

**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Your Ref /  
Eich Cyf

Our Ref / Ein Cyf CO

Date / Dyddiad 24/06/2010

Ask for / Gofynner am Ceri Owen

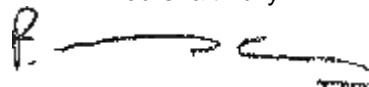
Direct Dial / Rhif Union 01352 702350

Fax / Ffacs

Dear Sir / Madam,

A **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, MOLD** on **WEDNESDAY, 30 JUNE 2010** at **14:00** to consider the following items.

Yours faithfully



Democracy and Governance Manager

**AGENDA**

1. **PRAYERS**
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
4. **MINUTES**  
To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 27th April, 11th May and 25th May, 2010 (copies enclosed).
5. **RESERVE FORCES & CADET ASSOCIATION FOR WALES**  
To receive a presentation from Colonel Hubbard and Colonel Beard.
6. **'BE A PART, NOT APART' CAMPAIGN**  
To receive a presentation from Jackie James, Principal Health Development Specialist

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7. **FLINTSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY - THE 'COUNTY VISION'**

Report of Chief Executive enclosed

8. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor A. Woolley:-

"That this Council should adopt the policy that incoming letters and e-mails should be acknowledged within 10 working days and, thereafter, if the subject matter is still undergoing process, be advised of progress at periods no greater than 21 days until matters are completed and that fact advised to the enquirer as soon as the formal decision is properly made. Further, that any failure to follow and adhere to this policy, once adopted, without justifiable excuse, should be cause for an adverse notation to be placed in the record of service of the addressee, provided that good and sufficient record exists of the receipt of the enquiry by the addressee. Further, that where no such proper record is found to exist of the receipt of any enquiry by an addressee office routines shall be examined and adjustments made to guarantee proper recording of enquiries in any future instance.

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2010**

Minutes of the meeting of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2010.

**PRESENT: Councillor C. Legg (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, D.L. Cox, R. Davies, G.D. Diskin, Q.R.H. Dodd, C.J. Dolphin, B. Dunn, C.A. Ellis, E.F. Evans, J.E. Falshaw, V. Gay, F. Gillmore, A.M. Halford, P.G. Heesom, C. Hinds, R. Hughes, N. Humphreys, H.D. Hutchinson, H.T. Isherwood, R. Johnson, C.M. Jones, N.M. Jones, S. Jones, R.P. Macfarlane, N.M. Matthews, D. McFarlane, H.J. McGuill, W. Mullin, E.W. Owen, P.R. Pemberton, N. Phillips, M.A. Reece, H.G. Roberts, L.A. Sharps, A.P. Shotton, N.R. Steele-Mortimer, C.A. Thomas, D.E. Wisinger, A. Woolley and H. Yale

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors: E.G. Cooke, A.G. Diskin, R. Dolphin, G. Hardcastle, H.T. Howorth, R.B. Jones, D.I. Mackie, D.L. Mackie, M.J. Peers, I.B. Roberts, W.O. Thomas and D.T. Williams.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive, Director of Lifelong Learning, Director of Environment, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Finance and Member Engagement Manager.

**156. PRAYERS**

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

**157. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised that no questions had been received.

**158. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of Flintshire County Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2<sup>nd</sup> March and 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 were submitted.

**17<sup>th</sup> February, 2010**

Councillor Bithell referred to minute number 135 and sought clarification on the sum allocated for the relocation of Canton Depot. The Chief Executive confirmed that these had been general figures and the actual figure, obtained since this meeting, was £735,000.

Councillor J.B. Attridge asked if the Head of Finance could confirm that £300,000 of the money allocated for the relocation of Canton depot was going

to be transferred into the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme. The Head of Finance advised that this matter was addressed within the HRA capital programme report on the agenda for this meeting.

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2010

Councillor L.A. Aldridge referred to minute number 149 and asked if information on how many Local Authorities had recommended spending below Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) in their budget preparations could be provided to Members. The Chief Executive confirmed that this information could be provided to Members following the meeting. He reported that this information was not collated nationally and therefore officers within the internal Finance team had collated this information which had showed that 11 Local Authorities had recommended spending below the SSA, with the remaining 11 Local Authorities recommending spending above the SSA. He confirmed that no Local Authority in Wales had recommended spending to the exact benchmark level.

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9<sup>th</sup> March, 2010

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**159. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

With regard to the item on the Agenda in relation to the “Amalgamation of Deeside College and Coleg Llysfasi”, Councillors E.F. Evans, C.M. Jones, E.W. Owen and L.A. Sharps declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as members of the Board of Governors at Deeside College.

**160. NOTICE OF MOTION**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services confirmed that no notices of motion had been submitted.

**161. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATION**

Copies of the Chairman's communications were available in the Members room.

**162. PETITIONS**

Councillor M.A. Reece submitted a petition from residents of Llys Maes Teg and Glan-Y-Don requesting rumble strips and a speed camera on the Pen-y-Maes Road near the Council entrance. The petition would be passed to the Director of Environment.

**163. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS ON COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services confirmed that no questions had been received.

**164. QUESTIONS**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised that no questions had been received.

**165. HOUSING REVNUUE ACCOUNT (HRA) CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11**

The Head of Housing introduced a report which proposed an increase in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme 2010/11.

During the County Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2010 it was proposed that 50% of the remaining capital allocation for Canton Depot be utilised to add to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme in 2010/11. Canton Depot, whilst used as a depot for housing repairs, was owned by the General Fund and General Fund resources could only be used for HRA purposes in two instances, as set out within the report.

The Head of Housing concluded that whilst there were possibilities to switch resources between General Fund and HRA this would be a departure from past practice and therefore, opportunities had been looked at to establish how the HRA programme could be increased without the need to use General Fund resources.

Councillor Attridge welcomed the report and sought clarification on where the additional capital receipts had come from, which had not been available when setting the budget. He also sought to amend the recommendations, as outlined within the report to include that the £226,000 from additional HRA capital receipts received to date be used to bring void properties back to occupation. This amendment was seconded by Councillor R.G. Hampson.

Councillor A.P. Shotton spoke in support of this recommendations and the amendment as set out by Councillor Attridge.

Councillor L.A. Sharps, Deputy Leader of the Council outlined the work undertaken by the finance team following his proposal at the County Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2010 and explained that a further HRA receipt of £226,000 had been received earlier than expected following the sale of land at Jasmine Crescent. He referred to Councillor Attridge's proposal and suggested that a compromise be reached whereby 50% of the £226,000 be used to bring void properties back to occupation.

Councillor Attridge said that he was willing to amend his proposal to include Councillor Sharp's suggestion that only 50% of the additional HRA capital receipts be used to bring void properties back to occupation. Councillor H. Yale, Executive Member for Housing Management and Function said that she was pleased a compromise had been reached which would benefit new and existing tenants.

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the HRA Capital Programme be increased from £7.871M to £8.097M immediately from the inclusion of £226,000 from additional HRA capital receipts received to date which was in addition to those assumed in the 2010/11 capital programme.
- (b) That any further additional HRA receipts received in 2010/11 be also added to the programme total.
- (c) That 50% of the £226,000 from additional HRA capital receipts received to date be used to bring void properties back to occupation.
- (d) That the Head of Housing draw up proposals for consultation with Members in relation to the works to be carried out with 50% of the additional resource.

### **166. REPORT ON THE AMALGAMATION OF DEESIDE COLLEGE AND COLEG LLYSFASI**

The Chief Executive presented a report which outlined the formal response to the consultation over the proposed amalgamation of Deeside College with Coleg Llysfasi.

Building on the success of the recent merger between Deeside College and the former Welsh College of Horticulture, the merger with Coleg Llysfasi would create a college with the largest land-based provision in Wales. The colleges' unique identities would be retained and the maintenance of the current centres of Coleg Llysfasi, the former "Welsh College of Horticulture" and Deeside College, linked by existing emerging technologies, would ensure a strengthened position on the curriculum, student support and the management of learning.

The Chief Executive advised that all colleagues consulted were supportive of the proposed merger, provided that the risks, such as Deeside College having the management capacity to extend itself further, were managed.

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

Councillor Q.R.H. Dodd welcomed the report and said that he was pleased that concerns raised during the consultation process had been taken on board. Councillor K. Armstrong-Braun also welcomed the report but felt that the Council should be encouraging the colleges to provide more science and engineering courses.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Council support the amalgamation of Deeside College and Coleg Llysfasi.

### **167. REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS: DRAFT PROPOSALS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES - UPDATE**

The Chief Executive presented a report which informed Members on the on-going discussions between the Council and the Boundary Commission since the report to County Council on the 9<sup>th</sup> March.

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2010, Members and Officers from the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales attended a meeting with the Chief Executive, the Democracy and Governance Manager and Group Leaders to explore and challenge the proposals. The meeting had been open and constructive and had covered the following key issues:

- The rules of destroying established community ties;
- The large size of some of the rural wards;
- The proposed establishment of multi-member electoral divisions across the County; and
- Electoral divisions which could cross Parliamentary Constituency boundaries

The Chief Executive advised that, as a result of this meeting, the Boundary Commission granted an extension of the deadline to the 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 and invited Flintshire County Council to submit options for further consideration. If an average number of electors per members was set within the County, regardless of the 1750:1 ratio guidance, the Boundary Commission would tolerate a variation of up to 25% on the average, in electoral divisions where the average could not be met. Following this meeting, Councillor S.R. Baker and officers had drafted alternative options for further discussion with the Commission, but Members should be mindful of the

housing projections, following adoption of the Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

Members were also advised that Flintshire County Council could not change current ward boundaries as the Council had not undertaken a community review. The Chief Executive explained that discussions with the Boundary Commission were on-going and further extension to the deadline would be requested, as needed, if Officers and Group Leaders believed a set of alternative proposals could be agreed locally.

Councillor A.P. Shotton thanked the Chief Executive for his summary of the current position. He agreed that the meeting with the Boundary Commission had been constructive and it had provided Group Leaders with the opportunity to raise the concerns previously raised by all Members. He said that Members now had two options - to object to the proposals on the grounds previously raised or propose alternative arrangements, they could not do both. He praised the work undertaken by Councillor S.R. Baker, the Chief Executive and Head of Legal and Democratic Services but raised concern that the unity of all Members would be lost if they were asked to agree alternative proposals. He moved an amendment to the recommendations outlined within the report to include that the Council object to the proposals of the Boundary Commission on the grounds that the proposals do not comply with the primary legislation of the Local Government Act 1972 and requesting that a Community Review is undertaken. This amendment was seconded by Councillor K. Armstrong-Braun, who together with Councillor P. Pemberton spoke in support on Councillor Shotton's comments, outlining their concerns on the affects the proposals would have on local democracy.

Councillor S.R. Baker said that he agreed with the majority of the comments made but explained that he was suggesting a viable alternative and raised concern that if Flintshire County Council did not propose an alternative the original proposals of the Boundary Commission could be imposed. These comments were supported by both Councillors Q.R.H. Dodd and N.M. Steele-Mortimer who felt that all Members should work together to agree alternative options to ensure that the Boundary Commission did not impose their original proposals.

Councillor A. Woolley agreed with the concerns raised by Councillor Pemberton on local democracy but sympathised with the comments of Councillor Baker and agreed that the Boundary Commission were prepared to consider alternatives. He did not feel that this was the right decision for the Council and that Members should object to the proposals.

Councillor R.C. Bithell raised concern over the impact the proposals would have on local communities. These comments were supported by a number of Members who outlined similar concerns on the effect large multi Member wards would have on local communities.

The Chief Executive advised Members that the documents produced by Councillor Baker and officers outlined alternative options, not proposals.



He advised Members on the risks of objecting to the original proposals of the Boundary Commission who could impose a final decision for presentation to the Minister for approval. In response to the concerns of Councillor Armstrong-Braun, he explained that the average number of electors per Member had been raised as a concern with the Boundary Commission who had agreed a variation of up to 25% on the average.

In response to concerns on the alternative proposals, the Chief Executive explained that following the meeting with the Boundary Commission, Councillor S.R. Baker had drawn up an alternative, as had officers, which had been provided to all Group Leaders to distribute. Members were not being asked to commit to any firm proposals at this time but to support refinement of the alternatives and further discussion with the Commission.

Councillor L.A. Aldridge asked if the representations from Town and Community Councils had been considered. The Chief Executive explained that all representations from Town and Community Councils had been considered to ensure that the Council was mindful of those views.

In response to a question on the viability of legal action, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services explained that the Chief Executive had previously identified the failure of the Boundary Commission to comply with relevant legislation and this had been raised during the meeting with the Boundary Commission. He advised that if the Council indicated its intention to undertake a community review as a necessary basis for developing further proposals then there would be the opportunity for the Council to consider a judicial review against the Welsh Assembly Government if they pursued their original proposals. He also outlined the risks to Members on undertaking such a review.

Councillor Shotton reiterated his previous comments and proposed amendments to the recommendations outlined within the report. He explained that he was not proposing a status quo as he recognised the need for change but asked that Group Leaders object to the proposals on the grounds of the original objections and request that the Boundary Commission undertake a community review.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised that a community review would have to be undertaken by Flintshire County Council and not by the Boundary Commission. The Chief Executive further advised that the Council had not taken up the option of a Community Review previously.

A recorded vote was requested and the requisite number of Members stood in support of this. On being put to the vote the recommendation was carried with 39 votes for the motion, 7 against, with 1 abstention.

