

EXECUTIVE
13 DECEMBER 2011

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 13 December 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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors: J. B. Attridge, B. Dunn, D. I. Mackie and C. A. Thomas

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Lifelong Learning, Head of Finance, Head of Human Resources & Organisational Development, Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Planning and Team Manager – Committee Services

APOLOGY: Councillor C. A. Ellis

161. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 15 November 2011 were confirmed as a correct record.

The Chief Executive provided an update on minute number 158 – Housing Ballot: Choices Consultation Document and Leaseholder Consultation Document. Both documents had been approved by the Minister and were currently being translated in preparation for the consultation period in January 2012.

162. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors H. D. Hutchinson and N. Phillips declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item number 12 – Outcome of Consultation on the Closure of the Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) Resource at Westwood Community School.

163. CUSTOMER SERVICE STRATEGY 2010-2013 – PROGRESS REPORT

The Executive Member for Corporate Management introduced the report which provided an update on the progress made towards the implementation of the Customer Service Strategy.

The Chief Executive provided information on a number of projects, details of which were contained within the report.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report and the progress made in implementing the Customer Services Strategy be noted.

164. FLINT MAISONNETTES

The Executive Member for Housing introduced the report which sought approval to commence a phased decanting programme to empty Flint maisonettes and rehouse its tenants in preparation for a redevelopment scheme which would see new high quality modern homes provided as part of a package of measures to regenerate Flint town centre.

A positive meeting with tenants had taken place the previous week to discuss the practicalities of rehousing. It had been agreed that any areas for consultation would be discussed, in the first instance, with tenants.

The Chief Executive and the Director of Community Services agreed that this was a positive step forward following open communication with the tenants.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Flint maisonettes and the Council owned garages in the centre of Flint should not be relet and should be emptied to enable the sites to be redeveloped;
- (b) That the preparation of a phasing plan in conjunction with local Members to allow the programme to commence be approved; and
- (c) (Subject to an annual budget being set), that the Head of Housing be approved to make Home Loss and disturbance payments in accordance with Home Loss Payment (Prescribed Amounts) (Wales) Regulations 2008, to those residents who must vacate their home to enable the redevelopment of the maisonettes.

165. FLINTSHIRE CONNECTS

The Executive Member for Corporate Management introduced the report which provided an update on the overall progress for developing the vision for Flintshire Connects and explained the process which had identified Holywell as the first location where the County Council could deliver a Flintshire Connects Centre within the next eight months. The report also sought approval to proceed with key activities to progress Flintshire Connects.

The Chief Executive welcomed this report which was positive news for Holywell. The opening of other Flintshire Connects Centres would follow quickly and options for the remaining towns were being pursued, some of which could be developed as part of the Town Centre Masterplans.

The Executive Member for Education also welcomed the report and the concept of a rural “light” Connects Centre for rural areas.

The Chief Executive, Director of Community Services and Members thanked Clare Budden, Project Sponsor, and Mel Evans, Project Manager for their hard work on this project.

The Executive Member for Environment said there was a strong political will to improve the town of Holywell and asked that the Connects Centre in Holywell be opened as soon as possible. In response, the Chief Executive agreed but explained that it was important that the organisation, systems and skills were right and in place before opening.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the first Flintshire Connects Centre be located on the site of the Old Town Hall, High Street, Holywell, opening to the public in June 2012;
- (b) That lead officers be authorised to conclude negotiations with the landlord for a 10 year lease for the Old Town Hall, High Street, Holywell in partnership with North Wales Police;
- (c) That lead officers be authorised to conclude negotiations with North Wales Police, Deeside College, Communities First and Holywell Town Council as subleases on the understanding that the accommodation requirements for each partner are met;
- (d) That up to £275,000 capital investment resources be made available from the 2011/12 Capital Programme budget to deliver the first Flintshire Connects Centre in Holywell as set out in section 5 of the report;
- (e) That the final scoping of services to be delivered from the Flintshire Connects Centre in Holywell as identified in the report be undertaken with relevant Heads of Service;
- (f) That lead officers be authorised to undertake a consultation period with the local community and stakeholders on proposals for the establishment of a Flintshire Connects Centre in Holywell; and
- (g) That lead officers be authorised to further develop the concept of a rural “light” Connects Centre, and to develop firm proposals for a second Flintshire Connects Centre to be opened in 2012/13.

