

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH, 2010**

Minutes of the special meeting of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2010.

**PRESENT: Councillor C. Legg (Chairman)**  
**Councillor W.O. Thomas (Vice-Chairman)**

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

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors: D. Barratt, C.J. Dolphin, N.M. Jones, R. Johnson, N.M. Matthews and D.T. Williams

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive, Director of Environment, Director of Lifelong Learning, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Finance, Head of Development and Resource and Corporate Finance Manager.

**147. PRAYERS**

The meeting was opened with Prayers said by Councillor N. Phillips.

**148. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**149. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2010/11**

The Head of Finance and Chief Executive jointly presented the report, the purpose of which was to provide Members with the recommendations of the Executive for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2010/11.

Prior to the presentation the Chief Executive and Head of Finance expressed their thanks to all the Management and Finance Team who were involved in the preparation of the budget and for the valuable input from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Chief Executive explained that Members would have seen the information to be displayed but felt it

appropriate for the Council to have the opportunity to see again the relevant information before being asked to make a decision.

The Council was informed that at the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2010, the Executive had considered a joint report from the Head of Finance and Chief Executive on the General Fund Revenue Budget 2010/11 which was attached at Appendix A to the report. The initial budget proposals considered by the Executive on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2009 had been considered in detail by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee over the period 18<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2010. A summary of the Committees' observations and questions, together with comments from officers, was included in Appendix 12 of the 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2010 Executive report. The budget proposals had also been discussed with the School Budget Forum, the Flintshire Joint Trade Union Committee and Flintshire Local Joint Consultative Committee.

The Chief Executive opened the presentation and commented upon the following areas:-

- Background
- Context
- 2011/12 and Beyond
- Overview and Scrutiny Consultation

The Head of Finance continued the presentation and commented upon the following areas:-

- Financial Settlement
- Total Funding
- Budget Proposals
- Budget Build Up
- Unearmarked Reserves
- Education Budget
- Council Tax

Councillor A. Woolley, Leader of the Council proposed the acceptance of the recommendations as outlined within the report. This was seconded by Councillor L.A. Sharps, Deputy Leader of the Council.

Councillor K. Armstrong-Braun spoke in support of the report but sought assurance that the efficiencies outlined within the presentation would not involve staff redundancies. The Chief Executive said he was not in a position to provide information on how the efficiencies would be met in detail at this early stage. The Council's approach to scaling the workforce was phased and considered.

Councillor R. Dolphin thanked the Administration for increasing the budget to provide match funding to facilitate improvement works at 5 play areas and also thanked Councillors C.A. Thomas, J.B. Attridge and A.P. Shotton who had worked hard to secure funding for play areas in Flintshire.

She sought assurances that this budget would be rolled over to next year if it was not all spent, given that Town and Community councils had already set their precept for this financial year. The Chief Executive advised that if the budget was under-spent this could be “ring-fenced” for the 2011/12 financial year if Members agreed to this course of action.

Councillor A.P. Shotton commented upon the challenging future ahead of the Council given the estimated reductions in the settlements received from the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). He raised a number of concerns regarding this budget which he felt should have been used to prepare for the future and protect front line services and there was no evidence of this. He raised particular concern regarding the proposal to spend £739,000 below calculated Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) which he felt was a risk as the Council would not be in a position to ask WAG for additional money next year if they were not spending up to the SSA. He said that time would tell if the budget was sustainable and achievable as there were no real savings, collaboration and no evidence of real leadership. He concluded that the Labour Group would be abstaining during the vote on the budget proposals.

Councillor A. Woolley, Leader of the Council explained that there was a need to be bold enough to make difficult decisions to ensure a legally prudent and achievable budget and to protect the workforce whilst continuing to deliver services.

Councillor R.C. Bithell reported that when the Labour Group were in administration, many Members raised concern with the spend of Education Indicator Based Assessment (IBA), which during this time was 98.1%. He raised concern that the current administration had reduced the spend of Education IBA to 95.9% in the current budget proposals with many of the Members promising to increase this spend within their election literature. He referred to last years budget proposals which had included efficiency savings of £6.1m, some of which were not achieved and raised concern that the efficiencies in this financial year would also not be met.

Councillor I.B. Roberts referred to the report which stated that authorities had not been able to calculate their schools budget in total as WAG had not yet informed authorities of their Post-16 Special Education Needs allocation for 2010/11, and asked why estimated figures could not be used. He raised concern over the removal of funding for the assistance to Head Teaching in Small Schools and Joint Working in Schools and also concurred with other Members comments on the reduction in the Education IBA and sought assurance that this reduction would not directly affect teacher's jobs.

