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Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Democraataidd



To: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

CS/NG

10 April 2013

Maureen Potter 01352 702322
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Dear Sir / Madam

A meeting of the **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, MOLD CH7 6NA** on **TUESDAY, 16TH APRIL, 2013** at **2.00 PM** to consider the following items.

Yours faithfully

Democracy & Governance Manager

AGENDA

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive any declarations of interests from Members.

4 **COUNCIL MINUTES** (Pages 1 - 24)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous meetings held on 19/02/2013 and 01/03/2013.

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The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English
Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawau gohebiaeth yn y Cymraeg neu'r Saesneg

5 **CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

6 **PETITIONS**

7 **NOTICE OF MOTION**

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

That this Council recommends to the Cabinet that in delivering the emerging Single Status Agreement, later this year, the basic wage for adult employees should be the current 'Living Wage' rather than the legal Minimum Wage.

8 **QUESTIONS**

To note the answers to any questions submitted in accordance with County Council Standing Order No. 9.4(A).

9 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS ON COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The Minute Book, Edition 4 2012/13 has been circulated to Members. Members are now entitled to ask questions on these minutes, subject to certain limitations, and answers will be provided at the meeting. Members are requested to bring to the meeting their copy of the Minute Book. Any questions must have been received by the Democracy and Governance Manager prior to the close of business on Wednesday, 10 April 2013.

10 **APPOINTMENTS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE** (Pages 25 - 28)

Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

11 **VOLUNTARY REGISTER OF MEMBERSHIP OF ORGANISATIONS** (Pages 29 - 32)

Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

12 **CLWYD PENSION FUND UPDATE** (Pages 33 - 38)

Report of Head of Finance

13 **COMMUNITY REVIEW** (Pages 39 - 50)

Report of Democracy and Governance Manager

14 **FLINTSHIRE'S ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT, NORTH WALES ARMED FORCES DAY AND FREEDOM OF THE COUNTY PARADE** (Pages 51 - 54)

Report of Chief Executive

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **19 FEBRUARY 2013**

Minutes of the Meeting of Flintshire County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Mold on Tuesday 19 February, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor A. Minshull (Chair)

Councillors: J.B. Attridge, G. Banks, G.H. Bateman, M. Bateman, R.C. Bithell, A. Bragg, H. Brown, D. Butler, C.S. Carver, D.L. Cox, P.J. Curtis, R. Davies, A. Davies-Cooke, C.J. Dolphin, R. Dolphin, I. Dunbar, C.A. Ellis, E.F. Evans, J.E. Falshaw, V. Gay, R.J.T. Guest, A.M. Halford, G. Hardcastle, P.G. Heesom, R. Hughes, H.D. Hutchinson, H.T. Isherwood, J. Johnson, C.M. Jones, R.B. Jones, R.K. Jones, S. Jones, C. Legg, B. Lloyd, R. Lloyd, M. Lowe, R.P. Macfarlane, D.I. Mackie, N.M. Matthews, W. Mullin, T. Newhouse, M.J. Peers, N. Phillips, M.A. Reece, H.G. Roberts, L.A. Sharps, A.P. Shotton, P. Shotton, N.R. Steele-Mortimer, C.A. Thomas, W.O. Thomas, S. Williams, D.E. Wisinger, A. Woolley and M.G. Wright

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: G.D. Diskin, A. Diskin, B. Dunn, D. Evans, C. Hinds, H.T. Howorth, P. Lightfoot, H.J. McGuill, I.B. Roberts, I. Smith and D.T. Williams

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Head of Finance, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Housing, Democracy and Governance Manager, Corporate Finance Manager and Committee Officers

118. PRESENTATIONS

Equalities Team

The Chair welcomed representatives of the Equalities Team to the meeting. The Team had recently received an award on behalf of the Authority for 'Most Improved Welsh Council'; the Chief Executive explained that the award had been accredited by Stonewall, a member of the Equality and Diversity Forum, which recognised the Council's journey and commitment to developing an inclusive workplace and a culture that valued diversity.

Children's Services Team

The Chair welcomed representatives of the Children's Services Team to the meeting. The Team had received accreditation by the Family Rights Groups for Flintshire County Council's Family Group Conference.

Councillor C.M. Jones, Cabinet Member for Social Services, explained that the accreditation status had been received following a review of Flintshire County Council's policies, practices and procedures against a set of National Standards as validated by the Family Rights Group. Out of 14 submissions Flintshire were second in order of ranking. Councillor Jones congratulated the team on their hard work.

Councillor A.P. Shotton, Leader of the Council thanked the Equality Team and Children's Service Team on their hard work and success.

119. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair confirmed that no questions had been received.

120. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

121. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

A copy of the Chair's communication had been circulated to all Members before the meeting.

122. PETITIONS

No petitions were submitted.

123. NOTICES OF MOTION

The Chair confirmed that no Notices of Motion had been received.

124. QUESTIONS

The following questions had been submitted by Councillor A. Woolley:-

- (i) At the TCC AGM in Wrexham on 20th June, 2012, the Deputy Leader made a formal public pledge that this local authority would work to deliver the "Living Wage" instead of the Statutory Minimum Wage for its lowest paid employees.

In view of that pledge, made some 8 months ago, what steps have been taken so far to deliver it and when will that delivery occur?

- (ii) The Budget Projection figures set out in the 16th January, 2013 document entitled 'Re: Budget 2013/14' indicate, at Appendix 9 on page 63, a foreseen £35.088Million budget funding shortfall in 2017/18. That foreseen shortfall equates to 10.42% of indicated total expenditure. Given the need to defend and probably expand both educational and social services expenditure between now and then, which other budget headings does the present administration see the saving coming from and what overall level of staffing is projected for that stated year?

A copy of the responses to the questions, provided by the Leader of the Council, was circulated to all Members before the start of the meeting. A copy of the response is attached at Appendix 1 of the minutes.

125. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS ON COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Chair confirmed that no Questions had been received.

126. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2013/14 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013/14

The Head of Housing presented the revenue budget proposals for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the 2013/14 financial year, including proposed rent changes, key areas of income and expenditure, and the level of closing balance at the year end. She also presented the budget proposals for the HRA Capital Programme 2013/14, which was year two of a six year improvement programme. The Council was informed that the Cabinet had met on the 19 February, 2013 and had approved the recommendations outlined within the report. The detailed report presented to Cabinet was attached at Appendix A of the County Council report.

The Head of Housing gave a detailed presentation which covered the following areas:-

- 2013/14 Budget Strategy and context
- Housing Revenue Account (HRA)
- Welsh Government (WG) – Financial Determinations
- Other charges
- Budget Proposals
- HRA – 2012 outcomes
- HRA 2013 – What Next?
- HRA 2013 – Efficiencies total of £1.326m (8.7% operating costs)
- HRA 2013 – service improvements/costs increases - 765k
- HRA Capital Programme 2012/13 outcomes
- Funding for HRA Capital Programme 2013/14
- HRA Capital Programme overall outcomes against promises after 2 years
- Summary

Councillor H. Brown, Cabinet Member for Housing proposed that the County Council support the recommendations as outlined within the report and thanked the Head of Housing and the workforce for the many improvements within the Housing Service. In seconding the proposal, Councillor R.G. Hampson also thanked the Head of Housing for the improvements that had been made particularly in reducing the number of void properties and the reduction in time taken to complete non-urgent repairs.