For the recommendations –

**Councillors:** L.A. Aldridge, K. Armstrong-Braun, J.B. Attridge, G.H. Bateman, M. Bateman, R.C. Bithell, C.S. Carver, D.L. Cox, R. Davies, G.D. Diskin, B. Dunn, C.A. Ellis, E.F. Evans, V. Gay, F. Gillmore, A.W. Halford, R.G. Hampson, P.G. Heesom, C. Hinds, R. Hughes, N. Humphreys, H.D. Hutchinson, H.T. Isherwood, R. Johnson, C.M. Jones, N.M. Jones, S. Jones, R.P. Macfarlane, D. McFarlane, W. Mullin, E.W. Owen, P.R. Pemberton, M.A. Reece, H.G. Roberts, L.A. Sharps, A.P. Shotton, D.E. Wisinger, A. Woolley and H. Yale.

Against the recommendations –

**Councillors:** S.R. Baker, Q.R.H. Dodd, C.J. Dolphin, J.E. Falshaw, N.M. Matthews, N. Phillips and N.R. Steele-Mortimer.

Abstention –

**Councillor:** H.J. McGuill

### **RESOLVED**

That the Council object to the proposals of the Boundary Commission on the grounds of the objections raised during the County Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 indicating its intention to undertake a community review as the necessary basis for developing alternative proposals.

## **168. FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RULES**

The Head of Finance introduced a report which provided Members with the proposed updated Financial Procedure Rules (FPRs), following the third annual review. A copy of the FPRs had been placed in the Member Services Room for Members to access as required.

The Head of Finance outlined the changes to existing rules, as set out in the report and explained that, once approved; the updated FPRs would be published on the Infonet, as with previous reviews, and would remain a standing item on the agenda for the Finance Officers' Group.

Councillor W. Mullin, Vice Chairman of the Audit Committee proposed acceptance of the recommendations, as outlined within the report. This was seconded by Councillor A. Woolley, Leader of the Council.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Council approve the proposed updated Financial Procedure Rules.

**169. APPOINTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS PANEL**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services introduced a report requesting Members consideration to the appointment of a Development Plans Panel. The Panel would consist of Officers and Members on a politically balanced basis to consider representation received from Members arising from the decision of the County Council made on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2010, and to make appropriate recommendations to the Executive and County Council.

Councillor P.G. Heesom proposed acceptance of the recommendations, as outlined within the report and asked that all Group Leaders contact the Head of Legal and Democratic Services as soon as possible with nominations of Members to sit on the Development Plans Panel.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That a Development Plans Panel be appointed to consider representations made by Members arising out of the decision of the County Council held on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.
- (b) That all Group Leader contact the Head of Legal and Democratic Services with nominations of Members to sit on the Development Plans Panel.

**170. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Principal Solicitor be authorised to affix the Common Seal of the County Council between meetings of the County Council.
- (b) That the action of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Principal Solicitor in affixing the Common Seal of the County Council as set out in the seal register number 12066 – 12176 be noted.

**171. DURATION OF MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and ended at 11.47 a.m.

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

There were two members 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>27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2010</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
Councillors: E.F. Evans, C.M. Jones, E.W. Owen and L.A. Sharps	Report on the amalgamation of Deeside College and Coleg Llysfasi	166

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**11<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2010**

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Flintshire County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Mold on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2010.

**PRESENT: Councillor C. Legg (Chairman)**

Councillors: Eng. K. Armstrong-Braun, J.B. Attridge, S.R. Baker, D. Barratt, 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, C.J. Dolphin, R. Dolphin, B. Dunn, C.A. Ellis, E.R. 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, H.D. Hutchinson, G. James, R. Johnson, C.M. Jones, N.M. Jones, R.B. Jones, S. Jones, R.P. Macfarlane, D.I. Mackie, D.L. Mackie, N.M. Matthews, D. McFarlane, 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, I.B. Roberts, L.A. Sharps, A.P. Shotton, N.R. Steele-Mortimer, C.A. Thomas, D.E. Wisinger, A. Woolley, M.G. Wright and H. Yale

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors: N. Humphreys, H.T. Isherwood and D.T. Williams

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive, Director of Lifelong Learning, Director of Environment, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Customer Services and ICT and Member Engagement Manager.

**1. PRAYERS**

The meeting was opened with Prayers said by the Chairman's Chaplin.

**2. CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR**

In presenting his review of the year, the Chairman said that it was with a sense of sadness, but also with great pleasure at having been able to do so much, that he had reached the end of his year in office. He said that together with his Consort, Councillor Alison Halford, he had represented Flintshire at almost one hundred and ninety events, the majority of which had been referred to in his regular communications to the County Council.

The Chairman said particular highlights over the last year had included the opening of two new special schools, Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Ysgol Pen Coch, both of which offered state of the art facilities to their students; the new Library and Learning Centre at Connah's Quay and Her Royal Highness Princess Royal opening the Llys Eleanor Extra Care Facility in Shotton. He said that he had been particularly proud to have attended these openings as the education of young people, the continuation of learning facilities for all ages and the creation of bespoke facilities for some older residents were development which the Council could rightly celebrate.

He referred to Flintshire Business Week which once again had been a huge success at a time of economic recession and an eloquent reminder of the hard work and dedication from the Members late colleague, Councillor Mel Higham. As the Executive Member for Regeneration and Tourism he had been a driving force for development in Flintshire and for many of the Members, a true friend.

During the last year he held fond memories of meeting Flintshire people who had been recognised by her Majesty in the Honours list. He said that achievements should always be recognised, whether that be for services to the Community or in education for the examination results at both GCSE and A Levels.

He expressed particular gratitude to his Consort, Councillor Alison Halford for her support. He thanked the Vice Chairman and his wife for all their help during his year of office; the Rev. Hugh Burgess for all of his support during the year and for his preparation before each Council meeting which had relevance to the working of the authority with appropriate prayers. He also thanked Councillors Neville Phillips and Chris Bithell who had taken prayers in the absence of Rev. Hugh Burgess. Appreciation was given to the Chairman's Chauffer, Arwel Jones who provided crucial role and offered valuable advice. He thanked Lesley Wood, Karen Jones, Jan Kelly, Anne Mcglade and June Carr from Members Services and Senior Officers for their full support throughout the year.

3. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/ - INVESTITURE OF CHAIN OF OFFICE AND SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

It was proposed by Councillor N.R. Steele-Mortimer and seconded by Councillor A. Woolley that Councillor W.O. Thomas be elected Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2010/11. Councillors Steele-Mortimer and Woolley spoke in support of their nomination.

Councillor A.P. Shotton spoke in support of the nomination of Councillor W.O. Thomas who he said had been an excellent Chairman of the Planning Committee. He paid tribute to Councillor C. Legg; the outgoing Chairman who he said had held the position with great professionalism and integrity. He said that he had heard nothing but warm words spoken about Councillor Legg by the residents of Flintshire, who he described as a gentleman. On behalf of the Labour group he congratulated Councillor Legg and thanked him for his term of office.

Councillor P.G. Heesom, on behalf of the Independent Group also paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman, and these comments were echoed by Councillor S.R. Baker, on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group and Councillors K. Armstrong-Braun and H.G. Roberts.

The motion was put to the meeting and was:

## **RESOLVED**

Unanimously that Councillor W.O. Thomas be elected Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2010/11.

Councillor W.O. Thomas was invested with the Chain of Office by the retiring Chairman and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Chief Executive.

(At this point in the meeting Councillor W.O. Thomas, as Chairman, chaired the remainder of the meeting)

The Chairman then presented Councillor C. Legg with his retiring Chairman's Badge of Office and his Consort with her retiring Consort's Badge of Office.

The Chairman responded and thanked Members for their support in electing him as Chairman for the year ahead. He took the opportunity to pay tribute to the manner in which Councillor C. Legg had carried out his role as Civic Leader and thanked Councillor A.M. Halford, as the Chairman's Consort for the wonderful support she had given during the year of office. They had both been exemplary ambassadors for the County.

The Chairman indicated that Councillor Legg would be a very hard act to follow but he would do his best to carry on the excellent work. His aim was to serve the Council to the best of his ability for the care and wellbeing of Flintshire residents. His Chaplain was Rev. Adrian Copping who he thanked for accepting the invite for the coming year.

He proposed a formal vote of thanks to Councillor C. Legg for his term of office.

#### **4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/11 – INVESTITURE OF CHAIN OF OFFICE AND SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

It was proposed by Councillor S.R. Baker and seconded by Councillor A. Woolley that Councillor H.J. McGuill be appointed Vice-Chair for the municipal year 2010/11. Councillors Baker and Woolley spoke in support of their nomination.

The motion was put to the meeting and was:

## **RESOLVED**

Unanimously, that Councillor H.J. McGuill be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Council for the municipal year 2010/11.

Councillor H.J. McGuill was invested with the Chain of Office by the Chairman and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Chief Executive.

Councillor McGuill expressed her sincere appreciation to the Council for bestowing such an honour on her and said she would serve the Council to the best of her ability.

## **5. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

It was proposed by Councillor L.A. Sharps and seconded by Councillor N.M. Steele-Mortimer that Councillor A. Woolley be appointed Leader of the Council for the municipal year 2010/11.

Councillor A.P. Shotton, on behalf of the Labour Group said that since May, 2008 Members of the Labour Group had worked together with the Administration for the good of the residents of Flintshire and had not been oppositional for oppositional sake, but outlined his disappointment with a letter circulated by the Leader of the Council to Administration Members which he felt damaged working relations. He outlined the important issues facing the Council over the next 2 years and said that it was important that all Members worked collectively to deal with those issues. He said that it was for these reasons; the Labour Group could not support the nomination of Councillor A. Woolley and hoped that a different approach to relationships would be taken in the future.

Councillor L.A. Sharps said that Councillor Shotton had been gracious in registering his disappointment. He respected his comments and assured Councillor Shotton of collective working where possible. Councillor A. Woolley also respected Councillor Shotton's comments and said that he did not intend to offend Members of the Labour Group. He outlined the good work of the Council and said that he was keen to gain the co-operation of all colleagues to work for the benefit of Flintshire County Council.

### **RESOLVED**

That Councillor A. Woolley be appointed Leader of the Council for the municipal year 2010/11.

## **6. APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE BY THE LEADER**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor A. Woolley said that it was his pleasure to be the Leader of Flintshire County Council for a further year and said that he would be providing his choice of Councillors who would serve on the Executive to all Members within 7 days by letter. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised that the choice of Councillors to serve on the Executive would not have to be endorsed by the County Council as it was the Leader's prerogative.



## **RESOLVED**

That the Leader of the Council, Councillor A. Woolley provide all Members with his choice of Councillors who would serve on the Executive to all Members within 7 days by letter.

### **7. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS: COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Council considered the report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which dealt with matters that required decision at the Annual Meeting of the County Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 1.1 (viii) – (xiv). Those matters were set out in separate sections within the report.

#### **(A) Appointment of Committees**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services explained that the Council's Procedure Rules required the Annual Meeting to appoint at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a Standards Committee, a Licensing Committee and such other Committees as the Council considered appropriate to deal with matters which were neither reserved to the Council or were Executive functions. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that as part of the review of Overview and Scrutiny during the year the Constitution Committee recommended that the existing Corporate Management and People and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committees be amalgamated. Accordingly, Members were requested to confirm the appointment of the Committees as set out within section 2.01 of the report.

Councillor R.J.T. Guest outlined the work undertaken by the Constitution Committee over the last 12 months and as the Chair of the Committee reported that extensive consultation exercises had been carried out on the role and function of Overview and Scrutiny Committees. In considering the future Committee structure a number of different views were expressed, which included views both in favour and against combining the existing Community and Housing and Social and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees but it was felt that this be deferred and re-considered in the future. It was also proposed to merge the existing Corporate Management and People and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committees as there was now a Central Corporate Services Directorate and in addition to scrutinizing all the services provided by the Corporate Directorate the Committee would also include the new Crime and Disorder Powers and scrutinize the Police and Fire Authority. This proposal was supported by the Constitution Committee and therefore Councillor Guest proposed acceptance of the appointed Committees as outlined within the report. Councillor K. Armstrong-Braun spoke in support of the proposals outlined by Councillor Guest and said that amalgamating the two Committees would reduce the duplication of work.

Councillor A. Woolley, Leader of the Council outlined the good work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in scrutinizing the work of the

Executive. He outlined the involvement of Overview and Scrutiny Committees in scrutinizing many areas of work, including the new arrangements of the Health Board and requested that the amalgamation of the Corporate Management and People and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committees be considered again by the Constitution Committee as many Members across the Council did not wish to see a reduction in the number of Overview and Scrutiny Committees. He proposed that the Constitution Committee consider the amalgamation of the Corporate Management and People and Performance Overview and Scrutiny, taking into account the observations from Members, and report back to County Council within 90 days. This proposal was seconded by Councillor P.G. Heesom.

Councillor Shotton said that he agreed with Councillor Guest's comments that concerns had been previously raised by Members on the porosity of reports being considered at the Corporate Management and People and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committees but said that it was for Members to include items they wished to consider on the Committee's forward work programme. He outlined a number of regional issues which would not lend themselves to be considered by a Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and said that he had raised these concerns during a meeting of the Constitution Committee.

Councillor R.B Jones outlined the excellent work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, in particular the improvements made on the reporting of Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges (SARC). He said that given the many regional issues being considered by the Corporate Management and People and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committees he did not support their amalgamation. These comments were echoed by a number of Members.

Councillor L.A. Sharps requested Councillor Guest to withdraw his recommendation in order for the Constitution Committee to consider the amalgamation of the Corporate Management and People and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Councillor Guest said that he would withdraw his proposal in order to allow further discussion of this item.

When put to the vote, Councillor K. Armstrong-Braun voted against the proposal.