Councillor Armstrong-Braun suggested the use of workshops for members of the public in order for them to be given the opportunity to discuss the budget proposals. He was pleased that additional money had been included within the winter maintenance budget and hoped that the 1% efficiency saving would not be taken out of the schools.

Councillor N.M. Steele-Mortimer, Executive Member for Education and Youth explained that the reduction in the spend at Education IBA was due to efficiencies made through school transport and the reduction of energy costs. It was difficult to compare the budget proposals to other Local Authorities in Wales as they had used different accounting methods. He advised that the priority of this Council was to protect front line services and was pleased to report the additional allocation of £541,060 into the education budget as requested by the School Budget Forum Task and Finish Group.

Councillor R.P. MacFarlane raised concern with the comments of the Executive Member for Education and Youth and said that if efficiencies through school transport and energy costs had been made, these should be passed on to the schools. He explained that the reduction in spend at Education IBA amounted to approximately £5m and sought clarification on this figure. He did not feel that the budget proposals would meet the future challenges of the Council. Councillor Attridge concurred with these comments and said that Members had promised their constituents that more money would be spent on education and outlined that this was not the case.

Councillor H.G. Roberts wished to congratulate the staff and Members for their contribution in putting together the budget proposals. He referred to Councillor Shotton's earlier comments and agreed that there was a risk to the Council if it did not spend up to the SSA and asked whether the Council was prepared to under-fund itself.

In response to the comments raised, the Chief Executive explained that there were risks to the Council given the challenges ahead but he assured Members that the Senior Management was committed to dealing with the challenges. He explained that internal efficiency and greater collaboration within the public services would make a significant and positive contribution to the funding 'gap'. However, they alone would not bridge the 'gap', therefore local choices on service priorities and investment would have to be made. He referred to the £1.0m efficiency target included in the 2008/09 budget and confirmed that this had been exceeded and explained that pay rises would not be the decision of the Council as they were negotiated nationally, and in order to put forward affordable and sustainable budget proposals to spend up to SSA an increase in the Band D Council Tax rate to 4.7% would be required.

The Head of Finance confirmed that previous advice to Members had been to spend up to SSA, but this advice was not now appropriate given the reduction in Local Government settlements. She advised that to spend to SSA would mean an increase in Council Tax as funding from WAG was fixed. With regard to the Education IBA, the Head of Finance explained that the reduction to 95.9% equated to £4.4m.

Councillor L.A. Aldridge asked if the Chief Executive and Head of Finance could provide Members with how many Local Authorities had recommended spending below the SSA in their budget preparations. The Chief Executive said that this information could be provided.

In summing up, Councillor Arnold Woolley reiterated that it was a balanced budget and commended it to the Council for acceptance.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That the Council accept the recommendations of the Executive and:-
- (i) That the 2010/11 General Fund Revenue Budget Requirement be set at £240,407,500 which is £739,418 below the calculated Standard Spending Assessment.
  - (ii) That there be a 3.3% increase in Council Tax at Band D and an assumed 99% collection rate.
  - (ii) The inclusion of Improvement Agreement Grant of £1.482m in the budget.
  - (iv) That the budget be adjusted to reflect the actual level of specific grant received.
  - (v) That items of non-standard inflation be only allocated out to services when the actual increase in cost is known.
  - (vi) That levels of inflation assumed in the budget be agreed.
  - (Vii) That amounts included in the budget relating to transfers into and out of the settlement be agreed.
  - (viii) That pressures of £8.081m to be funded from the base budget provision be agreed.
  - (viii) That the practice adopted since 2004/05 continue that resources to fund new pressures be approved for the purposes set out. Any proposals to vary the use of the sums allocated are to be the subject of a further report to Executive.
  - (x) The inclusion of pressures totalling £0.352m to be funded from the Contingency Reserve be agreed.
  - (xi) The inclusion of efficiencies of £6.151m in the budget be agreed.
  - (xii) That if it should become apparent that achievement of any of the savings (in full or part) is proving to be not as anticipated that this is dealt with corporately, with the Corporate Management Team bringing alternatives to Executive for consideration.
- (b) That the Council note that the effect of the budget proposals would be to increase the budget requirement by £7.073m over the level in 2009/10 and increase the Band D Council Tax Rate by 3.3% on the level in 2009/10.

## **150. GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11 TO 2013/14**

The Director of Environment presented the joint report, the purpose of which was to present to the Council the recommendations of the Executive in respect of the General Fund Capital Programme 2010/11 to 2013/14.