A number of Members spoke in support of the report and thanked the Head of Housing, her team and the workforce for the improvements made within the Housing Service which were appreciated by tenants. Councillor S. Jones asked that the comments from Members be passed to the workforce following the meeting.

Councillor P.G. Heesom thanked the Head of Housing for the report and presentation. He raised concern on the shortage of affordable housing in Flintshire and the increasing burden welfare reform would have on the tenants of Flintshire. He asked that the Head of Housing be given an increasing leading role in the Authority to ensure that it was meeting the needs of affordable housing.

Councillor M.J. Peers thanked the Head of Housing for the positive report. He commented on the final guideline weekly rent increase and asked how many tenants would be affected by the rent increase together with additional financial burdens as a result of the welfare reform. He also commented on the financial pressure of £32,740 from void garages and asked why these garages were not being used.

The Head of Housing responded that approximately 66.7% of the Councils tenants would face no additional hardship as a consequence of the proposed rent increase but this was subject to claimants of housing benefits personal circumstances remaining the same and their household being unaffected by welfare reform. The Housing Team had visited all tenants who would be affected by welfare reform to explain to them the level of support that they could access. During 2013/14 a garage review would be undertaken and further proposals, including long term rent levels, investment and redevelopment options would be brought to the Council in order to tackle the number of empty garages.

Councillor A.P. Shotton, Leader of the Council commented on the significant response to the housing ballot in the previous year and the expectation this had put on the Council to deliver the Choices document. He commented on the number of improvements being made to tenant's homes which provided the Council with sound evidence to demonstrate to the WG during future discussions that the Council could meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS). He raised concern around the current HRA Subsidy which meant that an estimated £6.1m of rent income was paid to the Treasury and said that he would continue to lobby the WG and WLGA to end the current HRA Subsidy system. He thanked the Cabinet Member for Housing, the Head of Housing, her team and the workforce for their hard work and said that he looked forward to continued improvements within the housing service in the future.

The Chief Executive thanked Members for their comments and spoke of the creative and ambitious way in which improvements had been made to the Housing Service. He reported that changes to the HRA Subsidy system were currently being considered by Welsh Government through an exit from the UK level system and further discussions between WG and the Council were planned. The Choices document had made it clear that the Council could only meet the WHQS through continued efficiencies within the service and there was sound evidence to present to the WG to show that this was being achieved.

In response to a question from Councillor R.B. Jones, the Head of Housing confirmed that the figure showing the increase in capital funding, as shown in the presentation, should have read '£1.355m' and not '£1.855m' (against fiscal outturns for 2012/13). She also confirmed that £500,000 of the additional capital funding available had been as a result of the 31 March, 2014 falling on a Monday so the HRA would benefit from the full rental income for that additional week within the 2013/14 budget year.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed HRA budget for 2013/14, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report, which incorporated the proposals for Service Improvements and Efficiencies, as shown in Appendix 2 of the Cabinet report, be approved;
- (b) That the level of rent charges for 2013/14, as set out in paragraphs 3.02 and 3.05 of the report be approved;
- (c) That the level of projected balances at 31st March, 2014 at 3.20% of total expenditure be approved; and
- (d) That the proposed HRA Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix 3 of the Cabinet report, be approved.

127. UPDATING THE CONSTITUTION

The Democracy and Governance Manager presented a number of proposed changes to the Council's Constitution pursuant to recommendations from the Constitution Committee, its Chairman and officers.

A review of the Council, Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules had been undertaken by the Democracy and Governance Manager in consultation with the relevant members, the Chief Executive and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services prior to consideration by the Constitution Committee at its meeting on the 30 January, 2013. Following the Constitution Committee meeting, Councillor C.S. Carver and officers identified four further amendments. These had been discussed with the Chairman of the Committee who recommended that the four amendments be made in addition to those agreed by the Committee. Details of all the proposed amendments were outlined within the report.

Councillor R.J.T. Guest proposed that the County Council support the recommendation outlined within the report. He commented on the proposed changes which included the amendments to cater for remote attendance and said that there was a need for further discussion around remote attendance prior to its introduction. The proposal was seconded by Councillor I. Dunbar.

RESOLVED:

That the changes recommended by the Constitution Committee and those recommended by its Chairman and officers to the Council, Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny procedure rules be approved.

128. COMMUNITY REVIEW

The Chief Executive introduced a report to inform Council of the planning arrangements for the community review.

It had been a number of years since the County Council last carried out a community review. The Council had committed to undertake a review with the intention of commencing such a review at the beginning of 2013.

The Democracy and Governance Manager reported that on the 29 November, 2012 the Welsh Government (WG) published the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill. That Bill replicated the existing provisions for community reviews in the 1972 Act but also adds provisions detailing the process that should be followed in conducting a community review. The Democracy and Governance Manager explained that the detailed provisions in the Bill about how a review must be conducted may be amended as part of the Parliamentary process leading to enactment. This could create a potential difficulty in that if the Council conducted a community review in accordance with the provisions in the Bill that work could prove abortive if those provisions were amended. The Chief Executive suggested that the Council request the WG to give an assurance that the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill would only apply to reviews commenced after the Bill had been passed. He also suggested that this matter could be raised during a coming meeting of the Welsh Local Government Association Council (WLGA) (NB avoid acronyms).

Councillor J.B. Attridge proposed that the County Council support the recommendation outlined within the report and request the Welsh Government to give an assurance that the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill would only apply to reviews commenced after the Bill had been passed. The proposal was seconded by Councillor R.J.T. Guest.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the County Council noted the current position of the community review; and
- (b) That the County Council request the Welsh Government to give an assurance that the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill would only apply to reviews commenced after the Bill had been passed.

129. REVIEW OF INTERNAL MEMBER FORA

The Democracy and Governance Manager presented the recommendations from the Constitution Committee as part of the ongoing review of internal Member fora.

At the Annual Council meeting on the 15 May, 2012 the Council agreed to the recommendation that a review of internal Member fora be undertaken by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in consultation with Group Leaders and reports submitted to the Constitution Committee and Council. The report detailed Member fora considered by Group Leaders on the 29 January, 2013 and Constitution Committee on the 30 January, 2013.

Councillor J.B. Attridge proposed that the County Council support the recommendations as outlined within the report. This proposal was seconded by Councillor R.J.T. Guest.

Councillor N. Phillips thanked the Democracy and Governance Manager for the report and commented on the proposal for the ICT Panel to be reconstituted. He raised his concern that few Members had attended previous meetings of the Panel and urged Members to attend future meetings.

Councillor P.G. Heesom asked that the Cabinet Member for Environment consider and bring forward methods to enable the Council to have greater control on major planning applications. Councillor Attridge, Cabinet Member for Environment said that this matter could be considered by the Planning Strategy Group.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Planning Delegations Body be discontinued;
- (b) That Planning and Development Control Committee papers be made available to Members a week in advance of committee meetings;
- (c) That the Teachers Consultative Committee and Flintshire County Council Teachers' Consultative Committee be combined to cover all education staff not just teachers;
- (d) That the County Council recommend to Cabinet that the ICT Panel be reconstituted;
- (e) That the County Council recommend to Cabinet that the Waste Strategy Review Board and the Procurement Board be discontinued; and
- (f) That the County Council recommend to Cabinet that the following fora continued:-
 - The Joint Consultative Committee

- The School Performance Monitoring Group
- The Member/Officer Tenant Working
- The Voluntary Sector Grants Panel
- The Inclusion Service Steering Group
- The Welsh in Education Strategic Forum
- The Foster Care Panel
- The Children's Forum
- The Adoption Panel
- The Health & Safety Board

130. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. and ended at 3.15 p.m.

131. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There was one member of the press present.

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Chair

QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR ARNOLD WOLLEY

- (i) **At the TCC AGM in Wrexham on 20th June, 2012, the Deputy Leader made a formal public pledge that this local authority would work to deliver the “Living Wage” instead of the Statutory Minimum Wage for its lowest paid employees.**

In view of that pledge, made some 8 months ago, what steps have been taken so far to deliver it and when will that delivery occur?

RESPONSE

We are in the late stages of developing a new pay and grading model under the Single Status Agreement to be recommended to full Council for adoption.

The Council, as the employing body shares an objective with the Trade Unions to protect employees from low pay.

The Living Wage is one national benchmark for guaranteeing a minimum annual salary to employees to avoid low pay. The Living Wage is a much higher benchmark than the national minimum wage. A small number of Councils in Wales have adopted the Living Wage. Councils have to consider the costs and the benefits of introducing Living Wage in their longer-term workforce cost planning. Flintshire is no exception.

Within the options for our final recommended pay and grading model we have developed positive proposals to address low pay. The Council will be encouraged to meet the objective of protecting employees from low pay when presented with a Single Status Agreement.

- (ii) **The Budget Projection figures set out in the 16th January, 2013 document entitled ‘Re: Budget 2013/14’ indicate, at Appendix 9 on page 63, a foreseen £35.088Million budget funding shortfall in 2017/18. That foreseen shortfall equates to 10.42% of indicated total expenditure. Given the need to defend and probably expand both educational and social services expenditure between now and then, which other budget headings does the present administration see the saving coming from and what overall level of staffing is projected for that stated year?**

RESPONSE

The figure of £35M quoted in the Medium Term Financial Plan is the estimate of the 'gap' or 'deficit' between estimated resources available to the Council, and projected expenditure by the Council, for the 5 financial years 2013/14 - 2017/18. The 'gap' is caused by a number of factors including reductions in Revenue Support Grant, reductions in national specific grants, the costs of

pay and price inflation, the impacts of the economic position, and the pressures within demand-led service such as social services.

The five year financial 'gap' can only be an estimate at a point in time and cannot be static. The Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan are being reviewed and are to be republished in mid-2013. Within the Plan we will be reassessing the 'gap' taking fully into account the following factors:-

- a re-evaluation of the impacts of the on-going economic position prior to economic recovery
- a re-evaluation of the impacts of pay and price inflation including non-standard inflation such as high energy and fuel costs
- a longer-term assessment of demand-led service pressures including changes in health

Alongside this, the Council will need to re-evaluate its priorities for investment and set out even more ambitious plans for making efficiencies within the Council. This will lead to a greater certainty of cost planning against which fluctuations in predicted income and resources can be set.

The resources available to the Council will largely be determined by a combination of the fiscal policies of the UK Government and the decisions the Welsh Government makes in allocating the funds devolved to it. Until the next Comprehensive Spending Review has taken place and the Welsh Government has set out its strategy for Revenue Support Grant to local government for 2014/15 onwards then the available resources for the Council cannot be estimated with greater certainty than this. In the meantime we can only model on scenarios. It is, however, reasonable to predict that the 'gap' will be enlarged by national decisions.

Returning to the current predictive figure of a 'gap' of £35M, this figure will be reduced by £5.6M should the draft budget including this level of combined efficiencies be approved, leaving a target of £29.4M for the remaining four financial years of this period.

The Cabinet has used the term 'stepping stone' budget for 2013/14 due to these uncertainties, and due to the need for renewed medium and longer-term planning of priorities and budgets.

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
1 MARCH 2013

Minutes of the Meeting of Flintshire County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Mold on Friday 1 March, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor A. Minshull (Chair)

Councillors: A. Aldridge, J.B. Attridge, G. Banks, G.H. Bateman, M. Bateman, R.C. Bithell, A. Bragg, H. Brown, D. Butler, C.S. Carver, D.L. Cox, P.J. Curtis, R. Davies, A. Davies-Cooke, A. Diskin, G.D. Diskin, R. Dolphin, I. Dunbar, B. Dunn, C.A. Ellis, D. Evans, J.E. Falshaw, V. Gay, 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, H.T. Isherwood, J. Johnson, C.M. Jones, R.B. Jones, R.K. Jones, S. Jones, C. Legg, B. Lloyd, R. Lloyd, M. Lowe, R.P. Macfarlane, D.I. Mackie, N.M. Matthews, H.J. McGuill, W. Mullin, T. Newhouse, M.J. Peers, N. Phillips, M.A. Reece, H.G. Roberts, I.B. Roberts, L.A. Sharps, A.P. Shotton, P. Shotton, I.R. Smith, N.R. Steele-Mortimer, C.A. Thomas, W.O. Thomas, S. Williams, D.E. Wisinger and A. Woolley

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: C.J. Dolphin, E.F. Evans, R. Johnson, P. Lightfoot, D.T. Williams and M.G. Wright

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Director of Environment, Head of Finance, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Corporate Finance Manager, Finance Officers and Committee Officers

132. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

133. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D. Hutchinson declared a personal interest in section 2.1.5 of page 68 of agenda item 9 Council Fund Revenue Budget 2013/14 because of his business.

Councillor R.B. Jones declared a personal interest in agenda item number 9 Council Fund Revenue Budget 2013/14 because of his wife's business.

Councillor D. Butler declared a personal interest in the additional agenda item on the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) Service Review as his wife was employed by BCUHB.

Councillor H.J. McGuill also declared an interest in the additional agenda item on the BCUHB Service Review as she was a member of the Community Health Council.

134. URGENT ADDITIONAL ITEM – BETSI CADWALADR UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD SERVICE REVIEW

The Chair indicated that she had agreed to the consideration of an urgent additional item on Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board Service Review.

The Chief Executive explained that the Community Health Council (CHC) were statutory consultees and that the deadline for their response was 1 March 2013. He provided details of the grounds upon which the CHC could object and explained that he had been in contact with the CHC to express the concerns raised by the Council of the decision by BCUHB to withdraw local community services before the closing date had passed and before the CHC had made any submission to the Minister.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor A.P. Shotton thanked the Chief Executive for the verbal update on the consultation on changes to health services in North Wales. He said that much seemed to have happened before the CHC had had the opportunity to provide the public with their views and recommendations on the consultation. He spoke of the commentary on the changes which had been provided by the medical profession and the divided views of the clinicians and health professionals. Three surgeries in Flint were supporting the new Hub in Holywell whilst further to the West there was a totally different opinion being expressed in regard to the proposals. He commended the actions of Flint Town Councillors, County Councillors and the Community in Flint in the manner they had evidenced their views on the proposals. Councillor Shotton explained that no patients were occupying any of the wards in Flint Hospital as referrals ceased some time ago and front line and ancillary staff had either been transferred to other establishments or were being notified of changes to their work place.

He said that decisions had been taken by BCUHB ahead of due process and queried why BCUHB had failed in their duty to inform, explaining that Flint Town Councillors had been updating themselves of the changing position via the local media in the absence of any clear reporting lines from BCUHB. He felt that this was unacceptable as they had a right to be informed, especially when the impact of these changes would have a profound effect on their community. He also referred to guidance provided by the Minister.