## **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the appointment of Committees be deferred.
- (b) That the Constitution Committee consider the amalgamation of the Corporate Management and People and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committees and report back to County Council within 90 days.

## **(B) Determination of the size of Committees**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that the Annual Meeting must decide upon the size of each of the Committees it had appointed. The constitution made provision for the size of the Committees which were detailed in the report.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services referred to earlier discussions and said that the determination of the size of Committees would be deferred until the Constitution Committee had considered the appointment of Committees.

**RESOLVED**

That the determination of the size of Committees be deferred.

**(C) Terms of Reference of Committees**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that the Annual Meeting was required to decide the Terms of Reference of the Committees that it had appointed. The suggested Terms of Reference of the Committees were set out in Section A of Part 3 of the Constitution, and reflected the position agreed at the Annual Meeting in 2009.

**RESOLVED**

That the Terms of Reference of each of the Committees as detailed in the report be approved.

**(D) Political Balance – Annual Review**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported the Annual Meeting was required to decide the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the Political Balance Rules contained in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services referred to earlier discussion and said that the political balance of Committees would be deferred until the Constitution Committee had considered the appointment of Committees.

**RESOLVED**

That the political balance of Committees be deferred.

**(E) Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Standing Committees**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Standing Committees were required to be appointed with the exception of the Standards Committee. At its meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2010, the Constitution Committee agreed to

recommend to the County Council that the position as Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning & Development Committee should not be held by a Member of the Executive.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services referred to earlier discussions and said that the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chair would be deferred until the Constitution Committee had considered the appointment of Committees.

**RESOLVED**

That the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chair be deferred.

**(F) Local Choice Issues**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that the Council was required to agree such parts of the Scheme of Delegation which related to those local choice functions which could be decided either by the Council or the Executive and/or delegated to Officers. The table of Local Choice Functions was included in Part 3, Section A of the Constitution and there was no proposal to amend its provision.

**RESOLVED**

That the Local Choice Functions be confirmed.

**(G) Nomination to Internal Bodies**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that the existing Scheme of Delegation provided for an Appointments Committee for First and Second Tier Officers comprising 7 Members. Previously it had been usual for Committee Members to be politically balanced including the relevant Executive Member. At last year's Annual Meeting it was agreed that the Chair or Vice Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee be one of the Members of the Committee.

**RESOLVED**

That the arrangements for nominations to internal bodies be approved.

**(H) Nominations to Outside Bodies**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that the appointment to outside bodies made following the last Annual Meeting was set out in Appendix E of the report. The Council was requested to confirm the appointments or, where there was a vacancy, make new appointments or delegate such appointments to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders.

Councillor Shotton referred to the nominations on the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) which was currently represented by the Group Leaders of the Conservative Group, Liberal Democrat Group and Independent Group. He said that the Labour Group currently had 31% of the Council's membership and asked if a Member of the Labour Group could be selected to represent the Council on the WLGA to allow equal balance. Councillor J.B. Attridge nominated Councillor Shotton as an appointment to the WLGA to replace Councillor P.G. Heesom.

Councillor S.R. Baker reported that under the previous administration all four seats were held by Labour Members and said that he did not support this proposal as it would affect the political balance of the WLGA. When put to the vote the proposal that Councillor Shotton replace Councillor Heesom as a Member of the WLGA was lost.

Councillor C.J. Dolphin nominated Councillor H.G. Roberts as an appointment to the WLGA to replace Councillor P.G. Heesom. This was seconded by Councillor R. Dolphin. When put to the vote this proposal was lost.

### **RESOLVED**

That the appointments to outside bodies be confirmed.

#### **(I) Standards Committee**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that the three County Council Members of the Standards Committee were Councillors Robin Baker, David Cox and Mike Peers, who had been appointed for a four year period with effect from 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2008. Appointments were on the basis of one Member from each of the three main political groups on the Council.

### **RESOLVED**

That membership of the Standards Committee be noted.

#### **(J) Programme of Ordinary Meetings**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised that a programme of ordinary meetings had been submitted to a previous meeting of the County Council and approved.

### **RESOLVED**

That the programme of ordinary meetings be noted.

## **8. DURATION OF MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 11.00 a.m. and ended at 1.10 p.m.

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

There were two members of the press and seven 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>11<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2010</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
NONE		

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**25 MAY, 2010**

Minutes of the Meeting of Flintshire County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Mold on Tuesday 25 May, 2010.

**PRESENT: Councillor W. O. Thomas (Chairman)**

Councillors: L. A. Aldridge, Eng. K. Armstrong-Braun, J. B. Attridge, G. H. Bateman, M. Bateman, R. C. Bithell, C. S. Carver, J. C. Cattermoul, D. L. Cox, P. J. Curtis, 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, R. J. T. Guest, A. M. Halford, G. Hardcastle, P. G. Heesom, C. Hinds, H. T. Howorth, R. Hughes, H. D. Hutchinson, H. T. Isherwood, G. James, R. Johnson, C. M. Jones, N. M. Jones, S. Jones, R. P. Macfarlane, D. I. Mackie, D. L. Mackie, N. M. Matthews, D. McFarlane, H. J. McGuill, A. Minshull, W. Mullin, E. W. Owen, M. J. Peers, P. R. Pemberton, N. Phillips, H. G. Roberts, I. B. Roberts, L. A. Sharps, N. R. Steele-Mortimer, D. T. Williams, D. E. Wisinger, A. Woolley, M. G. Wright and H. Yale

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors: S. R. Baker, D. Barratt, E. G. Cooke, R. Davies, C. J. Dolphin, F. Gillmore, R. G. Hampson, N. Humphreys, R. B. Jones, C. Legg, T. Newhouse, M. A. Reece, A. P. Shotton and C. A. Thomas

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development, Team Manager – Committee Services and Committee Officer

**REPRESENTATIVES FROM EVERSHEDES**

Mark Hammerton and Dennis Cooper

**10. PRAYERS**

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

**11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were received. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services explained that the Standard Committee had met the previous evening and had granted dispensation to Councillors A. M. Halford and P. G. Heesom to speak on agenda item number 4 but not to vote.



12. **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 paragraphs 12, 14 and 16 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

13. **REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services introduced the report. He ensured that each Member had a copy of the confidential file and explained that the document was not to be taken out of the meeting. Members had been invited to read the file before the meeting on an appointment basis but due to the privileged nature of the Advice, had not been able to take copies of any of the documents or take the file away.

The Head of Legal and Democratic introduced Mr Mark Hammerton and Mr Dennis Cooper of Eversheds and explained they had been advising the Personnel Committee throughout its duration. Mr. Hammerton provided a comprehensive summary of the legal advice and both he and Mr. Cooper responded to the questions from Members.

The Chairman of the Personnel Committee made a recommendation to the Council which was duly seconded by Councillor Eng. Klaus Armstrong-Braun.

Following a lengthy debate, a recorded vote was requested and the requisite number of Members stood in support of this. On being put to the vote the recommendation of the Personnel Committee was lost with 12 votes for the motion, 22 against, and 11 abstentions.

For the recommendation –

**Councillors:** Eng. K. Armstrong-Braun, R. J. T. Guest, R. Hughes, G. James, D. I. Mackie, D. L. Mackie, H. J. McGuill, M. J. Peers, N. Phillips, H. G. Roberts, L. A. Sharps and A. Woolley.

Against the recommendation –

**Councillors:** J. B. Attridge, G. H. Bateman, M. Bateman, R. C. Bithell, C. S. Carver, J. C. Cattermoul, A. J. Davies-Cooke, B. Dunn, J. E. Falshaw, V. Gay, G. Hardcastle, C. Hinds, H. T. Isherwood, R. Johnson, N. M. Jones, D. McFarlane, E. W. Owen, P. R. Pemberton, N. R. Steele-Mortimer, W. O. Thomas, M. G. Wright and H. Yale.

Abstentions –

**Councillors:** L. A. Aldridge, D. L. Cox, G. D. Diskin, C. A. Ellis, E. F. Evans, C. M. Jones, S. Jones, R. P. Macfarlane, A. Minshull, I. B. Roberts and D. E. Wisinger.

**RESOLVED**

That the recommendation of the Personnel Committee be refused.

**14. DURATION OF MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 9.00 a.m. and ended at 1.25 p.m.

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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>25 MAY, 2010</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
NONE		

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 7

**REPORT TO:** **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**DATE :** **30 JUNE 2010**  
**REPORT BY:** **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
**SUBJECT :** **FLINTSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY - THE 'COUNTY VISION'**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To support and endorse the final version of the Flintshire Community Strategy as a County Vision.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 The Constitution includes the Community Strategy as one of the strategic documents that the full Council reserves to itself for approval.

2.02 On the 20th April 2010 Executive supported and endorsed the Strategy.

2.03 The Community Strategy:

- Provides a statement of intent and priorities for the Local Service Board, collectively as a partnership but also as individual organisations.
- Supports and complements the vision and priorities in the other Strategic Partnership Plans.
- Will be used to influence partnership working, build and demonstrate unity amongst partners.
- Will be used as a lobbying tool for funding and influencing purposes.

2.04 Consultation was undertaken in collaboration with our Local Service Board (LSB) partners using existing networks (organisations / groups and virtually via partner websites) supplemented by public consultations. In addition, a series of workshops were held for all elected members in July 2009. The purpose of the consultation will seek to secure interest, comment and endorsement of the vision.

2.05 In October 2009, the Local Service Board "signed off" the Community Strategy as a 'county vision' for Flintshire 2009 to 2019.

2.06 On 3rd December 2009, the Strategy was endorsed and supported by People and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee along with the approach to developing the work plan.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

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Date: 24/06/2010

- 3.01 The Community Strategy Work Plan is based around the issues, challenges and risks identified by the 'County Vision' by Flintshire in Partnership. The Local Service Board have identified carbon reduction and the impact of poverty and its associated disadvantage within the County as key issues to be tackled collectively.
- 3.02 Update reports on the progress of these projects are reported to Executive twice yearly and included within the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's forward work programme.
- 3.03 The Community Strategy is subject to periodic review in consultation with our partners.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 That the County Council support and endorse:
- The Community Strategy as a County Vision for Flintshire. A copy is attached at Appendix A.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. However the Community Strategy and the work of the LSB may have implications in the future for allocation of resources.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 6.01 There are no direct anti poverty implications associated with this report. The Community Strategy will seek to minimise the impact of poverty in the community.

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01 There are no direct environmental implications associated with this report. The Community Strategy will seek to minimise the impact on the environment.

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 8.01 There are no direct equalities implications associated with this report. The Community Strategy will seek to optimise equality and diversity across all sectors for the benefit of Flintshire.

#### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.01 There are no direct personnel implications within this report.

## **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 There are no consultation requirements directly associated with this report.

## **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 There was no requirement for consultation to be undertaken in relation to this report.

## **12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix A - Community Strategy 2009 - 2019

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985** **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Report to Executive (17.11.09): Community Strategy and Local Service Board: Mid Year Review

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# **COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR FLINTSHIRE**

**2009 – 2019**

# **FLINTSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2009 - 2019**

## **(WORKING / ACTING TOGETHER FOR FLINTSHIRE)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Flintshire is a county in the North East of Wales. It borders the Dee Estuary to the north, Cheshire to the east, Wrexham to the south and Denbighshire to the west.

In 2007 the population of Flintshire was 150,500. Over the next 20 years the total dependent population<sup>1</sup> is expected to increase from below 60,000 to almost 72,000 people. According to the Office of National Statistics, life expectancy at birth for males is 73.6 years compared to 78.8 years for females. This is lower than the average for Wales of 75.8 years for males and 80.3 years for females.

There are 'pockets' of deprivation throughout Flintshire defined by housing, health, community safety, education, skills and training, income, environment and economic inactivity.

### **COMMUNITY STRATEGY - BACKGROUND**

The Local Government Act 2000 placed a duty on every local authority to prepare a Community Strategy 'for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK'.

In 2008 guidance was provided by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) to local authorities for the development of Community Strategies. The guidance says that the Community Strategy should:

- a. Be the overarching long-term strategy for the area and all its population focusing on the outcomes that partners aim to achieve.
- b. Be based on a thorough analysis of needs and priorities and opportunities for addressing them.
- c. Set out a 10 to 15 year vision for the area and informed by, and reflecting the strategic priorities set out in the children and young people's plans, health social care

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<sup>1</sup> Dependant population refers to people outside of the standard working age group of 17 to 60. This group can also refer to people who depend on the provision of care as well as any person whom relies on assistance, through the state or private means, in order to satisfy essential needs.



and well-being strategies, community safety, regeneration, local development plans and other major plans and strategies.

- d. A clear, shared and equal commitment from community planning partners to implement the action plan, and proposals for doing so.
- e. Arrangements for monitoring and accounting publicly for the implementation of the action plan, and for periodically reviewing the Community Strategy.
- f. Arrangements for co-ordinating the work and actions of the community planning partners, local service board and the other key thematic partnerships towards delivering their objectives.

The Community Strategy should inform and be informed by:

- The national priorities of WAG and the UK Government for non-devolved issues;
- Regional priorities, including those of Spatial Plan partnerships and regional partnerships/boards;
- Community strategies for neighbouring areas (including, where relevant, areas of England);
- Plans or strategies for areas, towns, communities or neighbourhoods within the local authority's area, including Communities First Partnerships.

The Community Strategy will be used to shape the financial and business planning processes of the Local Authority and its community planning partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

It will include a high level action plan which sets out how the Strategy will be delivered and will be used to enable the Local Service Board (LSB) to agree a Local Delivery Agreement (LDA), for a set of public service impacts for the partnership to make.