Prior to the presentation, the Director of Environment reported that at its meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2010, the Corporate Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee were consulted on the Executive's recommendations. Details of any comments made and questions asked, together with the responses given were included within the report to Executive of 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2010. The recommendations of the Executive to County Council were set out in section 4.0 of the report to Executive of 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2010, a copy of which was attached at Appendix A to this report.

The Director of Environment gave a presentation on the following areas:-

- Purpose
- Context
- General Fund approach
- General Fund Proposed Programme – 2010/11

The Director of Environment explained that the specific grants figure of £7.5M was lower than first reported to the Executive and Corporate Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This was due to the Housing Area Renewal Funding being £900,000 lower than originally anticipated.

Councillor A. Woolley, Leader of the Council proposed the acceptance of the recommendations as outlined within the report. This was seconded by Councillor L.A. Sharps, Deputy Leader of the Council.

Councillor N.M. Steele-Mortimer, Executive Member for Education and Youth outlined his disappointment with the unsuccessful Strategic Capital Investment Fund (SCIF) bids and reported that a similar bid would again be submitted to WAG.

Councillor I.B. Roberts sought clarification whether the Council had been unsuccessful with the SCIF bid due to the rise in surplus places. He asked if a breakdown of various street lighting replacements per ward over the last two years. Councillor G. Hardcastle asked if a breakdown over the last 10 years could be provided. The Director of Environment said that he could provide this information and Members agreed that a breakdown over the last 5 years would be provided.

Councillor R.C. Bithell referred the School Building Improvement Grant (SBIG) and referred to the notes from the Corporate Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee which stated that it was recognised that the

management of surplus places had influenced WAG's decision. The Chief Executive explained that this had been a question from a Member and not a statement of fact. He said that the Council was dissatisfied with the feedback it had received from WAG and the lack of transparency with the overall SCIF process. The feedback had not referred to the management of surplus places.

The Director of Lifelong Learning confirmed that there had been no such feedback in relation to SBIG. He explained that SBIG was coming to an end and would be followed by WAG's 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Programme. He also reported that the response from WAG did not suggest that the SCIF bid was unsuccessful due to the management of surplus places and explained that surplus places would be addressed through the Council's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools business case and School Modernisation Strategy.

In response to a number of questions regarding surplus places, the Director of Lifelong Learning reported that during consideration of the Schools Admission Arrangements 2011 it was reported that the School Modernisation Strategy would seek to address issues of over and under supply of school places in Flintshire.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Council agreed the General Fund Capital Programme 2010/11 to 2013/14.

## **151. COUNCIL TAX 2010 – 11**

The Head of Finance presented the report, the purpose of which was for the Council to agree the statutory and other necessary resolutions for the purpose of collecting Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates for 2010 – 11. The report identified the figure recommended by the Executive for the General Fund Budget requirement for 2010/11. The results of the resolutions outlined within the report would be that the Council Tax was levied across all areas of the County as set out in Appendix A of the report and further analyses in Appendix B by amounts and percentage increases.

Councillor A. Woolley, Leader of the Council proposed the acceptance of the recommendations outlined within Appendix A of the report. This was seconded by Councillor L.A. Sharps, Deputy Leader of the Council.

### **RESOLVED**

- (1) That it be noted that at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2009 the Council calculated interim amounts, subsequently modified as follows, for the year 2009-10 in accordance with the regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

60,528 being the amount calculated in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Wales

Regulations 1995 as its Council Tax base for the year, broken down into the following Town/Community areas :-

Argoed	2,475.76
Bagillt	1,463.13
Broughton & Bretton	2,362.24
Brynford	468.12
Buckley	6,027.35
Caerwys	614.21
Cilcain	730.65
Connah's Quay	5,931.32
Flint	4,401.05
Gwernaffield	1,013.95
Gwernymynydd	562.740
Halkyn	1,358.90
Hawarden	6,018.75
Higher Kinnerton	789.97
Holywell	3,186.56
Hope	1,782.44
Leeswood	816.56
Llanasa	1,901.03
Llanfynydd	835.73
Mold	4,088.40
Mostyn	693.15
Nannerch	269.46
Nercwys	299.18
Northop	1,473.72
Northop Hall	702.70
Penyffordd	1,615.41
Queensferry	693.26
Saltney	1,761.69
Sealand	1113.70
Shotton	2,156.21
Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgor	418.18
Treuddyn	709.25
Whitford	1,133.64
Ysceifiog	659.59

**TOTAL BAND "D"  
PROPERTIES**

---

**60,528.00**

---

being the amounts calculated in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwelling in those parts of its area to which special items relate.