Councillor Shotton, the Leader of the Council, moved the following proposal which he said had not been taken lightly or on the basis of political advantage or expediency:-

“The Council had lost confidence in the way in which BCUHB had conducted its service reviews and was making service changes to local community services as a result. The withdrawal of local community services without a clear transition plan, and before the CHC had made its submission to the Minister on the reviews as the statutory consultee representing the interests of patients, was both premature and unsafe. He therefore submitted a resolution

of no confidence in the proposals made upon the effected communities such as Flint by BCUHB. He added that the Council called on the Minister to direct the Board to reinstate the local community services which had been changed or withdrawn in Flintshire by the Health Board prematurely. The Minister needed to have decided whether changes were to take place once the CHC had made its submission, and before any action was taken, and had to be assured of the safety of any transition plan before it was actioned.”.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor C.M. Jones, Cabinet Member for Social Services. She said that she fully supported what the Leader of the Council had said and that the changes did not reflect public opinion. The opinion of the CHC was key in the review but it appeared that the view of Flintshire residents was not being considered. Councillor Jones said that Councillor C.A. Ellis had resigned from the CHC and that she had also submitted her resignation.

Councillor Ellis said that the decisions of BCUHB had not been thought through and that she had been told that patients being treated at Deeside Hospital were from outside Flintshire. She supported the proposal to revisit the services which had been withdrawn but asked that the proposal be extended to include CHC in the no confidence motion.

Councillor A. Aldridge thanked the Leader of the Council for his comments. He referred to correspondence to Flint Town Council and referred to the Ministerial guidance which said that the CHC must be informed of the changes by the Health Board. He added that changes could be put in place if there was a risk to patients or staff but that this had not been the case at Flint Hospital as it had been performing well. He expressed his concern at the changes being put in place before the consultation period was over and before the CHC had made its submission.

Councillor H.J. McGuill thanked Councillor Ellis for her contribution to the CHC and spoke of the work that they had undertaken together. She commented on the concern raised at the actions of BCUHB before the consultation period had been finalised and reminded Members that the Minister had the power to call in the decision. She felt that a letter should be sent to the Minister to advise her of the Members’ disgust at the way the residents of Flintshire had been treated and that BCUHB had not taken any notice of what residents wanted. The Chief Executive confirmed that a letter would be sent to the Minister and BCUHB following the meeting.

Councillor I.B. Roberts spoke of the process of the service review and those residents in Flint and Mold who had joined protest marches to show their concern. The residents of Flint felt let down by BCUHB and in his opinion, the review had been a re-hash of the previous health board’s proposals. He referred to an article in a local newspaper which said that GP surgeries had been advised not to send patients to Accident & Emergency (A&E) unless it was unavoidable. Councillor Roberts felt that this was because of the reduction of 60 beds from the service without adequate provision for a replacement and he also commented on ambulances which

had to queue outside A&E departments due to a lack of beds which he said was as a result of the actions of BCUHB. He congratulated Councillor Ellis for her actions in resigning from the CHC and spoke of the implications of the review on residents of Flintshire. He supported the Leader on his proposal and urged the Council to speak with one voice for the people of Flintshire and concurred with the comment of Councillor Aldridge that there had never been an issue of safety at Flint Hospital.

In response to a query from Councillor A.M. Halford, the Chief Executive said that the proposal had been that the Minister be advised of the concerns raised so that she could then decide whether to intervene.

Councillor H. Isherwood felt that the residents of Flintshire had been let down by the actions of BCUHB. Councillor M.J. Peers said that it was evident that the proposals had been railroaded through by BCUHB. He referred to the proposals for the health centre in Buckley and said that the Minister had also had to intervene in that decision to unblock the delays. The consultation had been sporadic or non-existent and BCUHB were not listening to the Flint Town Councillors or the County Council; he believed that the decision should be called in.

Councillor R.J.T. Guest said that the CHC had not yet deliberated or made up its mind. He referred to the support given on the proposals for Mold Hospital and said that this was an opportunity to show unity.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Shotton read out his proposal again and the Chief Executive reminded Members of the additional suggestions that the motion include references to the CHC, and that the Minister be asked to call in the decision of BCUHB.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That a motion be adopted as set out by the Leader in his statement with amendments to reflect the discussion by Council; and
- (b) That the Council calls on the Minister to direct Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to reinstate the local community services which had been changed or withdrawn in Flintshire by the Health Board prematurely. The Minister needs to have decided whether changes are to take place once the Community Health Council has made its submission, and before any action is taken, and has to be assured of the safety of any transition plan before it is actioned.

135. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Flintshire County Council held on 29 January, 2013 had been circulated with the agenda.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised that an amendment to paragraph 106 had been circulated to Members.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the suggested amendment, the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

136. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

A copy of the Chair's communication had been circulated to all Members before the meeting.

137. PETITIONS

No petitions were submitted.

138. NOTICES OF MOTION

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

139. QUESTIONS

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

140. COUNCIL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2013/14

The Chief Executive and Head of Finance jointly presented a report which provided Members with the recommendations of the Cabinet for the Council Fund Revenue Budget 2013/14.

Prior to the presentation the Chief Executive and Head of Finance expressed their thanks to the Finance and other staff across the Council who had been involved in the preparation of the budget and for the valuable input from the Overview & Scrutiny committees.

The Council was informed that at its meeting on 19 February 2013, Cabinet had considered a joint report from the Chief Executive and Head of Finance on the Council Fund Revenue Budget 2013/14 which was attached at Appendix A to the report. The initial budget proposals considered by Cabinet on 18 December 2012 had been referred to Overview and Scrutiny for consideration. A summary of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees' observations and questions, together with responses, was included in the Appendix of the 19 February 2013 Cabinet report.

The Chief Executive and Head of Finance gave a joint presentation and commented upon the following areas:-

- Budget Overview
- Budget Strategy
- Overview & Scrutiny Considerations

- Achieving a Balanced Budget
- Final Budget Proposals
- Estimates & Reserves
- 2014/15 and the Medium Term

Councillor A.P. Shotton, Leader of the Council expressed his thanks on behalf of the Cabinet Members for the work undertaken on the budget. He referred to the unprecedented cuts to jobs which were being made by English Councils and took pride in the shared decisions of the Council to protect services and jobs which he felt should be applauded. At the Overview and Scrutiny budget meetings, he had referred to the budget as a “stepping stone” budget and he explained that this was because of the difficult challenges ahead which would require brave decisions in the future. He spoke of the invitation which he had extended to the Chairman of Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor R.B. Jones, to provide input into developing a Value for Money programme for the Council. He indicated that he was submitting an amendment to the recommendations to Council as set out in the agenda papers and circulated copies of his proposals. He was recommending that the budget be approved as set out in the report subject to the re-allocation of £420,000 from the Invest-to-Save funds for the following areas:-

- Car Parking Charging and Civil Parking Enforcement - £185,000
- Welfare Reform – Discretionary Housing Payments - £135,000
- Youth Service - £50,000
- Community Covenant with the Armed Forces - £25,000
- Flintshire Connects - £25,000

He detailed his proposals and commended the budget to Council; the proposals were duly seconded.

Councillor P.G. Heesom spoke in support of the budget and explained that the budget setting had been difficult this year but that it would be worse in the next few years. He referred to the budget strategy which had been developed within the context of the Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Councillor C.A. Ellis thanked the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council for listening to the residents of Buckley over car parking charges and the provision of a Flintshire Connects centre.