## **FLINTSHIRE LOCAL SERVICE BOARD (FLSB) - BACKGROUND**

The Flintshire Community Strategy has been developed by the Flintshire Local Service Board (FLSB). All Partners have their own specific roles and responsibilities but we recognise that by working together we can add collective 'public' value to the services that we provide for the people who live, work or visit Flintshire.

The Local Service Board Structure for Flintshire includes:

a) LSB Executive – responsible for executive planning and action. The first meeting of the Group was held in June 2008 and comprises:

- Chief Superintendent North Wales Police.
- Flintshire County Council Chief Executive.
- Flintshire County Council Leader.
- Local Health Board Chief Executive<sup>2</sup>.
- Principal, Deeside College.

b) LSB Strategy Group – responsible for governance and priorities. The first meeting of the Group was held in August 2008 and comprises:

- LSB Executive Group Members.
- Director of Community Services, Flintshire County Council.
- Flintshire Local Voluntary Council.
- National Public Health Service.
- North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.
- North Wales NHS Trust.
- WAG representative.

The terms of reference are based on four fold:

1. Effective and trusting partnership relationships as a set of local leaders.
2. Discharging the responsibilities of the LSB - this includes producing a meaningful and fit for purpose Community Strategy.
3. Consistent and effective governance and performance of strategic partnerships, e.g., Community Safety Partnership, Health, Social Care and Well Being Partnership, Children and Young People's Partnership and Regeneration Partnership.
4. Identifying common issues as public bodies/employers.

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<sup>2</sup> On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2009 the National Health Services of North Wales amalgamated into the Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board which is responsible for the care of nearly 680,000 people. All aspects of care - public health, GPs and other primary care services, hospitals, mental health services and community care will all be coordinated through the single organisation. The new health board will have LSB representation in line with existing commitments.

## **THE BENEFITS OF A COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

The Strategy adds value to the work of public services and local people through a vision that:

- a. Provides a statement of intent and priorities for the Local Service Board, collectively as a Partnership but also as individual organisations.
- b. Supports and complements the vision and priorities in the other Strategic Partnership Plans.
- c. Is the foundation for the Community Strategy Action Plan.
- d. Is used to influence partnership working, build and demonstrate unity amongst Partners.
- e. Is used as a lobbying tool for funding and influencing purposes.

## **HOW WAS THE FLINTSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY DEVELOPED?**

In 2008, a statistical profile of Flintshire was developed to inform the priorities of the Community Strategy and the work of the other strategic partnerships. It included issues highlighted in the needs assessments produced for the Children and Young Peoples Plan, the Health, Social Care and Well Being Strategy, and the Community Safety Strategic Plan.

The LSB Strategy Group then agreed that it would hold two workshops to develop a vision and priorities for the LSB and the Community Strategy based on the partner issues and local need highlighted in the Profile.

A vision was developed that Flintshire is a County where there is:

- Economic prosperity.
- Health improvement through everything we do.
- Learning and skills for life.
- Living sustainably.
- Safe and supportive communities.

## **DELIVERING THE VISION - OUR VALUES**

To support this vision the Partnership will operate within a set of values that run through all of the work we do:

- We will listen to people's needs.

- We will work on behalf of those most in need but will not forget the needs of the wider population.
- We will be open, honest and fair in our work and methods.
- We will use evidence based practice.
- We will be brave in our decisions.
- We will value diversity and promote equality of opportunity.
- We will work ethically and in a way that will promote sustainability.

In this Strategy we define what the vision means to us in Flintshire. There are key considerations that local partners should remember in delivering this vision:

a. Climate Change

Climate change is one of the most significant challenges facing the world. There are two strands to addressing climate change: tackling its causes by cutting emissions of greenhouse gases and preserving stores of carbon (mitigation); and responding to impacts of unavoidable climate change that is the result of previous emissions (adaptation). Communities in Flintshire can play a role in meeting both challenges.

b. Equality - The principles of diversity and equality are not simply about treating every one the same but about recognising and respecting difference and creating a fairer society where all people have an equal chance to contribute and participate.

Embracing diversity and equality will contribute to equal outcomes for everyone, improving quality of life, enabling individuals to achieve their potential and will contribute to the development of strong, vibrant and cohesive communities.

All the Partners will engage with all sectors of the population, and ensure that communities are able to participate on an equal basis, by taking account of their different needs and interests. Ensure we will make an important impact on social disadvantage and ensure that the needs of the most disadvantaged groups are understood and taken into account.

c. Sustainable Development - The Local Government Act 2000 says that each community strategy must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom. Partners should therefore set sustainable development and

The Welsh Assembly Government's Sustainable Development scheme and the UK's shared framework for sustainable development, 'One Future Different Paths' set out the definition and principles of sustainable development and emphasised the need for coordinated action.

- d. The Welsh Language - According to *laith Pawb*, the Welsh Assembly Government's national action plan for a bilingual Wales, the aim is to create a 'truly bilingual nation...a country where people can choose to live their lives through the medium of Welsh or English and where the presence of the two languages is a visible and audible source of pride and strength to us all'. In Flintshire we support these aims and recognise that we have a responsibility and a duty to support the national strategy and to take action to sustain and promote the Welsh language for the benefit of present and future generations.

## **ACTING TOGETHER FOR FLINTSHIRE**

We recognise that we need to draw on, invigorate and make the most of the contributions that the public and the public service providers make to communities by developing a sense of place and spirit and of service and responsibility.

Everyone can play their part. All the agencies and organisations that provide services in Flintshire from the public, private and voluntary sectors need to 'pull together' to make things happen visibly and in new ways.

### **Communities**

The involvement of local people is central to success of the Strategy, and to wider change and impacts in the longer term.

Through the Community Strategy public sector partners need to 'tap' into the pool of ideas, knowledge, skills, experience, energy and enthusiasm among individuals, groups and communities as a whole which, if realised, can be a real driver for change, for example through volunteering and community activity. Individuals in our communities of all ages need to become more active citizens, getting involved and 'doing their bit'. To

enable people to do this, we will need to support people to be creative, inspired, encouraged, empowered, supported and motivated.

The Community Strategy can provide an opportunity to put local people at the heart of partnership working and should be grounded in the views and expectations of those people.

In working with citizens it is important that the widest range of people are given opportunities to have their say, and to have their views taken into account on issues which affect their lives. As a starting point, we will make use of existing partnership involvement mechanisms that have already been proved to be effective, rather than setting up duplicate processes.

The Local Service Board and the other key partnerships (including Communities First), will consider how community views are going to influence and inform the decision making process; how differences of view are to be aired and resolved within the local strategic partnership; how decisions are to be explained to communities.

### **Local Authority Councillors**

The success of the community strategy will depend on the sense of ownership it generates within and outside the local authority. In exercising its community leadership responsibility to initiate and facilitate the community strategy, the local authority will draw on the expertise and skills of elected members of the Council. Councillors and officers will commit the local authority to take action to deliver the Community Strategy priorities agreed as part of the community strategy action plan. Full Council must adopt the Strategy and the Executive will need to ensure that all councillors are informed of emerging developments and outcomes and have continuing opportunities to contribute to the process.

Non-executive members of scrutiny committees will track the performance of the Local Service Board to monitor the achievements of the local authority, and other accountable partners such as health bodies, in the activities that they have committed to deliver as part of the community strategy action plan, as well as monitoring progress against long-term outcomes.

## **Community and Town Councils**

As the tier of local government closest to individual communities, community and town councils have the potential to contribute both to the development and delivery of the Community Strategy, helping to ensure citizen understanding and involvement at the very local level.

# ECONOMY / ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

## OUR VISION

Economic prosperity is fundamental to well-being in Flintshire. We want Flintshire to be a prosperous County where a strong local economy with a sound knowledge and skills base provides the foundation for success.

We want Flintshire to be a County of innovation and excellence that fulfils its potential for economic development and prosperity at the regional, national and international levels. Across the public, private and voluntary sectors, Flintshire will have a strong reputation for high quality and innovative service delivery and collaborative partnership working.

We aim to develop a sustainable, world class, modern economy, based on business enterprise and a highly motivated, well-trained workforce, supported by 'cutting-edge' technology where we make best use of our physical and human assets.

We will strengthen the rural economy through encouraging diversification and will revitalise the County towns by developing them as popular local centres, each with their own distinctive character, complementing each other and the wider retail 'offer' across the sub-region.

We will also develop a range of initiatives aimed at a substantial minority of local people who are subject to poverty, disadvantage and hardship. Our most deprived communities will be supported to give an equal opportunity for enjoying the economic future success of Flintshire.

We recognise that people's economic circumstances are influenced by many factors including education, health, housing, caring responsibilities and their family situation. We will work together in partnership to lead public sector responses to our economic position to support: local organisations especially Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs); skills and retraining; housing market support; infrastructure; help for individuals and families.



We aim to deliver this vision through several key strategies:

1. Maintaining a competitive position.
2. Employment and skills.
3. Sustainable Communities.

## **WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

### **Employment**

In 2006, Flintshire had the highest employment rate in Wales at 78.5% (compared to 71.1% for Wales). Our main employment sectors are manufacturing and construction, which, including the self-employed account for 32,100 jobs (42% of Flintshire's total). A large number of people are employed by a small number of employers such as Airbus and Toyota. The major employment wards are Broughton North East and Sealand, between them accounting for over 20,000 employees in 2006.

As of 2006, there were 75,100 workplace jobs. Of these, 17,300 (23%) were part-time and 8,400 (11.2%) were self employed. In addition, there were 16,451 unpaid carers.

17% of all children are living in families where no-one works. This ranges from 38% in Shotton to 5% in Bryn y Baal, Mynydd Isa.

Of the 7,885 children living in lone parent households, only 55% live in households where the parent works. The proportions of lone parents in work ranges from 42% in the Flint Castle and Oakenholt to 74% in Kinnerton and Penyffordd.

Since 2004 indications are that there have been a significant number of migrant workers coming to live and/or work in Flintshire, mainly in Flint and Deeside.

### **Travel to Work**

Of the total working Flintshire residents 45,000 work in Flintshire, 6,000 work in Wrexham, 2,000 work in Denbighshire and 24,000 either work in other local authority areas or outside of Wales.

In 2001, 49,000 of the 62,400 households in Flintshire owned a car or van. 68.3% of the total employed drove to work. This was higher than Flintshire's neighbouring districts,

North Wales and Wales as a whole. Flintshire has a low proportion of workers using other forms of transport, except for motorcycles, and also fewer people working from home.

### **Home Ownership**

In June 2008, the average price of a house sale was £143,892 which was slightly higher than the average for Wales and below the average for England & Wales.

45,942 households in Flintshire own their own home. This equates to 75.9% of all households in the county and represents one of the highest rates in Wales. This ranges from 44.7% in Flint Castle to 95.9% in Mold South.

There are 7 Electoral Divisions that are in the highest 100 areas in Wales for containing the greatest proportion of households that are 'not owned'. These are Flint Castle (22nd), Higher Shotton (23rd), Holywell Central (34th), Sealand (52nd), Mold West (64th), Saltney Mold Junction (75th) and Connah's Quay Central (77th).

There are 5,860 lone parent households in Flintshire. This equates to 9.7% of all households in the county. There are 4 Electoral Divisions in Flintshire that are in the highest 100 areas in Wales for containing the greatest percentage of households that are 'lone parent' households and they include Higher Shotton (24th), Flint Castle (47th) and Flint Oakenholt (54th) & Greenfield (79th). 52% of lone parents own their own homes. This ranges from 5.2% in Hawarden to 18% in Higher Shotton.

### **Education and Skills**

Flintshire has a lower level of higher education attainment for NVQ Level 4+ (22.8%) than the rest of Wales (24%). Mold South has the highest number of people aged 16 to 74 achieving NVQ 4 or above (34.4%).

Flintshire has relatively few people with no qualifications (13.5% compared to 16.6% for Wales) and has relatively high average earnings (£492 per week compared to £476 per week for Wales). Flint Castle has the highest amount of people with no qualifications (50.4%).

## **Tourism**

There are approximately 2.6 million tourists per annum, staying around 5 million tourist days in the County and spending around £150 million pounds per annum.

## **WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?**

### **1. MAINTAINING A COMPETITIVE POSITION**

Flintshire is widely seen as having a successful and buoyant economy with strong representation in the aerospace, engineering and pharmaceuticals industries. Manufacturing is the largest employment sector in Flintshire, with 35% of all jobs, a much higher level than that for the UK (11%) or Wales (17%). Major employees include Airbus UK, DARA Electronics, Toyota Manufacturing UK and Kingspan.

The Flintshire economy forms part of a wider economic sub-region that stretches across North East Wales and North West England and is covered by the Mersey-Dee Alliance (MDA) – a collaborative partnership between local authorities and development agencies and the Welsh Assembly Government.

The future for the Flintshire economy is clearly tied to that of the wider sub-region which, before the current global economic downturn, was described as being “successful, prosperous and largely self contained, with low unemployment, increasing economic activity and rising GDP” (GVA Grimley, originally 2004).

Flintshire will need to maintain its relative competitive position to ensure continued investment by current and future employers.

Key issues are:

- The current economic downturn.
- Skills availability – most of our large employers report difficulties in recruitment due to skills shortages. This will intensify as our workforce ages.
- Access – for people and goods is almost exclusively by road. Social inclusion and carbon reduction objectives require the development of alternatives.
- Competition from the emerging economies of India and China, together with the expansion of the EU eastwards.

