

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**29 JUNE 2009**

Minutes of the Meeting of Flintshire County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Mold on Monday 29 June 2009.

**PRESENT:**

**Councillor C. Legg (Chairman)**

Councillors: Eng. K. Armstrong-Braun, J. B. Attridge, S. R. Baker, D. Barratt, G. H. Bateman, R. C. Bithell, C. S. Carver, J. C. Cattermoul, E. G. Cooke, D. L. Cox, B. Dunn, C. A. Ellis, E. F. Evans, J. E. Falshaw, V. Gay, F. Gillmore, A. M. Halford, R. G. Hampson, G. Hardcastle, P. G. Heesom, M. Higham, C. Hinds, H. T. Howorth, R. Hughes, H. D. Hutchinson, H. T. Isherwood, G. James, C. M. Jones, N. M. Jones, R. B. Jones, S. Jones, R. P. Macfarlane, D. I. Mackie, D. L. Mackie, N. M. Matthews, H. J. McGuill, A. Minshull, W. Mullin, T. Newhouse, E. W. Owen, M. J. Peers, P. R. Pemberton, N. Phillips, M. A. Reece, H. G. Roberts, L. A. Sharps, A. P. Shotton, N. R. Steele-Mortimer, C. A. Thomas, W. O. Thomas, D. E. Wisinger, A. Woolley and H. Yale.

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors: L. A. Aldridge, R. Davies, A. Davies-Cooke, Q. R. H. Dodd, C. J. Dolphin, R. Dolphin, R. J. T. Guest, N. Humphreys, R. Johnson, D. McFarlane, I. B. Roberts, D. T. M. Williams and M. Wright.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Environment, Director of Lifelong Learning, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development, Head of ICT and Customer Services, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Finance, Single Status Project Manager and Principal Committee Services Officer.

**29. PRAYERS**

At the commencement of the meeting Councillor N. Phillips conducted prayers.

**30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors J. B. Attridge, R. P. Macfarlane, N. Phillips, A. P. Shotton and C. Thomas declared personal and non prejudicial interests in agenda item number 8, Single Status–Project Update.

**31. AWARDS**

- (a) Energy Efficiency Category of the COMMON European Innovation Awards ICT Division

The Chairman was pleased to invite colleagues from the ICT Division who had won an International Energy Efficiency award in the COMMON European Innovation Awards. The Award was conferred for the work undertaken to improve energy efficiency and reduce the carbon footprint within the data centres, and had been voted on by peers and major providers. He explained that the award was a prestigious one and Flintshire County Council was the only UK winner.

The Head of ICT and Customer Services and colleagues explained the criteria upon which the award was based. Members across the Chamber congratulated the team for the great achievement which was a culmination of many years hard work in improving ICT in the authority.

(b) Waste Management Members Day Quiz

Councillor N. M. Matthews said an interactive Members Seminar had been held recently on waste management which was a very successful event. During the course of the day, a quiz was held on waste management. The winners of the quiz were Councillors S. R. Baker and C. A. Thomas who would both receive a compost bin delivered to their house as a prize. She thanked Members for their attendance.

Councillor N. Phillips thanked the Chief Executive and the Elections Team for the way in which the work on the Elections had been carried out, during the campaign and on the day of the poll.

**32. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2008/09**

A report of the Head of Finance was submitted which was to receive a recommendation from the Audit Committee to approve the Statement of Accounts 2008/09 (subject to audit). She thanked Members for their attendance as it was an important milestone in the financial year. The last three months had been an intense time for everybody involved and she expressed her appreciation to all of the staff involved for their hard work.

An explanatory presentation was delivered by the Corporate Finance Manager on the Statement of Accounts which covered the following areas:

- An explanation to the Statement of Accounts
- Who it belonged to
- The work undertaken
- Process following the County Council meeting
- Extracts from the Statement of Accounts
- Annual Governance Statement

The Council's external auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), would commence the audit of the 2008/09 accounts on 1 July 2009. The accounts had been available for public inspection during the four week period from 1 June 2009 to 30 June 2009.