- (2) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2010-11 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| (a) Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (2) (a)-(d) (including Community Council precepts totalling £2,119,240).  | £366,475,072 |
| (b) Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for items set out in Section 32 (3) (a) and 32 (3) (c).   | £123,948,332 |
| (c) Amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above calculated in accordance with Section 32 (4) as the budget requirement for the year.   | £242,526,740 |
| (d) Aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its Council Fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates, Revenue Support Grant or Additional Grant.  | £187,211,833 |
| (e) The amount at 2(c) above less the amount at 2(d) above, all divided by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated in accordance with Section 33 (1) as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year.   | £913.87      |
| (f) Aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34 (1).   | £2,119,240   |
| (g) Amount at 2(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(f) above by the amount at 1(a) above calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which no special items relate.  | £878.86      |
| (h) The amounts given by adding to the amount at 2(g) above the amounts of special items relating to dwellings in those part of the Council's area mentioned below, divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated in accordance with Section 34(3) as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which special items relate. | £0.00        |

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CHARGES (BAND D) 2010-11**  
**(Including Community/Town Councils)**

	<u>£</u>
Argoed	902.14
Bagillt	901.04
Broughton & Bretton	914.84
Brynford	915.79
Buckley	921.27
Caerwys	915.78
Cilcain	904.18
Connahs Quay	924.00
Flint	915.40
Gwernaffield	892.67
Gwernymynydd	903.74
Halkyn	906.09
Hawarden	912.26
Higher Kinnerton	904.18
Holywell	921.23
Hope	893.59
Leeswood	921.72
Llanasa	909.37
Llanfynydd	910.60
Mold	919.46
Mostyn	912.33
Nannerch	911.86
Nercwys	924.41
Northop	890.86
Northop Hall	904.48
Penyffordd	903.31
Queensferry	922.13
Saltney	921.20
Sealand	921.96
Shotton	925.79
Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgor	909.95
Treuddyn	922.96
Whitford	910.86
Ysceifiog	899.39

- (i) The amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2(h) above by the number which in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D calculated in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

AREA	VALUATION BANDS								
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	I £
Argoed	601.43	701.67	801.90	902.14	1,102.61	1,303.09	1,503.57	1,804.28	2,104.99
Bagillt	600.70	700.81	800.93	901.04	1,101.27	1,301.50	1,501.74	1,802.08	2,102.42
Broughton & Bretton	609.90	711.54	813.19	914.84	1,118.14	1,321.43	1,524.74	1,829.68	2,134.62
Brynford	610.53	712.28	814.04	915.79	1,119.30	1,322.80	1,526.32	1,831.58	2,136.84
Buckley	614.18	716.55	818.91	921.27	1,125.99	1,330.72	1,535.45	1,842.54	2,149.63
Caerwys	610.52	712.28	814.03	915.78	1,119.28	1,322.79	1,526.30	1,831.56	2,136.82
Cilcain	602.79	703.25	803.72	904.18	1,105.11	1,306.03	1,506.97	1,808.36	2,109.75
Connahs Quay	616.00	718.67	821.33	924.00	1,129.33	1,334.66	1,540.00	1,848.00	2,156.00
Flint	610.27	711.98	813.69	915.40	1,118.82	1,322.24	1,525.67	1,830.80	2,135.93
Gwernaffield	595.12	694.30	793.49	892.67	1,091.04	1,289.41	1,487.79	1,785.34	2,082.89
Gwernymynydd	602.50	702.91	803.33	903.74	1,104.57	1,305.40	1,506.24	1,807.48	2,108.72
Halkyn	604.06	704.74	805.41	906.09	1,107.44	1,308.79	1,510.15	1,812.18	2,114.21
Hawarden	608.18	709.54	810.90	912.26	1,114.98	1,317.70	1,520.44	1,824.52	2,128.60
Higher Kinnerton	602.79	703.25	803.72	904.18	1,105.11	1,306.03	1,506.97	1,808.36	2,109.75
Holywell	614.16	716.51	818.87	921.23	1,125.95	1,330.66	1,535.39	1,842.46	2,149.53
Hope	595.73	695.02	794.30	893.59	1,092.16	1,290.74	1,489.32	1,787.18	2,085.04
Leeswood	614.48	716.90	819.31	921.72	1,126.54	1,331.37	1,536.20	1,843.44	2,150.68
Llanasa	606.25	707.29	808.33	909.37	1,111.45	1,313.53	1,515.62	1,818.74	2,121.86
Llanfynydd	607.07	708.25	809.42	910.60	1,112.95	1,315.31	1,517.67	1,821.20	2,124.73
Mold	612.98	715.14	817.30	919.46	1,123.78	1,328.10	1,532.44	1,838.92	2,145.40
Mostyn	608.22	709.59	810.96	912.33	1,115.07	1,317.81	1,520.55	1,824.66	2,128.77
Nannerch	607.91	709.23	810.54	911.86	1,114.49	1,317.13	1,519.77	1,823.72	2,127.67
Nercwys	616.28	718.99	821.70	924.41	1,129.83	1,335.25	1,540.69	1,848.82	2,156.95
Northop	593.91	692.89	791.88	890.86	1,088.83	1,286.79	1,484.77	1,781.72	2,078.67
Northop Hall	602.99	703.49	803.98	904.48	1,105.47	1,306.47	1,507.47	1,808.96	2,110.45
Penyffordd	602.21	702.58	802.94	903.31	1,104.04	1,304.78	1,505.52	1,806.62	2,107.72
Queensferry	614.76	717.21	819.67	922.13	1,127.05	1,331.96	1,536.89	1,844.26	2,151.63
Saltney	614.14	716.49	818.85	921.20	1,125.91	1,330.62	1,535.34	1,842.40	2,149.46
Sealand	614.64	717.08	819.52	921.96	1,126.84	1,331.72	1,536.60	1,843.92	2,151.24
Shotton	617.20	720.06	822.93	925.79	1,131.52	1,337.25	1,542.99	1,851.58	2,160.17
Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgor	606.64	707.74	808.85	909.95	1,112.16	1,314.37	1,516.59	1,819.90	2,123.21
Treuddyn	615.31	717.86	820.41	922.96	1,128.06	1,333.16	1,538.27	1,845.92	2,153.57
Whitford	607.24	708.45	809.65	910.86	1,113.27	1,315.68	1,518.10	1,821.72	2,125.34
Ysceifiog	599.60	699.53	799.46	899.39	1,099.25	1,299.11	1,498.99	1,798.78	2,098.57