- Affordable housing shortages – particularly important for attracting and retaining young people.
- Research and development support and links to Further/Higher Education are needed to ensure development of new technology.
- SME's – Business start up rates are below Wales and UK levels.
- Tourism – this sector has potential for future growth. We need to raise Flintshire's profile and further develop its range of attractions, particularly local environment and culture, heritage and leisure potential.

## **2. EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS**

It is important that Flintshire has an adequate supply of skilled labour to support the continued development of the key employment sectors in the county. It is also important that we assist those people who are economically inactive, to be able to access job opportunities within the County. Measured at a County level Flintshire is very prosperous, although this prosperity is distributed unevenly. Flintshire has low levels of unemployment.

A significant proportion of our population are lacking in basic skills. In addition, the County has levels of Higher Education attainment below the rest of Wales. This may reduce the competitiveness of the County in the long-term. We want to identify how the gap in both higher-end and basic skills will be reduced.

Although Flintshire is a prosperous County, a significant numbers of people who are economically inactive in Flintshire, many of whom do not share the prosperity of the County as a result. We will identify how more people can be encouraged and supported into economic activity, and how communities suffering from a concentration of deprivation can be helped to raise their quality of life.

The third sector – community enterprise, social business, cooperatives (e.g. Credit Union, Welsh Border Community Transport) is an under developed sector in the County. The third sector offers a real opportunity to re-engage the economically inactive and to provide services in areas where provision is otherwise limited.

We aim to:

- Reduce economic inactivity by working with partners to provide a range of support programmes to assist and encourage local people into employment.
- Encourage an increase in the skills levels of people living and working in Flintshire by working with partners to provide flexible and learning opportunities.
- Work with employers to develop employees and increase the availability and flexibility of opportunities for employment.

We aim to create more, higher value jobs across the County. High value and advanced manufacturing is well represented in Flintshire and has significance beyond this county. For example, Airbus employs over 7,000 people directly, with a further 60,000 in the UK supply chain, about 20,000 of whom are in North Wales. This sector has continued to grow and now forms the base for the local economy. Some sectors (aerospace, automotive, paper) are world-class. We are working with our partners in the MDA to develop an action plan to support these sectors. The priorities are to:

- Recognise the needs of these sectors as a priority.
- Address skill needs and raise the profile of the sector as a career of choice.
- Develop links with higher and further education providers to facilitate technology transfer and research and development.
- Support the development of a 'Centre for Advanced Manufacturing'.
- Promote major infrastructure projects, including enhanced broadband, improved rail and public transport, the development of quality sustainable business parks.

It is expected that the benefits of this action plan will provide a stimulus to all sectors within our economy.

### **3. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

We want Flintshire to be a place where people want to live, work and visit now and in the future. We want it to be a thriving, vibrant and sustainable County that will improve everyone's quality of life. To achieve this, we will co-ordinate efforts on progress to meet the economic, social and environmental needs of current and future generations.

### **(i) Town Centres**

We want our own centres to be healthy and vibrant with an attractive built environment. Flintshire has seven main town centres, with a range of smaller towns and villages. All of the town centres show signs of relative decline and need to be revitalised. We will work together with the Town Councils to develop Town Action Plans for each of the seven centres and then seek funding to deliver bespoke programmes of actions.

The aim will be to make the towns popular local centres for surrounding communities and also fulfil their wider potential, giving them each distinctive roles that complement one another and the wider offer across the sub-region.

### **(ii) Rural Areas**

We want to support and sustain our rural communities, improve their quality of life and maximise the potential of the rural area economically, culturally and environmentally.

Nearly 80% of Flintshire is now defined as 'rural' by the Welsh Assembly Government. In March 2007, the Flintshire Rural Partnership published the 'Flintshire Rural Development Strategy 2007-2013'. This sets out a strategic framework for the Rural Development Programme to:

- Encourage the diversification of the rural economy.
- Raise the standard of living and quality of life in rural areas.
- Develop holistic and innovative approaches to rural regeneration.
- Engage with rural communities.

This strategy has now been approved by WAG and has been awarded £3.9million to deliver the programme over the next four years.

### **(iii) Community Inclusion**

Regeneration is of crucial importance to socially marginalised communities. Unless these communities share in increased wealth and opportunity, then regeneration will not succeed. We have a number of communities which are among the most

deprived in Wales. We will give priority to developing healthy, safe and active communities through economic development and community development and by targeting health, education, safety and access issues within our deprived areas.

The five most deprived parts of the County are supported by the Communities First initiative. This is leading wide-ranging activity designed to help communities develop locally based responses to local problems. Communities First will link these approaches with other Public programmes where possible.

# LIVING SUSTAINABLY IN OUR ENVIRONMENT

## OUR VISION

The complexion and quality of our environment are essential to our economic prosperity.

We want Flintshire and its communities to thrive and prosper in a sustainable way, where an understanding of the impact of how we treat our environment leads us to live within acceptable limits.

We will strive to value Flintshire's built and natural environment as assets to be protected, regenerated and enhanced for their own sake, for the sake of our health and well-being, and for the economic and other opportunities that the environment serves to support.

An urgent and essential focus is to understand and respond to the effects of climate change on our communities, working environments, way of life, and well-being. We must therefore act now to adapt to the unavoidable consequences on flood risk, land use, water resources, biodiversity and wildlife.

We will therefore work with our partners and communities to become a low-carbon County as well as reducing our broader ecological footprint<sup>3</sup>, which goes beyond addressing the impact of carbon emissions alone.

Living within environmental limits means that we must use natural resources in such a way that the systems which regenerate them are not damaged beyond repair. These systems include our climate, the nitrogen cycle, and our water systems which are all inter-connected. This is a delicate relationship which is increasingly affected by the way we extract and use energy, the waste we create, how we live, work and move about and how we use land.

On how we live within, relate to, use, and manage our environment, we must assess and understand these environmental limits in order to guide how we use resources in the future, and live more sustainably.

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<sup>3</sup> An ecological footprint is the estimated calculation of the area of the Earth's productive land and water needed to sustain an individual or group including the absorption of any wastes that are produced



This responsibility is the same for us all as decision-making authorities, service providers, businesses and employers, communities, and individuals. Together we must think about how we move towards 'one planet living' – where we consume fewer resources and live within the earth's natural capacity – and explore the decisions and 'trade-offs' which will face us in achieving this.

We aim to deliver this vision by developing our approaches to:

- Responding to climate change.
- Building Sustainable Communities.
- Valuing our Environment.
- Managing energy, resources and infrastructure.

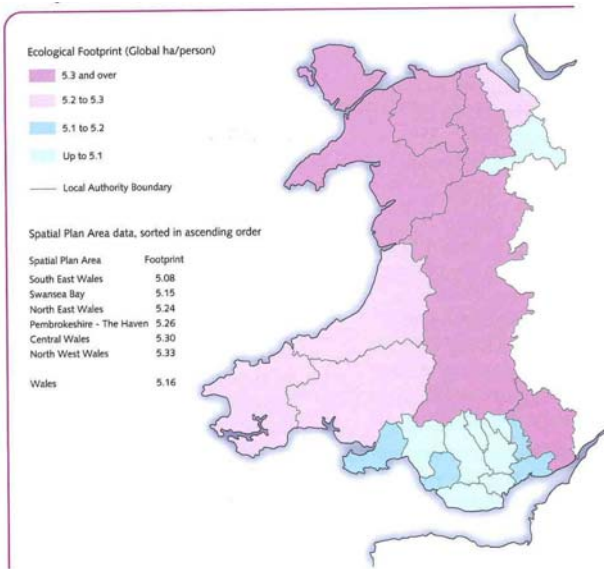
## **WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

### **Responding to Climate Change**

The latest estimates from DEFRA of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by local authority area show that overall in 2006, Flintshire emitted 1.9million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. 58% of this was from industry and commerce, with the remainder split roughly equally between domestic sources, and road travel.

When expressed as a ratio of tonnes per head of population, Flintshire at 12.7 tonnes per capita (tpc), is the highest emitting authority in Wales, and significantly above the Welsh average of 8.4 tpc.

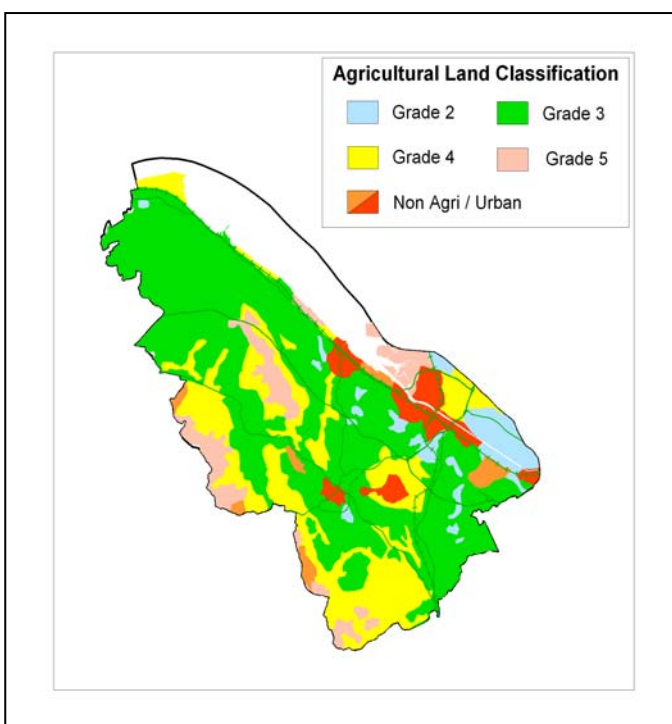
The Welsh Assembly Government recently commissioned work to assess Wales' ecological footprint, which is a broader measure of the implications of climate change than CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This measure demonstrates the number of planet earths that would be needed to sustain our current pattern of living and consumption of resources.



**Flintshire's Ecological Footprint** – Whilst there is some variation across Wales at local authority level, the main message from this is that we require the equivalent of five planet earths, to continue living the way we do, which is not sustainable.

As of April 2008, there were 6,171 properties in Flintshire within the identified flood risk zone where the probability of flooding is 1 event likely in 100 years for fluvial (river flooding) and 1 in 200 for tidal (sea flooding). There are a further 8,759 properties subject to a lesser probability of occurrence of 1 event in 1000 years; however for these, the event when it happens is more severe.

**Valuing Our Environment:** As well as the Dee Estuary, which is of international importance for its bird species, Flintshire contains numerous habitat types, which are nationally and internationally recognised, such as the mixed ash woodland along the Alyn Valley and the limestone grasslands on Halkyn Mountain.



Flintshire has significant areas of higher quality agricultural land (grades 2 and 3), with the higher grade (2) concentrated in the Sealand basin in the north east of the County.

Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are considered the most important sites in Wales for their natural heritage. SSSIs often support species or habitats that are of international importance. There are 23 SSSIs in Flintshire, and a further 6

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) which include the whole of the Dee Estuary. There is also a total of 308 wildlife sites within Flintshire.

The Clwydian Range in Flintshire is an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB). AONBs are designated under national legislation in recognition of the outstanding special qualities of their natural beauty which includes biodiversity, geology and landscape features.

Flintshire has 337 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) which cover 105 woodlands, 63 areas, 372 groups of trees and 1,270 individual trees.

There are around 1,100 listed buildings in Flintshire. There are also 32 conservation areas, and 23 registered historic parks and gardens in the County and many are of national or even international importance.

## **WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?**

### **1. RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

Climate change is an urgent and compelling issue that places an unavoidable responsibility on society today. It is essential to act now to prevent, adapt to and /or mitigate the predicted future effects of climate change, which will occur if nothing is done.

This means living more sustainably, as the impacts and consequences of doing otherwise will:

- Impact on the economy as markets change;
- Question the resilience of our infrastructure (including transport and health) as flooding becomes more common and temperatures rise;
- Affect food resilience as growing conditions change;
- Affect our overall quality of life.

In order that we minimise the contribution that we make to future climate we need to reconsider how we live, work and move about, reducing current levels of consumption of energy and resources .

The key elements to defining and understanding how we will achieve this are to:

- Develop an understanding along with our community partners of our carbon footprint and our environment limits, and develop strategies to reduce the impact of the way we serve the community;
- Assess the strategic long term consequences of flooding in order that we adapt our approach to spatial planning and the location of development and infrastructure in the future;
- Explain the concept of a low carbon county and define ambitious but achievable targets through which this can be achieved;
- Identify the key interventions necessary to achieve agreed reduction targets;
- Provide advice, guidance and a policy framework to increase community awareness of options and opportunities for energy efficiency and reduction of carbon emissions;
- Start with the easy things first, such as energy use, the design of products and services, employee working/travel patterns, and the impacts of our business/service operations;
- Develop a sustainability checklist to apply to all new developments;
- Minimize the threats from, and impact of, increased coastal erosion, increased flood risk, habitat disturbance, fragmentation and increased pressure on water supply and drainage systems;
- Use a 'peer review' approach to provide ongoing knowledge/training/understanding of our approach to tackling climate change, and to monitor progress towards achieving targets;
- Identify, assess and apply measures to ensure effective adaptation to likely environmental, social and economic effects of climate change.

## **2. BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

To live more sustainably we must reconsider our approach to the making and shaping of the places in which we live, work and interact. We must strive to make our communities attractive places to live and work, where inequalities between communities are minimised, whilst their individual character and distinctiveness is retained and enhanced.

We should therefore develop strategies for sustainable development and construction that integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation; recognising the opportunities for high quality infrastructure and long term cross-sector collaboration through the vision of a better Flintshire.

An important part of this will be to consider the role that Flintshire's settlements fulfil, for the provision of housing, jobs, services and facilities. This must be judged against an assessment of the community's needs for housing (including affordable homes), jobs, services and facilities, as well as opportunities for recreation, leisure and play.