Councillor R.J.T. Guest felt that the last minute changes to the budget were unprecedented as the Administration had had ten months to prepare. He gave notice of an amendment and asked for a short adjournment to allow Members to consider the proposals. On being put to the vote, the proposal to adjourn was lost. Councillor Guest explained that his amendment was to include four additional points to the recommendation to use the additional income to be derived from the anticipated collection fund surplus for Council Tax as reported for the following areas:-

- Playschemes - £105,000

- Public toilets at Caerwys and Cilcain - £15,000
- Swimming subsidy - £23,000
- Support of the Genesis Project for 2013/14 - £95,000

He detailed the proposals for Members which were duly seconded.

The Head of Finance clarified that the proposals from Councillor Guest would be utilising the anticipated in-year surplus of £0.750m which would be available if a collection rate of 98.5% was achieved for Council Tax. She commented on the changes made to continue to provide 100% support to those affected by the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2013/14 and the impact of this on assumed collection rates for 2013/14. She said that it was important to say that it was not a guaranteed income and included an element of risk and relied on the collection of Council Tax to the rate reported.

On the proposal to support the Genesis Project for 2013/14, the Chief Executive detailed its background and said that the funding for the project was complicated but that the scheme was fully funded for 2013/14 unless Welsh Government chose to withdraw its funding support.

Councillor M.J. Peers commented on the amendment from Councillor Guest which he felt fitted in with the priorities of the Council. He said that the playschemes were valued by parents and children in all communities and was part of priority 9 along with the request for funding for a swimming subsidy. He felt that the amendment to enable the public toilets in Caerwys and Cilcain to remain open complied with priorities 4 and 9 and he referred to the discussion which had taken place at Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the issue. He supported the amendment as he said that it was for small amounts but affected a large number of people in the County and would allow for tourism in the area.

Councillor L.A. Sharps welcomed the budget and highlighted the proposals by Councillor A.P. Shotton, the Leader of the Council, in particular the changes to car park charging which he felt would help regenerate town centres. He raised concern about the budget setting for 2014/15 which he felt would be difficult and also on the cost of Single Status and maintenance of the Flintshire Bridge. He was also concerned about the lack of progress on the regeneration of Buckley Town Centre and the Deeside Enterprise Zone.

Councillor H.D. Hutchinson thanked the Leader and welcomed the proposals by the Leader and highlighted the car park proposals and the Flintshire Connects scheme in Buckley.

Councillor J. Falshaw spoke in support of the amendment by Councillor Guest and raised concern about the closure of the public toilets in Caerwys and Cilcain. He explained that the cost of keeping them open was £9,318 which was significantly more than could be raised through the precept set by Caerwys Town Council or Cilcain Community Council. He said that the provision of public toilets was shown in Flintshire County Council publications about tourism and referred to the numerous rights of way in the Area of

Outstanding Natural Beauty. Councillor W.O. Thomas referred to discussions which were due to take place with the local Members to try to identify a solution to funding the maintenance of the public toilets. Councillor A.M. Halford said that providing public toilets was a health and community service.

Councillor R.B. Jones referred to the Genesis Project which he said was a front line service based in Buckley which had provided help for children and families. He said that it had saved the Council £4m in six years because it had been funded by Welsh Government but added that this would end in June. Councillor C.A. Thomas sought clarification on the anticipated income from collection of Council Tax. The Head of Finance reiterated her earlier comments that on a collection rate of 98.5%, there would be an in-year surplus of £0.750m but that to use this anticipated income to fund other projects had an element of risk. This varied to the substantive proposal put forward by the Leader of the Council as this was for the allocation of £0.420m which was already included within the budget for Invest to Save initiatives. In response to a query from Councillor Jones, the Head of Finance said that the collection rate for the previous two years had been 99%.

A recorded vote was requested and supported by the requisite ten Members. On being put to the vote, the amendment by Councillor Guest was lost by 39 votes against the proposal and 22 votes for, with 1 abstention. The voting being as follows:-

FOR – THE PROPOSAL BY COUNCILLOR GUEST

Councillors: A. Bragg, C.S. Carver, A. Davies-Cooke, R. Dolphin, B. Dunn, J. Falshaw, V. Gay, R.J.T. Guest, A.M. Halford, H.D. Hutchinson, H. Isherwood, R.B. Jones, R. Lloyd, D.I. Mackie, N.M. Matthews, H.J. McGuill, M.J. Peers, N. Phillips, H.G. Roberts, N.R. Steele-Mortimer, W.O. Thomas and A. Woolley

AGAINST – THE PROPOSAL BY COUNCILLOR GUEST

Councillors: A. Aldridge, J.B. Attridge, G. Banks, G.H. Bateman, M. Bateman, R.C. Bithell, H. Brown, D. Butler, D. Cox, P.J. Curtis, R. Davies, A. Diskin, G. Diskin, A.I. Dunbar, C.A. Ellis, R.G. Hampson, G. Hardcastle, P.G. Heesom, C. Hinds, H.T. Howorth, R. Hughes, J. Johnson, C.M. Jones, K. Jones, S. Jones, B. Lloyd, M. Lowe, R.P. Macfarlane, A. Minshull, W. Mullin, T. Newhouse, M. Reece, I.B. Roberts, L.A. Sharps, A.P. Shotton, P. Shotton, I.R. Smith, S. Williams and D.E. Wisinger

ABSTAINED FROM VOTING

Councillor C.A. Thomas

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services explained that the debate would now be on the substantive proposal put forward by Councillor A.P. Shotton, the Leader of the Council.

Councillor P.J. Curtis thanked the Leader for the proposals to remove car parking charges for Holywell. On the issue of public toilets, he said that he understood from the Head of Streetscene that the issue was to be submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet for consideration.

Councillor H.G. Roberts thanked the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and officers for their work in preparing the budget. He commented on the need to spend up to the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) to ensure that Flintshire was not penalised for this by the Welsh Government (WG) in future years. He proposed that the Council Tax increase be set at 4%. This amendment was not seconded.

Councillor Guest raised concern at a budget which was agreed by Cabinet on 19 February 2013 and then alternative proposals submitted to this meeting. He said that the reduction to 97.5% collection rate for Council Tax was to take account of changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme which had been resolved for 2013/14 with funding from WG. He felt that there would be some surplus as a result of Council Tax being collected at a rate above 97.5% and asked how this would be accounted for. Councillor Jones concurred and asked questions on the Invest to save proposals, the reduced energy income generation from Landfill Sites and whether the figure for targeted inflation incorporated two figures; the Chief Executive, Head of Finance and Corporate Finance Manager provided full responses to the questions.