The audit must be completed, and the Statement of Accounts published by no later than 30 September 2009. At the completion of the audit, PwC would provide a report and opinion on the accounts. The main audit findings would be presented by PwC to the Audit Committee on 28 September 2009, and the opinion included within the published Statement of Accounts. During the period of the audit, the Corporate Finance Manager explained that questions on the Statement of Accounts were welcomed and would be dealt with either by way of a special Audit Committee or at individual diarised meetings on request.

The Head of Finance made reference to the purpose of the Governance Framework and the review of the effectiveness of the Framework. Significant governance issues were identified by Internal Audit during 2008/09 which were listed on page 14 of the Statement of Accounts. In the Annual Governance Statement for 2007/08 the areas of significant weaknesses identified had all made progress to address the weaknesses.

The Vice-Chairman of the Audit Committee, Councillor B. Mullin, moved the recommendations of the report and thanked all staff for the tremendous work in putting the document together. He also thanked the staff on behalf of the Chairman of Audit Committee, Councillor I. B. Roberts.

Councillor C. Carver asked if future Statements of Accounts could include a table on the remuneration of agency and consultancy workers who fell within the bandings listed on page 31. The Chief Executive said that information could be included as a result of the new workforce reporting system. Members could also receive the information throughout the year.

Councillor H. J. McGuill referred to the significant governance issues outlined on page 14 of the Statement of Accounts and asked what caused the inclusion of the 5<sup>th</sup> bullet point on Corporate Property Maintenance. The Head of Finance said she would find out why it had been included and provide a written response to all Members.

A number of comments were made by Members which were responded to and gratitude was paid to all officers involved in the process of the preparation of the Statement of Accounts.

In response to a comment, the Corporate Finance Manager provided an explanation of the figures on the replacement page 54.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Statement of Accounts 2008/09 be approved, subject to audit.

**33. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor A. P. Shotton explained that Councillor L. A. Aldridge was unable to be present at the meeting due to his wife having a hospital

appointment. Therefore, he requested that the notice of motion be deferred to a future meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

That the notice of motion from Councillor L. A. Aldridge be deferred to a future meeting.

**34. ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to consideration of the next item, Councillor A. P. Shotton expressed his disappointment that the report was only made available to Members one hour prior to the meeting. He requested that a 20 minute adjournment take place to provide Members with the opportunity of reading the report which was on such an important issue which was supported.

The Chief Executive explained that the report had been made available for all Members to collect from their pigeon holes before 1.00p.m. He said that given the complexity of the project and the negotiations, the latest information needed to be incorporated in a fully up to date report, as of the date of the meeting. The explanation was accepted by Members and it was stated that a report being made so late, with extenuating circumstances, was the exception not the rule. The report did not require a formal or binding decision and the intention was to update Council and save a reaffirmation of the negotiating position within delegated powers

**35. 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 item was considered to be exempt by virtue of paragraph 15 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

**36. SINGLE STATUS – PROJECT REPORT**

The Chief Executive presented the report, the purpose of which was to provide an update on the position of negotiations with the Trade Unions on a Single Status Agreement. Also, to authorise the Chief Executive to conclude negotiations, with the objective of securing a mutual Agreement, within the delegated powers granted.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That the Chief Executive be authorised to conclude negotiations with the Trade Unions with the objective of securing a mutual agreement on the basis of (i) the negotiating principles adopted by Council previously

(ii) the adoption of Pay and Grading Model 33 and (iii) the deployment of the Equal Pay/Single Status Reserve as set out in the report; and

(c) The a further report be submitted for the ratification of the outcome of negotiations in due course.

**37. DURATION OF MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 2.00p.m. and ended at 4.20p.m.

**38. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public and 1 member of the press present.

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Chairman

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

<b>FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>29 JUNE 2009</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
J. B. Attridge, R. P. Macfarlane, N. Phillips, A. P. Shotton and C. Thomas	Single Status	17