This will also be judged against the capacity of our settlements to accommodate future growth and development, in terms of flood risk, infrastructure capacity (e.g. drainage, water supply, transport and accessibility), and social capacity (e.g. schools, health care, leisure).

Rural areas cover the majority of the land area in Flintshire. The issues facing rural communities (e.g. housing affordability, economic diversification, access to jobs and services) have particular causes and require particular solutions. However, it is important that these issues are not dealt with in isolation, but are integrated in mainstream decision making and choices.

The key challenges in this are to:

- Provide quality, energy efficient, affordable homes in a choice of sustainable locations where people want to live;
- Ensure that all new development is sustainable in terms of its design, location, layout, and achieves high standards of energy efficiency;
- Identify and maximise opportunities to reuse previously developed land and buildings within towns and urban areas;
- Consider the regeneration and renewal potential which exists for parts of our towns and particularly our town centres;
- Assess the community's need for development, services and facilities, and engage effectively through the Community Planning process, in order to understand local issues, aspirations, and priorities;

- Ensure that through careful and co-ordinated spatial, land use, and service planning, we maximise public investment and regeneration opportunities on key priorities which will in turn guide and direct private investment to follow;
- Identify the needs of our rural areas and consider how they are met through the development of a sustainable Rural Development Strategy.

### **3. VALUING OUR ENVIRONMENT**

Over 80% of Flintshire's land area is classified as rural. Together with its rich marine environment, there is a rich and diverse array of attractive and historic landscapes, productive agricultural land, accessible countryside and sites of local, regional, national and international conservation importance. Whilst there are significant responsibilities attached to the protection, there are also significant opportunities to enhance the quality of these assets and the role they can play in economic regeneration, health and wellbeing and our overall quality of life.

We will seek to develop a multidisciplinary approach to the identification, management and creation of green infrastructure, i.e., the network of green and blue spaces that lie within and between Flintshire's towns and villages. Green infrastructure is the County's 'life support system' which provides multiple social, economic and environmental benefits. This approach means identification and management of a network of green spaces for wider socio-economic and health benefit whilst contributing to biodiversity conservation objectives. Other benefits of green infrastructure include adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.

On the marine environment, Flintshire has a significant length of attractive coastline, which poses challenges to manage. The development of an integrated approach of a strategy for the coastal zone, which links together spatial planning on land with that at sea will mean the most effective protection, enhancement and use of the resources.

To achieve this will involve:

- Protecting and enhancing environmental quality by understanding and respecting the character, distinctiveness of species, habitats and landscapes;

- Providing a more integrated approach to delivering a better environment through effective and coordinated land and water management including an improved relationship of new development to water resources, flood risk and adaptation to the impacts of climate change;
- Taking the opportunity to develop with partners a multifunctional policy framework approach to green infrastructure, improving access to green space which in turn contributes to place making, economic and social regeneration, and health and wellbeing;
- Maintaining and enhancing the tranquillity of open countryside and rural areas;
- Preserving, protecting and enhancing the quality and quantity of biodiversity and habitats;
- Ensuring that plans, strategies and proposals which alone or in combination could have a significant affect on the integrity and conservation objectives of sites of international importance for nature conservation, are subject to impact assessment;
- Developing policy responses to address national environmental and biodiversity issues by considering integrated land use in coastal and marine management, in the context of dynamic habitats and changing landscapes;
- Understanding the environmental capacity of the county to monitor performance and underpin future policy development.

#### **4. MANAGING ENERGY, RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Flintshire's economic competitiveness is important and its growth must be supported. However, demands for housing, workplaces and services to support this growth will need to be met in a more sustainable way, making the best use of energy and existing infrastructure, and managing resources prudently and efficiently.

The conservation and enhancement of Flintshire's environmental and cultural assets is important in its own right. However, we should also consider the role of the environment when seeking to achieve social and economic objectives and addressing climate change. The environmental economy makes a significant contribution to overall growth, and an integrated approach is required to ensure this can continue in a sustainable way without causing irreversible harm. This integrated approach should include:

- Water management.
- Waste management.
- Minerals.
- Energy.
- Sustainable transport.

We must aim to integrate water management with growth and development, respecting the capacity of the water environment to cope with changes in land use. We must also factor in the risks and uncertainties associated with the extremes of excess winter water and shortage in summer, which will result from climate change. It is critical that we manage the area's demand for water as well as current and future flood risk, to avoid potential damage to property or loss of life.

On waste management European legislation, government targets, and rising public expectations combine to drive the need for a change in our approach to waste management. Accepting the need to minimize waste production as a first principle, an imperative thereafter is to manage waste more sustainably, providing alternative facilities for reprocessing, recycling, treatment and disposal. We will work in partnership at the regional level and locally, to ensure that a range of appropriate and sustainable facilities are provided, and that ambitious waste targets are met.

National policies seek to protect mineral reserves whilst at the same time ensuring that an adequate supply is available to meet needs. Flintshire is an important source of hard rock limestone, sand and gravel. We will ensure that the need for these minerals is assessed against current land banked reserves, or the potential for secondary aggregates, before allowing development of new or extended mineral sites.

The production, security of supply, and efficient use of energy is essential to our society today. Our approach to energy should be based on moving towards a sustainable energy system, with reducing energy wastage reduction, demand reduction and energy efficiency. This means that new development must achieve higher standards of energy efficiency from the outset, and the existing housing stock and industrial base must improve on their current levels of energy efficiency and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



On sustainable transport infrastructure, development should be located to reduce the need to travel (especially by car), and to enable people as far as is practicable, to meet their needs locally.

The key elements to achieving this include:

- Working with water companies and the Environment Agency Wales when planning the location and phasing of new development;
- Producing a strategic flood risk assessment for the County to inform future spatial planning options and adaptation strategies to climate change;
- Requiring new development to incorporate sustainable drainage systems and water conservation measures;
- Promoting and requiring the provision of a sustainable waste management infrastructure, facilities and systems for all waste streams, in line with the waste hierarchy and the proximity principle;
- Ensuring the provision of a steady and adequate supply of minerals to meet requirements, as well as restoring sites to high environmental sustainability standards when they cease to be used.

# HEALTH AND WELL-BEING /

## HEALTH IMPROVEMENT THROUGH EVERYTHING WE DO

### OUR VISION

We support the World Health Organisation's definition of 'health' as being 'a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity'.

We want Flintshire to be a County in which people are able to achieve the best possible physical and mental health and well-being. We will achieve this through providing accessible and relevant information, high quality services and opportunities for all individuals to live, work and spend their leisure time in ways that enable and encourage people to look after their own health, and that of others.

A healthy Flintshire will mean improved health for all. We need to focus action on people whose choices or circumstances put them at increased risk of poor health.

Whilst working to improving the health and well-being of people, we will work to reduce the gap in life expectancy and improve the health status of individuals and communities that are experiencing greater levels of ill health.

Partners will understand and maximise their potential to promote and support health and well-being, and will work to ensure that opportunities to improve both physical and mental health and well-being is at the heart of everything that we do.

We aim to deliver this ambition through:

1. Promoting and Protecting Health and Well-Being
2. Optimum Health
3. Increasing Personal and Organisational Responsibility for Health

## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

A variety of statistics and indicators are used to monitor and report on health status, behaviour and lifestyles of individuals, and causes of death. The key messages are:

- As elsewhere in the UK, the proportion of older people in the population in Flintshire is increasing. Between 1991 and 2006 the 55 to 59 years age group grew by 4,032 (36%), 85+ years age group grew by 1,088 (39%).
- Average life expectancy is increasing. However, this does not mean that everyone is benefiting equally from this. For example, on average, women still live longer than men and life expectancy is reduced for people who have a mental health problem or who live in more deprived communities for example.
- Life expectancy for males in Flintshire is 73.6 years (compared with 75.8 years for Wales); for Flintshire females it is 78.8 years (80.3 for Wales).
- In the 2001 Census, almost 70% of the population of Flintshire self-reported that they had been in 'good health'. Almost 80% of the population in Mold South reported that they were in "good health" compared to less than 60% of the population in Holywell Central and Flint Castle.
- Compared to the Welsh average, population health indicators for Flintshire are often favourable. However, when these figures are compared with areas outside of Wales, the results can reveal that there is still much that can be done.
- The diseases causing ill health and premature death in the County are often preventable. However statistics reveal that many people continue to adopt and maintain lifestyle behaviours that put them at increased risk, and that there are inequalities that exist between population groups. For example, according to the Welsh Health Survey, Flintshire residents self-reported the following health related behaviours:

	<b>Flintshire</b>	<b>Wales</b>
• Residents with BMI of 25 or more	53%	54%
• Residents who smoke	26%	27%
• Residents that have usual alcohol consumption above daily guidelines	38%	40%
• Residents that “Binge drink” (defined as drinking eight or more units of alcohol in one session for men, and more than six units in one session for women)	17%	19%
• Residents that meet the recommended consumption of fruit and vegetables (5 portions or more per day)	39%	40%
• Residents that achieve the recommended levels of physical activity	31%	29%

- Furthermore, in line with other parts of Wales, the rate of diagnosed sexually transmitted infections has increased markedly in recent years.
- Using population data and obesity prevalence rates from the National Heart Forum, an estimated 15% of children aged 4 to 11 years in Flintshire are overweight or obese. In addition, only 25% of young people in Flintshire meet the recommended level of physical activity and 25% are inactive.
- Between 2003 and 2004, five year olds in Flintshire had the lowest rate of decayed / missing / filled teeth in Wales. However, this rate is three and a half time worse than the best Primary Care Trust (PCT) area in England.
- In 2006, diseases of the circulatory system were the main cause of mortality in Flintshire, accounting for 34% of all deaths.
- There has been an increase in the proportion of deaths from cancer from 26% of all deaths in 1996 to 33% in 2006. However as the proportion of older people in the population is increasing, and increasing age is a key risk factor for cancer, this increase is not unexpected.

## **WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?**

### **1. PROMOTING AND PROTECTING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

Giving individuals and communities the knowledge and skills they need to make choices that promote and protect their physical and mental health and well-being throughout life is essential.

The provision of information and advice about steps that children, adults and families can take to improve their own health and well-being plays an important part in enabling us to deliver this ambition. We will improve access to and support to understand/make use of quality assured information on a wide range of issues that impact directly or indirectly on health. Examples include:

- Managing personal finances, improving fuel efficiency at home or engaging in opportunities to comment on developments locally and across the county.
- Lifestyle behaviours such as not smoking, being active, eating a balanced diet, and reducing alcohol consumption in line with the recommended guidelines, etc.
- Health protection issues such as immunisation, health screening and infection control.
  - The importance of maintaining a high level of uptake of immunisations to protect against specific diseases cannot be underestimated. Unless 95% coverage is reached there remain a sufficient number of susceptible individuals for an outbreak to occur. The programme of early childhood immunisations, together with boosters and additional vaccines targeted at adolescents and the opportunity for flu and pneumococcal immunisation in older people and those in particular circumstances, all contribute to protecting the population against diseases that are preventable which can be fatal or leave long-term disability.
  - Promoting the uptake of the national screening programmes (including antenatal screening, the newborn hearing programme, breast, bowel and cervical cancer screening) can help to identify potential threats to health at an earlier stage than is otherwise possible. This can increase the range of

We will ensure continued and coordinated access to such resources, with support where appropriate to enable people to understand and act on the information contained.

We will also help individuals and communities increase their skills and confidence to adopt health promoting behaviours (e.g. health literacy, cooking skills etc)

We will support people to eat a balanced, nutritious diet and lead an active lifestyle so that levels of obesity that contribute to many poor health outcomes are reduced. Reducing health damaging behaviours of all types is important, but we also recognise that people's home, work and neighbourhood environments, their educational attainment, financial circumstances, ability to access places and opportunities, and feelings of safety and belonging all have the potential to impact positively or negatively on people's ability to stay well, or likelihood of becoming ill.

We recognise that despite our efforts to promote good health and well-being illness, injury and/or disability will affect some Flintshire residents. Our responses as service providers will be to continue to provide timely and effective interventions, at appropriate locations (including within people's own homes where it is possible to do so). We will strive to restore people to their fullest health potential as quickly as possible, ensuring that individual choices about the quality of their life are paramount.

The population in Flintshire is changing. The population is ageing and there are more people living for longer periods of time with chronic health conditions, mental health problems (particularly those associated with ageing) and/or disabilities. The impact and opportunities that this shift will bring must be understood and responded to appropriately.

## **2. INCREASING PERSONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HEALTH**

Providing services which promote and support both physical and mental health and well-being is fundamental to our ambition.

Given the broad range of factors that influence an individual's or population's health and well-being, all organisations and agencies need to consider how they can contribute to promoting good physical and mental health and well-being, and reducing harms or risk. We will achieve this by:

- Promoting the importance of the wider determinants of health. This includes raising awareness that people's home, work and neighbourhood environments, their educational attainment, caring commitments, financial circumstances, ability to access places and opportunities, and feelings of safety and belonging all impact on health and well being.
- Raising the profile of the importance of developing 'healthy public policy'. This important component of effective strategies to improve population health can be taken forward by embedding health impact assessment (HIA) considerations into all decision making.
- Supporting and responding to input from customers, clients, patients, families and organisations and groups that represent them. We will build engagement and involvement of the public in decision making about policy, service developments and delivery, thereby helping to engender feelings of self efficacy which is a component of mental well-being.
- Supporting the development of strong communities (whether in geographic areas, settings or between people who share common circumstances) so that people can support and learn from one another as this is integral to promoting both mental and physical well-being.
- Leading by example to improve the health of our workforce through effective health promotion. We believe that it is important that we demonstrate our commitment by recognising the impact that we can have on our employees,

Alerting people of the possible consequences of their behaviours and lifestyles on their own and their families' health is important to us. We acknowledge and accept that every person has the right to determine how they live their lives; however where there is actual or potential harm (whether to the individual or to others) arising from such choices, we will endeavour to provide appropriate input to support the adoption of less harmful behaviours.