A recorded vote was requested and supported by the requisite ten Members. On being put to the vote, the amendment by Councillor Shotton, Leader of the Council was carried by 45 votes for the proposal and 12 votes against, with four abstentions. The voting being as follows:-

FOR – THE PROPOSAL BY COUNCILLOR SHOTTON

Councillors: A. Aldridge, J.B. Attridge, G. Banks, G.H. Bateman, M. Bateman, R.C. Bithell, H. Brown, D. Butler, D. Cox, P.J. Curtis, R. Davies, A. Diskin, G. Diskin, A.I. Dunbar, C.A. Ellis, V. Gay, R.G. Hampson, G. Hardcastle, P.G. Heesom, C. Hinds, H.T. Howorth, R. Hughes, H.D. Hutchinson, J. Johnson, C.M. Jones, K. Jones, S. Jones, B. Lloyd, R. Lloyd, M. Lowe, R.P. Macfarlane, D.I. Mackie, A. Minshull, W. Mullin, T. Newhouse, M.J. Peers, M. Reece, I.B. Roberts, L.A. Sharps, A.P. Shotton, P. Shotton, I.R. Smith, C.A. Thomas, S. Williams and D.E. Wisinger

AGAINST – THE PROPOSAL BY COUNCILLOR SHOTTON

Councillors: A. Bragg, C.S. Carver, A. Davies-Cooke, J. Falshaw, R.J.T. Guest, A.M. Halford, H. Isherwood, R.B. Jones, N.M. Matthews, N. Phillips, N.R. Steele-Mortimer and W.O. Thomas

ABSTAINED FROM VOTING

Councillor: C. Legg, H.J. McGuill, H.G. Roberts and A. Woolley

RESOLVED:

That the County Council approve the recommendation of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 19 February 2013 as set out in Section 8 of the Cabinet report attached to the Council report subject to an amendment to recommendation 8.01.8 to include £3.155m of pressures in the budget (from £3.261m as per the report), and 8.01.11 to include efficiencies of £5.331m in the budget (from £5.437m as per the report) and to include an additional recommendation (8.01.14) that the appendices included in the report be amended to reflect the changes approved on the re-allocation of £420,000 from the Invest-to-Save funds for:-

- (i) Car Park Charging and Car Park Enforcement - £185,000
- (ii) Welfare Reform – Discretionary Housing Payments - £135,000
- (iii) Youth Service - £50,000
- (iv) Community Covenant with the Armed Forces - £25,000
- (v) Flintshire Connects - £25,000

141. COUNCIL TAX SETTING FOR 2013-14

The Council received the report which requested the Council to agree the statutory and other necessary resolutions for the purpose of administering Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates for 2013-14.

RESOLVED:

That the resolutions within Appendix A of the report be approved.

142. COUNCIL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013/14 – 2022/23

The Chief Executive and Head of Finance jointly presented a report which provided Members with the recommendations of the Cabinet for the Council Fund Capital Programme 2013/14 to 2022/23.

The Chief Executive and Head of Finance gave a joint presentation and commented upon the following areas:-

- Member consideration of capital
- Local and national context
- Key issues from Scrutiny
- 2013/14 Programme (All funding)
- Indicative General Funding (post final settlement)
- Summary

Councillor A.P. Shotton, the Leader of the Council submitted amended recommendations to those detailed in the report and an amended appendix 2 which supported the amendment and which included alternative proposals for Renewable Energy Installations, School Buildings Repairs and Maintenance, ICT infrastructure, capital receipts and unallocated – (Headroom))/Under Financing. The proposals were seconded.

Councillor A.M. Halford queried the value of the key site land which had been sold and how it impacted on the budget. The Chief Executive explained that he was unable to provide the information requested in a public meeting as it was commercially sensitive and negotiations with a third party were in final stages.

In response to a query from Councillor P.G. Heesom on whether the provision of £0.025m for Clwyd Theatr Cymru was in addition to the £1m it already received, the Chief Executive explained that the £0.025m was an allocation for capital funding for repairs, whereas the £1m was the annual revenue support.

Councillor R.J.T. Guest put forward an amendment to the proposals which was circulated to Members. His proposal was to (1) increase the sum allocated for School Buildings Maintenance and Repair by £0.205m and decrease the sum allocated for Renewable Energy Installations from £0.350m by £0.100m and decreasing the sum allocated for ICT Infrastructure from £0.200m by £0.105m, (2) that the provision in Clause 4.1 of the report to limit capital spend on core allocations to 80% of the amount shown, pending certainty on capital receipts, should not apply to Schools Building Repairs and Maintenance. He raised concern at the late changes put forward by the Leader which almost mirrored the proposals he was suggesting. He felt that the issue of school maintenance would receive support across the chamber. The amended proposals were also seconded.

In summing up, Councillor Shotton, the Leader of the Council, raised concern at the suggestion to ring fence the area of School repairs and maintenance and asked Members to vote against the amendment put forward by Councillor Guest.

A recorded vote was requested and supported by the requisite ten Members. On being put to the vote, the amendment by Councillor Guest was lost by 37 votes against the proposal and 18 votes for, with no abstentions. The voting being as follows:-

FOR – THE PROPOSAL BY COUNCILLOR GUEST

Councillors: A. Bragg, C.S. Carver, A. Davies-Cooke, J. Falshaw, V. Gay, R.J.T. Guest, A.M. Halford, H. Isherwood, R.B. Jones, D.I. Mackie, N.M. Matthews, H.J. McGuill, M.J. Peers, N. Phillips, H.G. Roberts, N.R. Steele-Mortimer, W.O. Thomas and A. Woolley

AGAINST – THE PROPOSAL BY COUNCILLOR GUEST

Councillors: A. Aldridge, J.B. Attridge, G. Banks, G.H. Bateman, M. Bateman, R.C. Bithell, H. Brown, D. Butler, D. Cox, P.J. Curtis, R. Davies, A.I. Dunbar, C.A. Ellis, R.G. Hampson, G. Hardcastle, P.G. Heesom, C. Hinds, R. Hughes, J. Johnson, C.M. Jones, K. Jones, S. Jones, C. Legg, R. Lloyd, M. Lowe, R.P. Macfarlane, A. Minshull, W.

Mullin, T. Newhouse, I.B. Roberts, L.A. Sharps, A.P. Shotton, P. Shotton, I.R. Smith, C.A. Thomas, S. Williams and D.E. Wisinger

A vote was then taken on substantive motion which was the proposal from Councillor Shotton, the Leader of the Council and was carried.

Councillor A. Aldridge commented on the capital funding for the coastal protection works in Flint and asked whether any additional grants were expected. He said that the coastal erosion was significant and thanked Councillor L.A. Sharps for his work on the issue. Councillor P.G. Heesom, on behalf of the local Member Councillor R. Johnson, welcomed the concern shown by Councillor Aldridge on the flood risk area.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the County Council approve the recommendations of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 19 February 2013 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet attached to the Council report subject to the amended Appendix 2 of Appendix 'A' for 2013/14; and
- (ii) That an additional recommendation be included that Cabinet periodically reviews the confirmation of capital receipts from the disposal of the assets, and authorises expenditure over 80% and up to 100% of the revised service allocations within the Capital Programme, in-year, according to confirmed capital availability.

143. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY & STRATEGY STATEMENT 2013/14

The Council received the report of the Head of Finance which presented to Council the recommendations of the Cabinet on the Treasury Management Policy & Strategy Statement 2013/14.

Councillor J.B. Attridge, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment proposed the acceptance of the recommendations as outlined within the report. This was seconded by Councillor R.K. Jones.

RESOLVED:

That the Council's Treasury Management Strategy 2013/14 in conjunction with Treasury Management Policy Statement 2013-2016 and Treasury Management Practices 2013-16 be approved.

144. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2013/14 – 2015/16

The Council received the report of the Head of Finance which presented to Council the recommendations of the Cabinet in relation to the setting of a range of prudential indicators.

Councillor J.B. Attridge, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment proposed the acceptance of the recommendations as outlined within the report. This was seconded by Councillor R.K. Jones.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the prudential indicators as detailed in Section 3 of the Cabinet report dated 19 February 2013 be approved; and
- (b) That delegated authority be given for the Head of Finance to effect movements between the separately agreed limits within the authorised limit for external debt and the operational boundary for external debt (section 3.11 and 3.12 of the Cabinet report dated 19 February 2013).

145. MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION 2013/14

The Council received the report of the Head of Finance which presented to Council the recommendations of the Cabinet in relation to the setting of a prudent minimum revenue provision for the repayment of debt.