166. REVIEW OF OLD MINERAL AND MINING PLANNING PERMISSIONS

The Executive Member for Environment introduced the report which provided information on the requirements and progress with the review of old mineral and mining planning permissions (“mineral reviews”). Endorsement

was also sought on the approach and delegated authority to use order making powers to suspend or prohibit further mineral working, and implement restoration conditions, where necessary.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and the approach taken to the principle of determining applications for mineral reviews be endorsed, and delegated authority be given to the Head of Planning to approve the making, and serving, of suspension orders and prohibition orders in respect of mineral sites (or parts of mineral sites) which fail to meet the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Undetermined Reviews of Old Mineral Permissions) (Wales) Regulations 2009.

167. QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2011/12

The Executive Member for Corporate Management introduced the Quarter 2 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 and a further updated summary was available and a copy had been placed in the Members' Library.

The Chief Executive explained that the Appendix to the report contained a schedule of all of the Improvement Targets which were reported on a quarterly basis.

He added that a decision was due, from the Welsh Government (WG), on how Flintshire County Council had performed against the Outcome Agreement; initial feedback had been positive.

The Director of Lifelong Learning provided an update on the high (red) risks, CD10a Leisure – Revenue Funding and CD20 School Buildings/School Modernisation.

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.

168. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2011/12 (MONTH 6)

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management presented the most up to date revenue budget monitoring information (Month 6) for the Council Fund and the Housing Revenue Account in 2011/12.

The Head of Finance explained that the projected year end position at 31/3/12 estimated as at Month 6 was:

- Council Fund – net overspend of £0.320M
- Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – net underspend of £0.208M

The significant in-year projected variances to date were detailed in the appendices to the report. The net overspend of £0.320M was made up of £0.625M overspend on services offset by a contribution of £0.305M from Central and Corporate Finance.

The budget for 2011/12 included base budget provision of £0.337M in respect of increased employers pension contributions and £0.150M relating to the review of relief staff. These amounts were being held centrally pending further detailed work. A further one-off contingency of £2.159M was also included in the 2011/12 budget relating to one-off exit costs associated with service modernisation. A full assessment of the one-off contingency was being finalised and would be reported in future monitoring reports.

The overall projected underspend of £0.208M on the HRA represented an increase of £0.207M on the position at Month 5. The HRA showed a projected closing balance at Period 6 of £1.328M which at 5.3% of total expenditure satisfied the prudent approach of ensuring a minimum level of 3%.

Details in the report had been discussed in full at the meeting of Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous week where Members were content with the position. The Chief Executive added that there was a need to identify areas of efficiencies in the current year and to also contribute to balancing the 2012/13 budget. In addition, the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that Streetscene should be included in the budget report as a financial risk. However, it was noted that the service provision of Streetscene outweighed the financial risk.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That the projected Council Fund Contingency Sum available as at 31 March 2012 be noted; and
- (c) That the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account be noted.

169. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/12 (MONTH 6)

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance & Asset Management introduced the report which provided the latest capital programme information for 2011/12.

The Head of Finance explained that the table in the report set out how the programme had changed during 2011/12. The previously reported programme total of £41.635M had decreased to £40.690M, by way of the inclusion of net increased Council Fund schemes of £0.202M, and reduced Housing Revenue Account (HRA) programme schemes of £1.147M.

Detailed cumulative information on each programme area was provided in Appendix A to the report and a summary of changes recorded during the reporting period, together with supporting narrative, was provided in Appendix B.