- (3) That it be noted that for the year 2010-11 the North Wales Police Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below :-

	Valuation Bands								
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	I £
<b>Precept</b>	134.22	156.59	178.96	201.33	246.07	290.81	335.55	402.66	469.77

- (4) Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(i) and 3 above, the Council in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2010-11 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Area	VALUATION BANDS								
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	I £
Argoed	735.65	858.26	980.86	1,103.47	1,348.68	1,593.90	1,839.12	2,206.94	2,574.76
Bagillt	734.92	857.40	979.89	1,102.37	1,347.34	1,592.31	1,837.29	2,204.74	2,572.19
Broughton & Bretton	744.12	868.13	992.15	1,116.17	1,364.21	1,612.24	1,860.29	2,232.34	2,604.39
Brynford	744.75	868.87	993.00	1,117.12	1,365.37	1,613.61	1,861.87	2,234.24	2,606.61
Buckley	748.40	873.14	997.87	1,122.60	1,372.06	1,621.53	1,871.00	2,245.20	2,619.40
Caerwys	744.74	868.87	992.99	1,117.11	1,365.35	1,613.60	1,861.85	2,234.22	2,606.59
Cilcain	737.01	859.84	982.68	1,105.51	1,351.18	1,596.84	1,842.52	2,211.02	2,579.52
Connahs Quay	750.22	875.26	1,000.29	1,125.33	1,375.40	1,625.47	1,875.55	2,250.66	2,625.77
Flint	744.49	868.57	992.65	1,116.73	1,364.89	1,613.05	1,861.22	2,233.46	2,605.70
Gwernaffield	729.34	850.89	972.45	1,094.00	1,337.11	1,580.22	1,823.34	2,188.00	2,552.66
Gwernymynydd	736.72	859.50	982.29	1,105.07	1,350.64	1,596.21	1,841.79	2,210.14	2,578.49
Halkyn	738.28	861.33	984.37	1,107.42	1,353.51	1,599.60	1,845.70	2,214.84	2,583.98
Hawarden	742.40	866.13	989.86	1,113.59	1,361.05	1,608.51	1,855.99	2,227.18	2,598.37
Higher Kinnerton	737.01	859.84	982.68	1,105.51	1,351.18	1,596.84	1,842.52	2,211.02	2,579.52
Holywell	748.38	873.10	997.83	1,122.56	1,372.02	1,621.47	1,870.94	2,245.12	2,619.30
Hope	729.95	851.61	973.26	1,094.92	1,338.23	1,581.55	1,824.87	2,189.84	2,554.81
Leeswood	748.70	873.49	998.27	1,123.05	1,372.61	1,622.18	1,871.75	2,246.10	2,620.45
Llanasa	740.47	863.88	987.29	1,110.70	1,357.52	1,604.34	1,851.17	2,221.40	2,591.63
Nannerch	742.13	865.82	989.50	1,113.19	1,360.56	1,607.94	1,855.32	2,226.38	2,597.44
Nercwys	750.50	875.58	1,000.66	1,125.74	1,375.90	1,626.06	1,876.24	2,251.48	2,626.72

