent.

**RESOLVED:**

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

**101. REVISION OF THE WINTER MAINTENANCE POLICY**

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Environment introduced the report which provided details on the outcome of the review of the Council's Winter Maintenance Service. In addition, approval was sought of the Council's new Winter Maintenance Policy.

The Director of Environment explained that it was good practice to review the Winter Maintenance Policy to ensure that the content met both the statutory requirements and the needs of the residents where possible. This was particularly important after the series of severe winters experienced across the County in recent years.

Planning consent had been obtained for an additional holding of 5,500 tonnes of salt to be sited at Greenfield Recycling Park. With the salt storage at Alltami and Halkyn Depots, this brought Flintshire's total stock holding at the start of the winter to 10,200 tonnes and would provide additional resilience to the service. In 2010 and 2011 similar amounts of salt had been spread on Flintshire's road networks.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council's revised Winter Maintenance Policy be approved.

**102. HOLYWELL TOWN CENTRE ASSESSMENT**

The Executive Member for Regeneration and Tourism introduced the report which detailed the content of the Holywell Town Centre Assessment and to recommend that it be used to inform the Council's approach in future regeneration of Holywell.

In re-positioning the town for the future, the consultants recommended Option 3 from those suggested which would play to Holywell's strengths as a local shopping destination with a high level of loyalty and a good spread of independent retailers, together with the very high potential to exploit its unique heritage and tourism qualities.

**RESOLVED:**

That the contents of the Holywell Town Centre Assessment be noted and that the study be used to help inform future decisions on the town centre.

**103. DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORT RE-TENDERING**

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Environment introduced the report which outlined proposals for the tendering of Flintshire's demand responsive public transport services, especially the Deeside Shuttle package.

The Director of Environment explained that following the receipt of the Welsh Government Transport Grant, the Deeside Shuttle started in 2002. The Shuttle later expanded to include such areas as Flint, Holywell and Buckley. There followed an evening Theatr Shuttle, associated with Clwyd Theatr Cymru.

Grant funding was given by Welsh Government (WG) on a tapered basis, however this reduced to zero at the start of the 2010/11 financial year and the Shuttle's operation was now fully funded from the Council's base budget.

The service carried approximately 147,000 passengers per annum with the majority being carried to and from Deeside Industrial Park (DIP). Employers and workers on DIP valued the Shuttle as a cost effective means of ensuring businesses could take advantage of local labour. This would also link into access to employment for the new Enterprise Zone.

As the Shuttle was funded from the base budget, officers had considered whether any efficiencies could be made in the way the Service operated. Reflecting the current established pattern of demand, it was believed that there was an opportunity to revise the service as detailed below:

- Operate the Shuttle Mondays to Fridays from 0500-0900 peak service on a fixed rather than demand responsive bus timetable. This would reduce the number of vehicles required from seven to five
- From 0900 to 2300 the Shuttle would be demand responsive. This was considered the best way of serving lower demand without running buses wastefully on fixed timetabled routes
- Transfer Buckley, Ewloe and Queensferry passengers onto the Shuttle+ (SP1/SP") Mold – Buckley – Deeside Industrial Park – Ellesmere Port. The Shuttle would no longer serve Hawarden where

- Withdraw the Shuttle Sunday service (carrying 25 passengers per week only) and reduce the Saturday service to better match demand
- Withdraw the evening Theatr Shuttle (carrying 70 passengers per week only)
- Withdraw the evening Saturday D42 service Wrexham – Mold and reduce the Sunday service to better match demand
- Continue with the existing rural service 14C that operated at marginal cost, between the peaks, using driver and vehicle downtime

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the service continue along revised lines as outlined in paragraph 3.04 of the report (detailed above);
- (b) That the Head of Assets and Transportation tender for the service accordingly; and
- (c) That the revised service is reviewed periodically to ensure that it continues to meet demand and expectations.

The Executive Member for Leisure Services and Public Protection left the meeting during the discussion.

**104. PUBLIC PROTECTION ENFORCEMENT POLICY INVOLVING LOCAL RESIDENTS**

The Executive Member for Leisure Services and Public Protection introduced the report which detailed an Enforcement Policy involving Local Residents for Public Protection Services which took account of the latest guidance and best practice. It also outlined in clear and simple terms the Services' approach to regulation and enforcement.