Councillor J.B. Attridge, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment proposed the acceptance of the recommendations as outlined within the report. This was seconded by Councillor R.K. Jones.

RESOLVED:

That the Council accept the recommendations of the Cabinet, being that:-

- (1) Option 1 (Regulatory Method) be used for the calculation of the minimum revenue provision in 2013/14 for all supported borrowing.
- (2) Option 3 (Asset Life Method) be used for the calculation of the minimum revenue provision in 2013/14 for all unsupported (prudential) borrowing.

146. PAY POLICY STATEMENT

The Council received a report of the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development which sought approval on the Council's Pay Policy Statement, to be effective from 1 April 2013.

Councillor J.B. Attridge, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment proposed the acceptance of the recommendations as outlined within the report. This was seconded by Councillor R.K. Jones.

RESOLVED:

That the Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14 be accepted.

147. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. and ended at 5.01 p.m.

148. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were two members of the press in attendance.

.....
Chair

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE: TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2013

REPORT BY: MONITORING OFFICER

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENTS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.00 To make appointments to fill existing and forthcoming independent member vacancies on the Standards Committee.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The vacancy for independent members on the Standards Committee was advertised in two local newspapers. 31 requests for information packs were received and 13 completed applications were returned.

2.02 The Appointments Panel considered all applicants on the basis of the following published criteria:

- Be of good character and integrity
- Listening skills
- Ability to understand and weigh up evidence
- Ability to come to an objective view and explain that view by reference to the evidence
- Team working skills
- Respect for others and an understanding of diverse issues
- Be discrete
- Not actively participate in local or national politics
- Not have had significant previous disputes with the Authority
- Not have a close relationship with any member/officer of the Authority

2.03 The Appointments Panel consisted of the Chair of the Council, the current Acting Chair of the Standards Committee and a "lay member", with advice from the Monitoring Officer. The lay member is a person who is not a councillor or co-opted member and must be part of the panel under the relevant regulations. The lay member must be selected using open recruitment. We used Wrexham County Borough Council's lay member who had been through the necessary selection process.

- 2.04 One post on the Committee became vacant in December 2012. A second post fell vacant in February and a third post will become vacant in November. If sufficient numbers of suitable applicants become available then it would be the intention of the Council to appoint one member for 4 years, one for 5 and one for 6 years.

A fourth vacancy has become available. An independent member wishes to stand down due to an increased level of demand from another public body of which he is a member, which is making it difficult for him to attend meetings of this Committee.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 There are three vacant posts with effect from May 2013 and the fourth post will become vacant from December 2013. The maximum term of appointment is up to 6 years. So that the positions do not all fall vacant at once it might be better to stagger the terms of office at 4, 5 and 6 years.

- 3.02 I have contacted each of the candidates and understandably their preference is all to start in May. Notwithstanding this, one will have to start in December. Only Mr Molyneux has expressed a preference in respect of term of office, choosing 5 years. I would therefore recommend that the two candidates scoring most highly at interview are appointed for 6 years and that the terms of office and start dates should be as set out below.

<u>Candidates</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>
Mr Robert Arnold Dewey	May	4 years
Mrs Phillipa Ann Earlam	May	6 years
Mr Edward Michael Hughes	May	6 years
Mr Kenneth Harry Molyneux	December	5 years

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That the County Council appoints four persons as independent members with the start dates and terms of office as shown below.

<u>Candidates</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>
Mr Robert Arnold Dewey	May	4 years
Mrs Phillipa Ann Earlam	May	6 years
Mr Edward Michael Hughes	May	6 years
Mr Kenneth Harry Molyneux	December	5 years

- 4.02 That the retiring members be thanked for their invaluable service on the Standards Committee.

- 4.03 That the lay member be thanked for his involvement in recruiting the

new members.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 The candidates recommended for appointment will be given induction training.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 All Group Leaders have been consulted.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None

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

None

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE: TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2013

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY REGISTER OF MEMBERSHIP OF ORGANISATIONS

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To discontinue the locally adopted requirement to voluntarily register membership of any organisation not open to the public without formal membership.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 Prior to the Local Government Act 2000 Councils were free to adopt their own codes of conduct. Flintshire County Council looked into this matter and resolved, amongst other things, as follows:-

- a) That the Council pursues the introduction of a Flintshire Code of Guidance for members;
- b) That the Council introduce a voluntary register for Members to disclose any membership of freemasonry or of any organisation not open to the public without formal membership and commitment of allegiance and which has secrecy about rules on membership or conduct; and
- c) That a small working group of Members politically balanced comprising 8 Members (5 Labour, 2 Alliance and one Liberal Democrat), be constituted to pursue the preparation of a draft Flintshire Code of Guidance for Members and report back to the committee with recommendations.

2.02 Since that time, of course, a statutory code of conduct has been introduced. Within the provisions of that code there is a requirement to register membership of charitable organisations and other bodies. However, the County Council has never formally discontinued the old register and it has come to my attention that some Councillors are still registering their membership of groups such as the Masons.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The Council therefore has two requirements to register. The statutory code of conduct is clearly well publicised and compliance with it is mandatory with a statutorily imposed enforcement regime. The local

register is voluntary and its existence is not well known.

3.02 The statutory code requires membership or holding a position of general control or management in the following organisations to be registered:-

- A charity or body directed to charitable purposes.
- A body whose principle purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy.
- A private club society or a association operating within your authority's area.

3.03 This is very likely to cover membership of organisations such as the Masons and maybe seen as covering all of the bodies there were intended to be covered by the voluntary register. I would therefore recommend that we discontinue the voluntary register.

3.04 In order to clarify for members that the statutory register does cover membership of bodies such as the Masons or any other similar organisation then I would suggest just circulating an advice note to that effect.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That the voluntary register set up in 1997 be discontinued.

4.02 That Council approve the recommendation of the Standards Committee made at its meeting on 8 April 2013 to discontinue the locally adopted requirement to voluntarily register membership of any organisation not open to the public without formal membership.

4.03 That the Monitoring Officer issue an advice note about what is covered by the requirement in the statutory code with respect to registration of membership of societies and bodies.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None as a result of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Standards Committee

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None

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

None

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE: TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2013
REPORT BY: HEAD OF FINANCE
SUBJECT: CLWYD PENSION FUND UPDATE

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To update Members on issues relating to the Clwyd Pension Fund (“the Fund”).

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 As set out in previous reports to Council, the Clwyd Pension Fund is a defined benefit final salary scheme under which the benefits are specified in the governing legislation (the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations). The required levels of employee contributions are also specified in the Regulations. Employer contributions are determined in accordance with the Regulations which require that an actuarial valuation is completed every three years.

2.02 The Fund is administered by Flintshire County Council on a “lead authority” basis. Flintshire County Council is a member of the Fund along with Wrexham County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council and a range of other scheduled and admitted bodies.

2.03 Pension Fund matters are a Council rather than Executive function. Authority to manage the Clwyd Pension Fund is delegated to the Head of Finance who is Treasurer and Administrator to the Fund. The Clwyd Pension Fund Panel, made up of elected Members from Flintshire, Wrexham and Denbighshire, is an advisory body on pension fund issues. The Panel also has a Staff/Union Observer nominated by Trade Unions and is advised by an Independent Adviser/Consultant.