Northop	728.13	849.48	970.84	1,092.19	1,334.90	1,577.60	1,820.32	2,184.38	2,548.44
Northop Hall	737.21	860.08	982.94	1,105.81	1,351.54	1,597.28	1,843.02	2,211.62	2,580.22
Penyffordd	736.43	859.17	981.90	1,104.64	1,350.11	1,595.59	1,841.07	2,209.28	2,577.49
Queensferry	748.98	873.80	998.63	1,123.46	1,373.12	1,622.77	1,872.44	2,246.92	2,621.40
Saltney	748.36	873.08	997.81	1,122.53	1,371.98	1,621.43	1,870.89	2,245.06	2,619.23
Sealand	748.86	873.67	998.48	1,123.29	1,372.91	1,622.53	1,872.15	2,246.58	2,621.01
Shotton	751.42	876.65	1,001.89	1,127.12	1,377.59	1,628.06	1,878.54	2,254.24	2,629.94
Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgor	740.86	864.33	987.81	1,111.28	1,358.23	1,605.18	1,852.14	2,222.56	2,592.98
Treuddyn	749.53	874.45	999.37	1,124.29	1,374.13	1,623.97	1,873.82	2,248.58	2,623.34
Whitford	741.46	865.04	988.61	1,112.19	1,359.34	1,606.49	1,853.65	2,224.38	2,595.11
Ysceifiog	733.82	856.12	978.42	1,100.72	1,345.32	1,589.92	1,834.54	2,201.44	2,568.34

- (5) That the Head of Finance be authorised to make payments under section 38(9) Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 and the Local Authorities (Precepts) (Wales) Regulations 1995 from the Council Fund by equal instalments on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month from April 2010 (adjusted to the next working day as necessary) to March 2011 in respect of the precept levied by North Wales Police Authority in the sum of £12,186,102

(6) Authorisations - Council Tax

- a) That the holders of the posts of Head of Finance, Revenues & Benefits Manager, Revenues Manager, Benefits Manager, Systems & Performance Manager, Fraud & Enforcement Manager, Revenues Team Leaders, Court/Debt Recovery Officer, Revenues Officers within Finance or any other person, whether an officer or not, specifically authorised by the Head of Finance appointed to the said offices under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972 hereby be authorised under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972 to issue legal proceedings and to appear on behalf of the County Council at the hearing of any legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court by way of an application for the issue of a Liability Order in respect of unpaid Council Taxes and penalties under Part VI of the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992; by way of an application for the issue of a warrant of commitment to prison under Part VI of the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992; to require financial information to make an Attachment of Earnings Order; to levy the appropriate amount by distress and sale of goods; and to exercise all other enforcement powers of the County Council under

the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcements) Regulations 1992 and any subsequent amendments of such Regulations.

- b) That the Head of Finance be authorised to engage the services of bailiffs for the service of summonses and warrants of commitment, obtaining financial information, the levying of distress warrants and the sale of goods and any appropriate action for the recovery of outstanding Council Taxes and penalties under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and any Regulations made there under.

(7) Authorisations - National Non-Domestic Rates

- a) That the holders of the posts of Head of Finance, Revenues & Benefits Manager, Revenues Manager, Benefits Manager, Systems & Performance Manager, Fraud & Enforcement Manager, Revenues Team Leaders, Court/Debt Recovery Officer, Revenues Officers within Finance or any other person, whether an officer or not, specifically authorised by the Head of Finance appointed to the said offices under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972 hereby be authorised under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972, to institute legal proceedings and to appear on behalf of the Council at the hearing of any legal proceedings in the Magistrates Courts by way of application for the issue of a liability order in respect of unpaid rates; by way of an application for the issue of a warrant of commitment; and to exercise all other powers of enforcement of the County Council under the Non-Domestic (Collection and Enforcement) (Local Lists) Regulations 1989 and any amendment thereto.
- b) That the Head of Finance be authorised to engage the services of bailiffs to serve such summonses, distress warrants, liability orders or warrants of commitment, to levy distress and to sell goods as may be necessary to recover outstanding rates.