### **3. OPTIMUM HEALTH**

Supporting individuals to maintain, regain or improve their optimum level of physical and mental health and well-being is important to us.

We will continue to provide timely and effective interventions, at appropriate locations to people who need health and social care services. We will strive to restore people to their fullest health potential as quickly as possible, ensuring that individual choices about the quality of their life are paramount.

In delivering this ambition, we will ensure particular consideration is given to:

- Providing flexible and responsive support to people who are carers. We recognise and value the importance of carers, both in terms of the direct support they give to the person they are caring for, and as essential components of healthcare and social care provision in the County. We will identify people in a caring role through our assessment processes, and will strive to ensure that carers own needs (whether financial, practical, or emotional) are met through signposting them to appropriate services.
- The impact and opportunities posed by demographic change, including the ageing population. For example, as our older population expands and life expectancy increases, there will be an increasing need to support people's choices, for example, their living arrangements.



- Available evidence about communities which are (or are at risk of) experiencing poorer health, reduced access to services or are otherwise disadvantaged by the current pattern of service delivery (including health care, education, social care, leisure services, housing, transport, etc.) We will take account of this information in making decisions about service development (across all policy areas), and specific interventions and also adapt current practices to promote a more accessible service.
- Ensuring that particular population groups have access to targeted services – for example: outreach healthcare provision (including immunisations) to the traveller community and to those who are homeless; providing appropriate education opportunities for mothers of school age, or coordinating community transport schemes to increase access to all kinds of services (including health treatment, work, education and leisure) to people unable to travel using other means.

We recognise that reducing poverty and its related disadvantage, using both targeted and universally applied approaches is essential to improving the health and well-being of our communities. We will pursue initiatives to give people a better environment to improve their physical and mental health and well-being by targeting initiatives to maximise income / reduce poverty both on geographical areas of deprivation and on particular population groups. This may include benefits uptake campaigns, debt management advice, learning opportunities and skills building, volunteering and work placement opportunities, and/or area regeneration initiatives.

# LEARNING / LEARNING & SKILLS FOR LIFE

## OUR VISION

Quality learning, cultural and leisure experiences accessible to all have the potential to enhance and change the quality of life of people in Flintshire. We want Flintshire to be a County in which all people are able to reach their potential throughout their life through access to opportunities where they can learn and develop in line with their needs.

High quality education and training opportunities make a vital contribution to improving the communities of Flintshire. They are a key part of securing social and economic wellbeing. Children and adults learn in many settings, and an environment must be established where individuals, businesses and organisations including the voluntary sector support and promote both informal and formal learning.

We want to ensure that people in Flintshire have a comprehensive range of education, training and learning opportunities, including gaining essential basic and key skills, vocational skills, personal skills and social / life skills.

We aim to deliver this ambition through:

1. Improving opportunities for children and young people
2. Widening learning opportunities
3. Improving employability and skills

## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- In 2005, there were 13.5% of residents of working age with no qualifications - compared to 16.6% for Wales. There are also fewer residents with degree level qualifications in Flintshire (22.8%) than in Wales (24%).
- Mold South has the highest number of people aged 16 to 74 years with qualifications of NVQ4 or above (34.4%), and Flint Castle has the highest amount of people with no qualifications (50.4%).

- In 2008, parts of Shotton Higher, Mold West and Greenfield as well as Flint Castle were in the most deprived 10% for education, skills and training deprivation in Wales. The majority of areas in Flintshire's are in the least deprived 50%.
- The total population of children under 5 in Flintshire was estimated to be 7,298. There was one childcare place for every 6 children aged 0 to 4 years. In Wales in 2006, the figure was just over 1 place for every 13 children.
- Childcare provision varies across the County. In Flint Mount Pleasant, Cornist and Flint Mountain there is no early years provision compared to nearly 48 places for every 100 children in Flint Castle and Oakenholt.
- In 2007, Flintshire pupils received the following expected Key Stage results:
  - Key Stage 1 at Year 2 was 81.6% - higher than the Welsh average of 80.1%.
  - Key Stage 2 at Year 6 was 73.3% - lower than the Welsh average of 74.1%.
  - Key Stage 3 at Year 9 was 62.4% - higher than the Welsh average of 56.7%.
- In 2007, Flintshire is above the Welsh average for exams at age 15 for:
  - the percentage entering GCSEs.
  - the percentage achieving single and multiple passes and good passes at A\* to C.
  - the Core Subject Indicator (good passes in English or Welsh, Maths, and Science).
- Flintshire has one of the lowest absenteeism rates from school out of the 22 local authorities in Wales.
- The total number of registered places in after school clubs in Flintshire was 1,827, which relates to just 9.5 places for every 100 children aged 5 to 14 years.
- 14% of sessional child care settings are Welsh Medium in Flintshire with an additional 8% delivering services bilingually. While English alone is used in only 27% of settings, the majority of services are predominantly English with some use of Welsh.

- A-level results in Flintshire over the past 6 years have shown that although the percentage of pupils achieving at least 2 passes is at or above the Welsh average, the percentage achieving at least 2 passes at grades A to C is lower than the Welsh average.
- In 2003, a survey reported that people who were in fair or poor health were much more likely to have at most entry level literacy (41% in Flintshire compared to 25% for Wales) or at most entry level numeracy (69% in Flintshire compared to 53% for Wales).

## **WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?**

### **1. IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

We will ensure that children have a 'flying start' in life and the best possible basis for their future growth and development. To do this, we will develop new and support existing local and national initiatives / programmes, as appropriate, based around parenting, education, play and childcare.

The opportunity for all children and young people to be included in such initiatives and programmes will be supported by:

- Providing access to services and information.
- Promoting participation and positive citizenship.
- Promoting Advocacy (representing the views, wishes and needs of children and young people to decision makers).
- Promoting social inclusiveness and cohesion in all that we do.

A positive parenting style has a strong and beneficial impact on children's outcomes and can act as a protective factor against other risks. Agencies will work with families as a whole to maximise the support that is available to them so that they can reach their full potential.

We want to ensure that the children and young people of Flintshire have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities. We want all children and young people to benefit from their education as students, as citizens and in their future careers by:

- Working in a physical and emotional environment which enhances learning experiences in a variety of different situations both structured and unstructured.
- Experiencing learning which matches their individual needs (academic, emotional, social and cultural).
- Having lifelong learning skills and attitudes integrated into learning activities.

The Foundation Phase is the National Curriculum for three to seven year olds. This represents a major shift in the way that schools will teach young children to ensure that they achieve their full potential. In delivering this Curriculum, we will need to improve: learning environments and leadership; teaching and support staff training; working in partnership with agencies, parents and carers; and improving information that is provided to all.

Play has an important role in experiential learning and can promote positive self esteem, self confidence and a sense of belonging. We recognise that there is a wide range of play provision ranging from informal settings such as play areas, to structured settings such as play groups, and more formal such as Foundation Phase. We will continue to provide and develop opportunities for formal and informal play close to where people live.

We will concentrate on issues that prevent children and young people from reaching their full potential, for example, where behaviour puts them at risk such as smoking, substance misuse including prescribed drugs, alcohol misuse, eating disorders and obesity, unsafe sexual practice, mental health problems.

Ensuring that formal education is of high quality and relevant to the world of work is essential. We recognise that a young person's education up to the age of 16 can make a significant contribution to their employability and skill levels. We will continue to improve future job prospects by planning for higher educational attainment.

We will actively encourage participation in further and higher education. Delivering the entitlement of all 14 to 19 year old students to a wide range of vocational and academic curriculum options require new ways of working across the network of providers in the region. Key tasks include:

- Widening the options available for 14 to 19 year olds.
- Reducing unnecessary duplication of provision by increasing levels of collaborative curriculum planning.
- Planning for excellence across all aspects of network provision.

We will ensure that the needs of children and young people who are vulnerable or who have additional needs are identified at the earliest opportunity so that appropriate arrangements can be made for them in the pre-school setting, on entry to school and thereafter. We will support vulnerable individual and groups to improve: their access to services and information; education; health and well being; transition into adult services; inclusion; and, accommodation and housing.

## **2. WIDENING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

Education, training and learning opportunities - such as gaining essential basic and key skills, personal skills and social / life skills – sit alongside cultural and leisure experiences in the wider context of lifelong learning. We understand that all of these have the potential to enhance and change the quality of life of people in Flintshire. In addition, there are lots of ways to learn. We recognise that it is important for us to understand the learning needs of our communities so that we can focus on supporting them to develop.

We will promote learning in all its forms and the benefits that it can bring to the individual, their family and the wider community. However, there are a number of barriers to learning at all ages such as poor health and disability, conflicting care responsibilities, lack of information, possessing few or no qualifications, inaccessible facilities and transport difficulties, lack of confidence, age discrimination, language, cost, etc. We will continue to identify these obstacles and put measures in place to help remove barriers to learning.

Ensuring that people have access to information and advice to help them to overcome any barriers to learning is essential. We want to encourage people to be confident as learners.

We recognise that there are some people who may be at risk of exclusion and it is these people that are often the hardest to engage. This engagement is essential if service provision is to be properly targeted and appropriate to individuals' needs. The voluntary and community sectors are ideally placed to engage excluded groups and have a significant role in providing both formal and informal learning in a community setting so that we can support them to develop.

Where it is difficult for people to travel, learning opportunities should be provided close to where people live or work. We will maximise the opportunities for developing and supporting schools for the whole community and programmes for learning outside school hours including voluntary leisure, arts and cultural activities.

We will also seek to expand alternative routes to education by increasing opportunities for on-line education, community learning and libraries, and making use of new technologies and innovative approaches to the way that we use existing resources. We will also explore new or different ways for people to learn that promote learning for pleasure.

We will enhance the role of education in family and community life by developing excellence from pre-school provision through the National Curriculum key stages and beyond. This will include the needs of adult returnees and older people as well as the fostering of active links between schools, colleges, communities and other centres of learning. It will also include the promotion of intergenerational learning and community involvement in learning.

Key principles to underpin the work in Flintshire include:

- Recognising that learners' needs are central.
- More collaboration and partnership working.
- Learner entitlement to a wider choice of pathways.
- Buildings that will be fit for purpose and curriculum requirements.
- Changes that lead to improvement (standards, range of choice, participation rates).
- Maximising use of current assets.
- Parity of esteem between vocational and academic pathways.

- Excessive learner travel should be avoided (distance and frequency).
- Opportunities to learn in English and/or Welsh and within a faith based setting.
- Agreement on and coordinated publication of all pathways available within Flintshire.

### **3. IMPROVING EMPLOYABILITY AND SKILLS**

Education and skills are essential for maintaining the economic prosperity of Flintshire. A commitment to lifelong learning will help the county to adapt to changing economic conditions and the changing demand for different occupations and industrial sectors.

Working, whether paid or voluntary, is generally linked with better quality of life, more active lifestyles, improved well-being, a greater sense of social inclusion and better income. People with low skill levels can be at increased risk of income poverty. Maintaining people's skills whether they are in the workplace or retired can bring benefits not only to the employer but to an individual's mental and physical health. We want people to be able reach their potential and to access more high value jobs.

Helping people to reach their potential is important to us but we realise that learning potential and / or need will differ from person to person. For some it may be about increasing employability, for others it may be to develop vocational skills to do well in workplace or social / life skills.

There are significant numbers of people who are economically inactive in Flintshire and do not share the prosperity of the county as a result. People who are economically inactive already face multiple barriers to engaging with the labour market whether that be through employment, learning or volunteering. The challenge for Flintshire is even greater in providing support and training for those who want to work. We will provide locally based solutions to local needs and to recognise the need for soft skills development, volunteering and the gradual steps towards activity that are required before entering accredited training or mainstream employment.



We aim to:

- Develop locally based approaches to local employment skills needs through regeneration initiatives such as Communities First and other similar programmes.
- Encourage an increase in skill levels within the county and foster a culture of lifelong learning and continuous personal development in partnership with colleges and training providers.
- Work with employers over the development of employees and to increase the availability of opportunities for employment thereby promoting the availability of a skilled and flexible workforce.
- Work with employers to support the transition of young people from school to the world of work.
- As partners, we also aim to be model employers ourselves, facilitating access to appropriate continuing development and training opportunities for staff which will result in staff feeling more valued, which benefits our customers in turn.

We want Flintshire to be a place where secondary schools, further and higher education are closely integrated equipping people with the skills and qualifications they need to secure productive, rewarding and high value employment in a modern economy. We want to be a learning county that is at the forefront of new technology in our schools, homes, local businesses and organisations.

Without appropriate job training, workers' skills can become obsolete. Moreover, in the absence of flexible working arrangements it may be difficult for some people to combine work with their caring responsibilities.

As model employers, we will seek to enable people to reach their potential by:

- Ensuring sufficient high performing employees are recruited, trained and retained.
- Supporting flexible working opportunities that can benefit everyone - employers, employees and their families.
- Designing pay and reward structures that attract, retain and develop a skilled and flexible workforce, while achieving value for money and fairness.
- Developing workforce skill and capacity to address both current and future skills needs.

- Developing leadership capacity.