Recorded capital expenditure across the whole programme was £9.424M at Month 6, representing 23.16% of the revised budget total of £40.690M. Details were also provided of the cumulative expenditure against the cumulative profiled budget. The profiled budget total stood at £10.876M; recorded expenditure of £9.424M represented 86.65% of the profiled budget total, a net variance (underspend) of £1.452M.

Details of the report had been discussed at Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous week. It had previously been agreed that any schemes in the current Capital Programme not started by 31 March 2012 would be subject to fresh approval being sought. The Chief Executive thanked the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their assistance in supporting the work to improve the management of the Capital Programme which had been beneficial.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted; and
- (b) That the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) funding adjustment of £0.596M be confirmed.

170. BUSINESS RATES – WRITE OFFS

The Executive Member for Finance introduced the report which sought authorisation to write off a single business rates debt to the value of £27,207.50.

There were no financial implications to the Council or to taxpayers since the Council collected Business Rates on behalf of the Welsh Government (WG) through the National Collection Pool for Wales. There

were provisions made within the National Collection Pool for the write off of debts.

RESOLVED:

That the write off of the debt, amounting to £27,207.50 be approved.

171. OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON THE CLOSURE OF THE APPLIED BEHAVIOURAL ANALYSIS (ABA) RESOURCE AT WESTWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The Executive Member for Education introduced the report which advised on the outcome of the consultation of the proposed closure of the Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) Resource at Westwood Community School.

He suggested an amendment to recommendation 4.02 in the report to add “at Westwood with ongoing provision for ABA to be transferred to Ysgol Pen Coch” which was agreed.

The Director of Lifelong Learning added that the main concerns raised through the consultation were detailed in the report. In each instance, a response from the Local Authority was provided.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the responses to the consultation be received; and
- (b) That the statutory notices regarding the closure of the Resource at Westwood, with ongoing provision for ABA to be transferred to Ysgol Pen Coch, be published.

Councillors H. D. Hutchinson and N. Phillips left the room during discussion of this item.

172. QUEEN ELIZABETH II CHALLENGE

The Executive Member for Leisure Services and Public Protection introduced the report which sought approval for the nominations of the Public Open Spaces, detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, as ‘Queen Elizabeth II Fields’.

Following approval at Executive in March 2011, consultation was undertaken with all Town and Community Councils in Flintshire to identify candidate sites for consideration. This led to 32 sites for consideration which were then assessed against published criteria from Fields in Trust (FIT) which resulted in the identification of 28 sites which could potentially be nominated. The 28 identified sites did cause concern to the Corporate Asset Management Group. As a result, the list of public open spaces detailed within the report

was the proposed list of nominations to FIT for the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge.

The Director of Lifelong Learning added that nominations could still be put forward by other bodies in accordance with FIT guidance.

RESOLVED:

That the list of public open spaces nominated to Fields in Trust (FIT) in response to the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge be approved.

173. NORTH EAST WALES PLAY COMMUNITY PROJECT

The Executive Member for Leisure Services and Public Protection provided an update on North East Wales Play (NEW Play) on the hosting of the North East Wales Community Play Project (BIG Lottery Fund Childs Play Programme – Round 2).

The Director of Lifelong Learning said this was a major initiative across Wrexham, Denbighshire and Flintshire Counties representing multi-agency, collaborative working which was being hosted by Flintshire County Council through Culture and Leisure Services.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

174. GREENFIELD VALLEY TRUST LTD – ACCOUNT FOR 2010

The Executive Member for Education introduced the report which provided details on the Greenfield Valley Trust Ltd for the period 1 January – 31 December 2010.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

175. BUILDING MAINTENANCE TRADING ACCOUNT

The Executive Member for Housing introduced the report which sought approval for ending of the current client/contractor accounting split for the Housing Repair and Maintenance service, and replacing it with a more appropriate modern framework for performance management.