- (8) That notices of the making of the said Council Taxes signed by the Head of Finance be given by advertisement in the local press under Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

**152. NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following Notice of Motion had been submitted by Councillor L.A. Aldridge:-

“We call upon the Leader, Councillor A. Woolley and the coalition to support an individual tailored regeneration scheme for the maisonettes in Flint which by definition would ensure our tenants would have homes fit for purpose and finally link the two retailing areas of our town”.

Councillor L.A. Aldridge gave notice of a change he wished to make to the wording of the notice of motion. He asked that the word “regeneration” be amended to read “mixed developments”. He explained that this notice of

motion was about people and not politics and asked all Members to put their political views to one side in order to provide the tenants living in the maisonettes of Flint homes fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Councillor I.B. Roberts formally seconded the notice of motion. He thanked the Chief Executive, Head of Housing and Senior Officers who had accompanied him on a site visit to the maisonettes to see for themselves the conditions the tenants were living in. He said that he was grateful for the inclusion of 2 new lifts in the capital programme but reported that there was no access for cars and it was very difficult to carry out disabled adaptations.

Councillor S.R. Baker outlined his concern on the lack of detail within the notice of motion. He said that there were many properties in Flintshire which required major investment and felt that the maisonettes should also be considered as part of the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme. He said that the Liberal Democrat Group could not support this motion but did appreciate the sense of feeling. Councillor J.C. Cattermoul supported these comments and agreed that there were many other properties in Flintshire which required investment.

Councillor L.A. Sharps, Deputy Leader of the Council supported the notice of motion and in reference to earlier comments explained that it was hoped that improvements to the maisonettes could be carried out in partnership with businesses interested in linking the two retail areas of Flint. Councillor A. Woolley, Leader of the Council said that he was only too pleased to set up a working party to consider all options available. These comments were supported by a number of Members.

Councillor R.J.T. Guest reported that during his Group meeting concern had been raised on how the scheme would be funded and the possible impact on any forthcoming ballot of tenants on the future of the Housing Stock. He sought assurance that there would be no financial commitment from the Council at this stage and that the motion would not be used to campaign tenants during the housing ballot. He said that if these assurances were given he would support the notice of motion to ensure that tenants were well housed in the future.

Councillor Aldridge said that he understood the concerns of Councillors Baker and Guest and assured them that he would not be committing the Council to any costs, he only wished for a panel to be set up to consider all options available, in consultation with the Local Members of Flint, to provide better living conditions for the tenants living in the maisonettes.

When put to the vote the notice of motion was carried unanimously.

Councillor Aldridge asked the Leader of the Council to notify Councillor A.P. Shotton of the number of Members from the Labour Group needed to sit on the panel.

## **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the Council support an individual tailored mixed development scheme for the maisonettes in Flint which by definition would ensure our tenants would have homes fit for purpose and finally link the two retailing areas of our town.
- (b) That a Working Group be set up to consider the options available to develop a scheme for the maisonettes in Flint.

### **153. APPOINTMENT AND APPROVAL OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF A PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services introduced the report, the purpose of which was to appoint and approve the terms of reference and delegated powers of a Personnel Committee.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that the Council would from time to time need to make decisions on HR and related matters which were not delegated to Officers or any other Committee of the Council or the Executive. It would often be appropriate for those matters to be considered by the full Council, however, other matters of extreme sensitivity would be better considered by a committee specifically set up for that purpose. It had been suggested that the remit of the on-going Personnel Committee be referred to the Constitution Committee for further consideration.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that a particular issue had arisen which required Member involvement as a matter of urgency and it was not appropriate to discuss the matter in public session. It was recommended that a Personnel Committee be appointed with delegated powers to deal with this matter. It was suggested that the Committee comprise of 7 Members and that political balance rules apply to it (3 Independent, 2 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Conservative). The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised that if Members required a further explanation it may be appropriate for the remainder of the meeting to be held in private session.

Councillor J.E. Falshaw requested deferment of this item. Councillor A.P. Shotton referred to the terms of reference and delegated powers of the Committee, copies of which had been circulated to Members at the meeting and requested an adjournment in order for Members to read the document. The Chairman adjourned the meeting for 6 minutes in order for Members to read the document.