We will encourage other employers in Flintshire to create the right conditions to encourage people to work and improve peoples working lives through ways of working that recognise equality and diversity, and support investment in workforce development and training – in and out of the workplace, flexible working arrangements, staff involvement, and a ‘healthy’ and safe workplace.

The proportion of older people in Flintshire is growing. As people get older it is important to enable them to develop their skills so that they can adapt to their changing role, employment or industry demands.

We will develop policies and initiatives to enable the over 50’s to continue to work, learn, volunteer and care, making an active contribution for as long as they wish and ensure that they do not live in poverty by providing support to:

- The recruitment and retention of older workers and increase economic activity by improving access to jobs for the over 50s, including the disabled and those who have experienced ill health.
- Enable older employees to re-train and upgrade their skills and, in addition, pass on their skills and experience, in part through intergenerational learning in the workplace.
- The development of flexible working practices to accommodate carers and develop programmes to ensure gradual transitions to retirement.
- Encouraging volunteering programmes involving the over 50s in order to extend the active contribution of older people.

# **SAFEGUARDING / SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES**

## **OUR VISION**

We want Flintshire to be a County where people of all ages and from all backgrounds and abilities feel safe, confident, supported and protected from harm, including abuse and neglect.

We want to reduce the impact that crime and anti-social behaviour can have on the lives of people.

We want to reduce the number and the impact of unintentional injuries in homes, in our communities and neighbourhoods.

We want all people to feel that they are a part of a community in which they can actively participate and can both give and receive help and support, where public services in Flintshire work alongside individuals, families, neighbourhood, voluntary and community groups to support vulnerable people and to tackle the problems and challenges which face them.

We recognise that any individual can be vulnerable at any stage of their life. Vulnerability means that a person may be at greater risk and have less ability to cope with different aspects of their life. It may be based on socio-economic conditions, gender, age, disability (mental and physical), ethnicity, lifestyle or other criteria that influence a persons well being and / or their ability to access resources and development opportunities.

We will achieve this vision by ensuring that public services and local people work effectively together to create:

1. Inclusive communities and neighbourhoods.
2. Communities that are safe and protected from harm.
3. Supportive communities and neighbourhoods.

## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- It is estimated that around 25% of children in Flintshire live below the official poverty level.
- During 2007 and 2008, there was a 24% (664 crimes) reduction in violent crime.
- In 2007/08, of those who were victims of crime, 60% were aged between 21 and 50 years.
- During 2007 and 2008, 9,579 incidents of anti-social behaviour were reported. The highest number of incidents related to rowdy nuisance with 6,480 (67.6%) reports, followed by complaints about pets/animals with 940 incidents and reports of vehicle nuisance with 677 incidents.
- A form of anti-social behaviour is deliberate fire setting. During 2007 and 2008, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (NWFRS) attended 1,840 deliberate fires of which 376 (20.4%) were in Flintshire. 105 of the incidents were attacks on items of value such as property and vehicles. 271 were deliberate secondary fires which included refuse, fly tipping, grass / gorse, hedge rows and abandoned vehicles.
- In 2007/08, NWFRS delivered tailored fire safety advice to 4,895 homes in Flintshire in the form of a Home Fire Safety Check.
- During 2007 and 2008, there were 1,538 domestic violence incidents reported. Of these 462 (30%) were recorded as crimes. There were 395 arrests providing a crime to arrest ratio of 85.4%. 33 of the persons arrested were repeat offenders.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of people accessing help in relation to alcohol misuse. There is a recognized link between alcohol misuse, domestic violence and anti-social behaviour.
- Each year, it is estimated that over 6,100 children in Flintshire will attend hospital as a result of an injury. Approximately half of these injuries occur in the home, and are potentially preventable. Similarly, an estimated 6,600 people over the age of 50 will

- In 2004, Flintshire's road traffic collision casualty rate was the second highest in Wales at 560 per 100,000 population. Furthermore, the total number of casualties and collisions on roads in Flintshire has been constant over the last three years and injuries to children as passengers have risen substantially.
- Between 2001 and 2007 there were 579 accidental fires in homes in Flintshire. There were 135 injuries and 8 deaths. Seven main contributory factors associated with this type of fire have been identified that include being alone, fire interaction, not having a smoke detector, age, alcohol use, disability and living in rented accommodation.
- During 2007/08, 141 incidents were dealt with under Flintshire's adult protection procedures.
- In December 2008, 86 children were on Flintshire's Child Protection register.
- There has been a positive increase in the percentage of clients aged 65+ who are supported in the community.
- The 2001 Census recorded 16,451 (11.1% of total population) people in Flintshire that were providing unpaid care. 23% of these Carers provide 50+ hours care per week. These figures relate to known Carers.
- Since 2004 indications are that there have been a significant number of migrant workers coming to live and/or work in Flintshire, mainly in Flint and Deeside.
- It is estimated that aside from English and Welsh there are over 30 different languages spoken in Flintshire.
- Flintshire has the highest recorded number of unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments in North Wales. Between 2006 and 2007, there were 46 unauthorised encampments.

- In 2003, there were over a 1,000 voluntary and community groups in Flintshire comprising 18,000 volunteers and trustees, 2,500 staff and with an annual income of £15 million. The groups vary greatly in size and purpose with the majority being small local groups run entirely by volunteers, however, a significant number are larger organisations, operating across the county, employing staff, and involving volunteers, some are branches of national charities. Voluntary and community groups involve thousands of people every week. They provide a wide range of services and activities which enhance the social, cultural and economic life of the community. These include: support for children, families and young people; arts activities; environmental projects; health and social care services; advice and advocacy; training; support for people with disabilities; sports, leisure and recreation activities.

## **WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?**

### **1. INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS**

We want Flintshire to be a County built on fairness and respect, where people feel confident in all aspects of their diversity regardless of age, disability, gender, language, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation.

We will ensure that people from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities and know their rights and responsibilities.

Community Cohesion lies at the heart of a strong, vibrant and safe community and is what must happen in all communities to enable different groups of people to get on well together. People valuing each other and playing an active part in the community will mean that:

- More people will be clear about how they are expected to behave, will take responsibility for their own and their children's behaviours and will respect others and their neighbourhood.
- More people will be able to choose how they get involved and feel they have a voice in their community.
- Newly arrived and established communities will be able to communicate, share experiences and information to maximise their contribution to and experience of life in Flintshire.

We will map our communities to understand:

- The people who make up our communities;
- Where they live;
- What their needs are;
- What their perceptions are about their local community;
- How these communities are changing;
- What issues and activities may be impacting, both negatively and positively, on their community life, and;
- How communities engage and communicate with each other and identify areas of concern and opportunity.

This in turn will enable public service providers, voluntary and community groups in Flintshire to prioritise their services in line with local needs.

## **2. COMMUNITIES THAT ARE SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM HARM**

We want to improve people's quality of life by helping them to feel safe, protected from harm and more at ease in their homes, neighbourhoods and in public areas across the County.

Harm can be either intended or unintended. We will work in partnership to positively address factors that can affect:

- Unintentional injuries occurring in and around the home or care environment.
- Unintentional injuries to older people arising from a fall.
- Unintentional injuries to people on the roads (pedestrians, passengers, cyclists and drivers / riders of motor vehicles).

The communities of Flintshire will be encouraged to take part in ensuring their own safety we will listen to the needs of our communities and engage with hard to reach and diverse groups. At the same time we will focus on safety issues that partners identify through the use of local information and identify vulnerable people and premises through effective partnership working and community education.

We will support people including victims of crime and the vulnerable, to make their home environment a safe place for their family to live and grow. This will include addressing issues of safe play including toy safety in the home and in childcare facilities, fire prevention, unintentional injuries, and domestic abuse.

We will aim to increase early identification and intervention with victims of domestic violence by utilizing all points of contact with front line professionals. We will build on existing capacity to provide effective advice and support to victims of domestic violence. We will improve the response to domestic violence by supporting victims through the criminal justice system and to manage perpetration to reduce risk.

We will seek to understand the impact of substance misuse in the family by understanding the root causes and by supporting families to stay together. We will aim to reduce the harm to individuals caused by substance misuse particularly children and young people, families and the wider community. We will improve the availability of education and treatment services and give particular priority to issues relating to alcohol. We are focused on the availability of illegal drugs and the inappropriate availability of alcohol and other substances.

We will take action to address and positively manage factors commonly associated with crime and anti-social behaviour that impact upon how safe a person feels in their community. More people will consider the County to be a safe place as fear of crime will be reduced and we manage issues that people perceive as threatening and destructive including racial abuse and hate crime.

We will help to distinguish between people's perception of crime and how safe they feel by engaging public figures, elected members and the media to help communicate the facts about community safety and to help reduce peoples fear. We will also utilise modern technology such as mobile telephones and the internet to inform and educate our communities. This will help to ensure that people have the knowledge and understanding to address issues that affect them in relation to crime and safety.



All offenders and ex-offenders will, where possible and appropriate, receive every opportunity to rehabilitate themselves. However, the needs of the victims are paramount and this remains at the heart of our ambition.

We will work together to protect and support children and adults who need safeguarding because of risk of neglect, abuse and other forms of harm. We will support the wide range of professionals in agencies who work in this sensitive and challenging area.

Safeguarding vulnerable adults and children is everyone's priority. We want our communities to feel that they have responsibility for not just their own safety but also the safety of vulnerable people. We will help to ensure that communities have the knowledge and understanding to address such issues and take action when needed.

In 2007, a consultation by the Children & Young People's Partnership with young people highlighted the following; sports centres are considered too expensive to attend on a regular basis, youth clubs did not open enough in evenings and not at all during school holidays and were not all of a suitable building standard, dancing venues were not provided, parks were not challenging/fun enough and were poorly lit at night and there was poor knowledge of clubs and activities available.

We recognise that sport and leisure has an important role to play in preventing anti-social behaviour amongst children and adults. Sport and leisure can generate commitment and pride, removes social barriers, can provide a focus for peoples' lives, and helps promote team work, a sense of belonging, social responsibility and healthy lifestyles. We will engage with people to provide appropriate opportunities for all for sport and leisure activities at school, in the home, the workplace, open spaces and leisure facilities. We will also work with communities to improve their understanding of anti-social behaviour and how to respond to it.

We will empower children at school and adults in the workplace not to feel threatened or bullied by putting mechanisms in place to respond accordingly and effectively.

We will work together to deliver a safer travel network that promotes the use of a safe and accessible public transport system. This will also include considering local measures to promote road safety and therefore reduce fatal accidents and accidents resulting in injuries.

### **3. SUPPORTIVE PLACES**

Flintshire is a safe place to live with opportunities for people to participate in many aspects of community life. However, there are some communities where individuals and families may struggle to find support and where services and facilities are difficult to access. There are over 1,000 voluntary and community groups operating in the county covering a wide range of activities and services, including: playgroups and youth groups, sports and arts groups, social groups and self-help groups, environmental and conservation groups. The majority are small local groups, managed and run by volunteers. Together with public services they play a key role in supporting people and ensuring that they feel safe and included.

We want Flintshire to have safe homes, families, communities and neighbourhoods. We will support families to stay together where it is possible. We will enable people to take a lead in the improvement of their safety through education, proactive prevention, intervention and support and by providing a framework where effective communication can occur.

To provide supportive places to live, vulnerable people will be effectively safeguarded – including children, young people, older people, people with mental health problems or learning and physical difficulties and victims of domestic violence. We will work in partnership to:

- Identify and protect those vulnerable members of the community that need advice and support.
- Use legislation to improve the sharing of information between partners to protect vulnerable people.
- Consider the needs of the vulnerable and the impact of their economic circumstances which may compromise safety, for example, the threat of 'cold calling'.

- Provide advice to our communities, for example, to reduce fuel poverty in Flintshire.
- We will enable more people to live independently for longer where it is their choice.

We will support parents and carers to make the best choices for their children to enable them to live their lives in safety. Parents are the single most important factor in a child's well-being, achievement and future prospects. We recognise that there are times in the life of all parents when they need some extra support, information and advice. We will improve support for all parents and carers, to improve life opportunities for all children by actively encouraging parents to use parenting services to gain information and advice. This includes signposting, awareness raising, provision of information, advice and support, improving networking and building of relationships with other parents, and linkages between parents, schools and the wider community.

Safe, well-maintained and attractive public spaces have a critical role in creating pride in the places where we live which, in turn, is essential to building community cohesion and successful communities. That is why we are committed to action to make public spaces cleaner, safer, greener places that create a good impression, enhance the quality of life in our neighbourhoods and the perception of our areas.

Local events provide a great way for communities to come together and encourage people to get involved in local activities. We will support local communities in local events. For example, we will support community effort in tackling climate change by demonstrating how communities can take action to adopt low carbon lifestyles.

Some people already act as good neighbours but in many of our communities there are still people who need support. As communities change some people can feel that they have been left isolated within their own community. We will encourage people to support each other and be active within their own communities by promoting the concept of a 'good neighbour' to help in times of need and to provide a safety net to young and old. We will also provide access to information, help and support to people should they need it to help to reduce any feelings of isolation and exclusion experienced.

We will provide more accessible and open information to enable people to make more informed choices about the services that they access. This will include using modern technology such as the internet to provide up-to-date local information and exploring new and innovative approaches to sharing information both with citizens and with third parties. We will try to ensure all our communities can enjoy the benefits of the internet and other methods of communication.

We recognise the value of the diversity of organisations in the community and voluntary sectors that provide a voice for under represented groups, in campaigning for change, in creating strong, active and connected communities, in promoting enterprising solutions to social and environmental challenges and in transforming the design and delivery of public services. We will further develop effective, on-going engagement with the third sector and actively encourage volunteering.