The Director of Community Services said this was a positive move forward based on a good financial position. The Chief Executive added that In May 2011, the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee gave support for the abolition of the Repair and Maintenance Trading Account subject to robust performance indicators being developed to measure both the cost effectiveness and quality of service delivery. On 2 November 2011 the

Committee gave support to ending the current arrangements and to the proposed performance indicators which were attached as an appendix to the report.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the current accounting arrangements for the housing repairs and maintenance service end, with effect from 1 April 2012; and
- (b) That the proposed KPI's be used to measure the cost and quality of service provision.

176. EARLY RETIREMENT SUMMARY

The Executive Member for Corporate Management introduced the report which provided a summary of Early Retirements approved and implemented for the period 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2011, including details of associated costs to the Council.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development explained that, in future, reports on early retirement would be submitted on a quarterly basis.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the data relating to Early Retirements and the associated costs be noted.

177. WORKFORCE INFORMATION REPORT

The Executive Member for Corporate Management introduced an update on the workforce information for the second quarter of 2011/12.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development provided details on the following areas:

- Establishment
- Headcount
- Agenda numbers
- Turnover
- Diversity
- Absence

In particular, she commented on the improving attendance record noting that 84% of employees had attained 100% attendance in the second quarter of 2011/12.

RESOLVED:

That the Workforce Information Report for the second quarter 2011/12 be noted.

178. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN'S FORUM

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report which sought consideration of expanding the membership of the Children's Forum to reflect a recommendation from the Constitution Committee.

The Executive Member for Education stressed the importance of the work of the Forum which was established following the inquiry by Lord Laming into the death of Victoria Climbié. The meetings were attended by young people in care representatives who appreciated Councillor and senior officer attendance at meetings.

RESOLVED:

That the formal membership of the Children's Forum be expanded to include a representative from the Betsi Cadwalader University Health Board, and that the Council is recommended to amend the Constitution to reflect the membership of the Forum as agreed by the Executive on 1 August 2006 to be updated to reflect current Executive portfolios.

179. NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FLINTSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

The Executive Member for Environment introduced the report which sought approval of the ninth report of the Flintshire Local Access Forum, prepared in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Countryside Access (Local Access Forums) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

RESOLVED:

That the ninth Annual Report of the Flintshire Local Access Forum, for 2010/11, be noted and submitted to the Countryside Council for Wales for their records.

180. SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – SCHOOL MODERNISATION CONSULTATION

The Executive Member for Education introduced the report which sought to formally endorse the date of the proposed special Council meeting on Wednesday 14 December 2011 to consider the school modernisation consultation.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the decision to hold the Special County Council meeting on the evening of Wednesday 14 December be endorsed; and

- (b) That the change from a Saturday morning to a Wednesday evening be reported to the next Council meeting enabling the 28 September 2011 Council decision to be rescinded under Council procedure rule 14.1.

181. 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	Write off Requests
Community Services	Creation of a Temporary Accommodation Support Officer Post
Lifelong Learning	Leisure Services Tariff 2012

182. 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 item by virtue of exempt information under paragraph 15 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

183. PROPOSED NEW HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE STRUCTURE

The Executive Member for Corporate Management introduced the report which sought endorsement to proceed with staff consultation and implementation of the new service model of the proposed new Human Resources and Organisational Development service structure.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development explained the report in detail.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposals for the new Human Resources and Organisational Development service model and new posts be endorsed and the plans for the next phase of consultation and implementation be supported; and
- (b) That the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development be given delegated powers to make minor amendments to the proposed Human Resources and Organisational Development structure should this be necessary as the consultation process unfolds.

184. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 9.30 a.m. and ended at 11.05 a.m.

185. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were two members of the press in attendance.

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Chairman

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

EXECUTIVE	DATE: 13 DECEMBER 2011
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
Cllrs H. D. Hutchinson and N. Phillips	Outcome of Consultation on the closure of the ABA Resource At Westwood Community School	171