Following the adjournment the Head of Legal and Democratic explained that Members were not being asked to deal with the content/merit or outcome of the particular issue, but the process and appointment of a Personnel Committee to deal with this particular issue. He referred to 4 options available to Members in determining the terms of reference and delegated powers of the Personnel Committee. One of the options was to

defer the item but he would need guidance from Members on where they wished the report to be referred too. He said that it was important that Members deal with the process and if they felt it appropriate for it to be considered by the Constitution Committee it would need to be considered again at the County Council meeting scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.

Councillor A.P. Shotton reported that during a meeting of the County Council in May, 2008 the Labour Group had requested the setting up of a Personnel Committee and this had been rejected by the other political groups. He proposed an amendment to the recommendations outlined within the report, that the recommendations of the Personnel Committee be submitted to a meeting of the County Council. This proposal was seconded by Councillor L.A. Aldridge.

Councillor R.J.T. Guest said that there was a sensitive reason why this report had been brought to the County Council and as the Chair of the Constitution Committee he said that he could not be comfortable in the way in which this had been brought to Members attention. He was grateful to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services for bringing a report which recommended the approval of an on-going Personnel Committee and felt that this should be referred to the Constitution Committee for its consideration before being submitted again to full Council. He referred to the terms of reference of the Personnel Committee to deal with the immediate issue and proposed that the word "determine" in the first two bullet points be amended to read "make recommendations to full Council". He also proposed that the wording "exercise discretion" in the third bullet point be amended to read "make recommendations to full Council". Councillor S.R. Baker seconded these proposals.

Councillor A.M. Halford raised concern regarding the report and the proposals of Councillor R. Guest and felt that the issue was personally damning to her.

Councillor A. Woolley proposed that the meeting be held in private session given the comments made by Councillor Halford. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised that it would be appropriate to exclude the public and press during the remainder of the discussion under paragraphs 12, 14 and 16 of the exempt information criteria as the likely prejudice that would result from disclosure outweighed the public interest. Members resolved to exclude the public and press from the remainder of the meeting.

Councillor L.A. Aldridge said that the Council was duty bound to deal with this issue and said that Members could not defer this issue forever. He outlined the risks against the Council if it failed to address this issue sooner rather than later and felt that the Administration should deal with the case.

Councillor A. Woolley agreed with the comments of Councillor Aldridge and supported the amendment to the proposals that the recommendations of the Personnel Committee be considered at full Council. He explained that the

report was only recommending the appointment of a Personnel Committee and asked that this be dealt with in a timely manner.

Councillor A. Shotton withdrew his previous amendment to the recommendation and said that the Labour Group supported the amendments made by Councillor R.J.T. Guest.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services read out the terms of reference with the amendments made by Councillor Guest which were as follows: -

- To consider and make recommendations to full Council on the Council's response to employment issues raised by the Director.
- To make recommendations to full Council on the terms for resolution of those issues including termination of employment with the Council where those terms include compensation or are on the grounds of business efficiency.
- To make recommendations to full Council relating to the efficient exercise of the Council's function (under the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 and in relation to Local Government Pension Scheme membership under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership, and Contributions) Regulations 2007.

When put to the vote this amendment to the terms of reference was agreed.

Councillor A.P. Shotton asked if Members had voted against the appointment of a Personnel Committee whether they were allowed to sit on the Committee. He also reported that the Labour Group would not be taking part on the Personnel Committee. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services said that if Members felt they had a bias which resulted in them not voting for the appointment of a Personnel Committee, or if they had a personal/prejudicial interest, they should not take part in the Personnel Committee.

Councillor A. Woolley suggested that the Personnel Committee consist of 7 Members with a political balance of the remaining groups. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services suggested that membership of 4 Independent Members, 2 Liberal Democrat Members and 1 Conservative Member would reflect the balance of the three participating groups.

## **RESOLVED**

- (a) That nominations to sit on the Personnel Committee be noted.

- (b) That the terms of reference for the Personnel Committee be approved as follows:-
- To consider and make recommendations to full Council on the Council's response to employment issues raised by the Director.
  - To make recommendations to full Council on the terms for resolution of those issues including termination of employment with the Council where those terms include compensation or are on the grounds of business efficiency.
  - To make recommendations to full Council relating to the efficient exercise of the Council's function (under the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 and in relation to Local Government Pension Scheme membership under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership, and Contributions) Regulations 2007.
- (c) That the appointment of an ongoing body be referred for consideration at a meeting of the Constitution Committee.

**154. DURATION OF MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. and ended at 5.07 p.m.

**155. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were three members of the press and six members of the public present.

.....  
**Chairman**

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

<b>FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH, 2010</b>
----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
NO DECLARATIONS WERE MADE		