**RESOLVED:**

That the draft policy be adopted, published and implemented.

**105. OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPION EXPENSES**

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report on the approved duties and attendance of the Older People's Champion at meetings relating to the role.

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Gay's attendance at meetings relevant to her role as Older People's Champion be authorised as approved duties under paragraph 3.01(n) of the Members' Allowance Scheme.

The Executive Member for Housing abstained.

**106. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED DECISIONS**

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

The actions taken were as set out below:-

Finance	Minor Amendment to the Structure of Corporate Finance
Community Services	Proposed Granting of Easements to Provide a Gas Main Supply to Three Sheltered Housing Schemes – (i) Jubilee Court, Buckley, (ii) Scotch Row, Mancot and (iii) Manley Court, Shotton
	Creation of a Housing Options/Housing Benefit Liaison Officer (Temporary – two year contract)
Environment	Job Share for the Finance and Monitoring Officer – Rural Programmes
	Bereavement Service Fees and Charges
	Public Protection Fees & Charges

**107. 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 for the following items by virtue of exempt information under the following paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended):

**Agenda item number 26**

Paragraphs 12 and 15

Restructure of Social Services Planning and Performance Functions

**Agenda item number 27**

Paragraphs 14 and 15

Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service Project

**108. RESTRUCTURE OF SOCIAL SERVICES PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE FUNCTIONS**

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report which sought approval for the restructuring of the Partnerships, Planning, Performance and Quality Assurance (PPPQA) functions within Social Services.

**RESOLVED:**

That the restructure of the Planning and Performance Teams be approved.

**109. REGIONAL SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPROVEMENT SERVICE PROJECT**

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management welcomed Danielle Edwards, Project Manager for the Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service, to the meeting.

The Executive Member for Education introduced the report which sought approval of the Outline Business Case for a new regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service across the six North Wales Authorities.

The Director explained that the planned service would provide the core statutory school improvement advisory and monitoring function for the six North Wales authorities. Under current proposals, it would not provide direct services to pupils.

The vision was to establish a Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service to be accountable to, and undertake the statutory responsibilities of the six North Wales authorities in respect of the duties to monitor; challenge; provide support services for curriculum continued professional development and management of schools, and in addition provide services that could be commissioned by school and local authorities.

The Director explained that the report on the Outline Business Case was being discussed in all six authorities at Executive and Overview and Scrutiny meetings. Flintshire's Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee had expressed grave reservations, specifically identifying the following issues as needing to be addressed in the development of the full business case:

- Funding
- Welsh medium education
- Governance arrangements
- Accountability
- Duplication
- Future provision of core and specialist services received and appreciated in Flintshire schools



In response to questions, the Chief Executive, Director of Lifelong Learning, Executive Member for Education and the Project Manager explained the following:

- Comments received from all 6 Local Authorities in North Wales would contribute to the full Business Case
- The funding required for the appointment of a Chief Officer would be shared between each of the 6 Local Authorities
- There was ample time for reports to be submitted to each of the Authorities Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings prior to the final Business Case being submitted for approval. However, if the timescale could not be met the schedule would be put back
- Each Authority would consider the final Business Case on its merits for their individual Authority
- The project team were working closely with HR colleagues to ensure compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), TUPE arrangements and protecting the rights of the employee. The arrangements etc were no different to recent reviews undertaken except that this was on a regional basis

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That support be given for the Outline Business Case to be widely consulted upon with stakeholders from October 2011;
- (b) That the establishment of a regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service by September 2012 subject to approval of the Full Business Case, including satisfactory and affordable resolution of the issues relating to pension deficit and leaving costs be committed to; and
- (c) That the appointment of a Chief Officer to be in post from January 2012, noting that if there is a delay in the final Business Case the offer be conditional, be approved.

Implementation of the recommendations would take place following agreement by each of the six North Wales Authorities.

The Executive Member for Housing abstained.

**110. DURATION OF MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 9.30 a.m. and ended at 12.05p.m.

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

There were 2 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: 20 SEPTEMBER 2011</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
H. D. Hutchinson	Demand Responsive Transport Re-tendering	103