2.04 The Pension Fund Panel holds quarterly meetings, the minutes of which are available from the Contact Officer. The Council is updated twice a year and the previous update was to Special County Council on 25th September 2012. This report covers the items discussed at the 14th November 2012 Panel, 21st February 2013 Panel and a Special Panel Meeting on 15th March 2013 (see para. 3.07 below).

The Panel members and substitutes are:-

Panel Member	Position/Authority	Substitute
Cllr. Alan Diskin	Chair	Cllr. Ron Hampson
Cllr. Hadyn Bateman	Vice Chair	Cllr. Brian Dunn
Cllr. Ted Evans	Flintshire CC	Cllr. Brian Dunn
Cllr. Huw Ll. Jones	Denbighshire CC	Cllr. Julian Thompson-Hill
Cllr. Steve Wilson	Wrexham CBC	Cllr. Dana Davies

NB: Cllr. Hadyn Bateman is Chair in the absence of Cllr. Alan Diskin.

3.00 UPDATE

LGPS 2014

- 3.01 Following general support from both membership and employers for the new Career Average Re-valued Earnings (CARE) Scheme statutory consultation commenced in January 2013 on the new benefit regulations. The views of the All Wales Pension Officer Group were included in a response to the consultation by the Local Government Association. The consultation closed on 8th February 2013 and the UK Government remain on target to implement the new scheme from 1st April 2014.
- 3.02 There is an outstanding work stream of LGPS 2014 which is considering cost management and governance. Consultation on this is expected in April.
- 3.03 An additional consultation is also expected on the future of the Councillors' Pension Scheme. Timescales for this are not yet known.

WELSH PENSION FUND COLLABORATION

- 3.04 As previously reported, The Society of Welsh Treasurers (Pensions Sub-Group) has commissioned work to look at collaboration opportunities across the eight Funds in Wales. The project features in the COMPACT on collaboration in Wales following the Simpson Review.
- 3.05 An interim report Welsh Local Government Pension Funds Working Together was issued for consultation to all relevant stakeholders (including the eight Welsh Pension Funds and Employing Bodies) from 1st March 2013 to 31st March 2013.
- 3.06 The intention of The Society of Welsh Treasurers (Pensions Sub-Group) in issuing an interim report was to consider the view of all stakeholders on this complex matter before finalising the report and a further meeting of the group is planned during April 2013.

3.07 The key recommendations taken from the interim report are:-

1. *The “as is” or no change option is not supported. The pension’s environment requires a more pro-active approach to managing service standards and costs within the LGPS within Wales.*
2. *Enhanced collaboration is seen as the area where medium term savings can be optimised. This is the option where the balance of service delivery and efficiency, cost of change, time and resource can be blended in the most effective way and should be pursued further.*
3. *To create a Full Business Case for a common investment approach to encompass the common attributes that appear to benefit larger funds with the aim of implementation thereafter.*
4. *To create an appropriate and responsive governance structure to drive and manage future collaboration initiatives within Wales which will:*
 - (a) *explore the potential in the longer term for consistent Valuation and funding assumptions and standards.*
 - (b) *develop minimum administrative service standards for Wales and an agreed measurement framework.*
 - (c) *take advantage of joint procurement initiatives to help consistency and efficiencies.*
5. The prospect of merger to regional funds or a single Welsh Fund is both complex and the transition would be costly with long lead-in time and a loss of local autonomy. Changing funding strategies could also have a destabilising effect with a loss of local accountability. Whilst this may merit additional investigation in the future, it is not recommended for further work at this time, especially where it is believed that the most significant gains can be realised through greater collaboration and, specifically a common investment approach.

3.08 To assist with considering a response, the Clwyd Pension Panel received opinion on the report, and how it applies specifically to the Clwyd Pension Fund, from the Fund’s Actuary and Independent Adviser/Consultant, at a special meeting on 15th March 2013.

3.09 The summary response of the Panel is as set out below:-

- The Clwyd Pension Fund Panel agrees with the main conclusion of the report in terms of not pursuing options for merger but working together.
- However, the Panel does not believe that there is sufficient evidence in the report to support a full business case for a common investment approach at this stage or understand what is meant by a 'common investment approach'. It is advocated that in order to move matters forward, an interim step is taken before moving to a business case, setting out details of what joint arrangements are proposed and how they might work.
- Similarly, the Panel is unclear on the need for introducing a new governance structure when existing structures can be used. Clearly, the outcomes from LGPS 2014 in governance and administration will be key before taking this further.

3.10 For information, the response from Flintshire County Council as an employer within the Fund, supported that of the Panel.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

3.11 As required by LGPS Investment Regulations, investments are monitored quarterly and performance reported in detail to each Clwyd Pension Fund Panel. The report of 21st February 2013 highlighted a market value as at 31st December 2012 of £1.1bn (£1.04bn, as at 31st December 2011) and a funding level of 64% (59% as at December 2011). The Clwyd Pension Fund Panel receive presentations from the four largest fund managers each quarter and investment performance statistics from all the fund managers. There are no changes planned to fund managers as a result of performance.

3.12 The Wales Audit Office (WAO) presented the outcome of the 2011/12 external audit of the Pension Fund accounts in the November 2012 Panel. As reported to Council on 25th September 2012, the Fund received an unqualified audit opinion. The WAO had no concerns about the qualitative aspects of the Fund's accounting practice and reporting. The working papers provided were of good quality incorporating all the information required to audit the Statement of Accounts.

3.13 As a result of a number of future changes to the scheme and the continuing weak economic environment the Fund asked the actuary to undertake a Funding Review. The results were presented to all employers at the Annual Joint Consultative Meeting (AJCM) on 14th November 2012, and considered the possibility of increased employer contributions from 2014/15, unless the financial environment improved. As part of the 2013 Valuation process, work will be

undertaken with the actuary, in consultation with employers, on potential options to stabilise employer contributions for the three years starting from 2014/15.

NEW INVESTMENT UPDATE

3.14 In line with the Fund's Medium Term Plan and previously agreed priorities:-

- Two £5m commitments have been made to the agriculture sector via GMO Farmland Optimisation Fund and Insight Global Farmland Fund. Due diligence had been undertaken on five short-listed managers.
- After research of the shipping sector and appropriate due diligence of the funds including a presentation to the Clwyd Pension Fund Panel, £5m was invested in a shipping fund managed by Marine Capital Ltd.
- Following satisfaction with current investments, follow on investments have been made in Ludgate Environmental Fund 2 (£6m) and InfraRed Europe Active Property 2 (£5m). Following a presentation to the Clwyd Pension Fund Panel a new property commitment has been made to Threadneedle Low-Carbon Workplace Fund (£5m).

3.15 After consultation which the Fund participated in, the UK Government has agreed to increase the limit that can be invested in Partnership structures from 15% to 30%. This will enable Local Government Pension Funds to invest more in certain asset classes such as infrastructure, property and private equity, similar to those in 3.14 above.

3.16 As previously reported to Council, the Fund is considering a 'Flight-path' solution for managing funding risk by managing some inflation and interest rate risk whilst maximising returns from other assets. A tender notice via the European Journal was issued on 28th December 2012 and due diligence on long listed managers is in progress with contract award likely to be in mid 2013.

OTHER INFORMATION

3.17 A number of other items have been reported to the Clwyd Pension Fund Panel for information or agreement:-

- The success of the Fund in two categories at the IPE 2012 European Pension Fund Awards. The Fund received the award for Best Public Sector Fund in Europe and Best Use of Alternatives.

- Quarterly update on progress with the implementation of the Fund's Sustainability Policy.
- Details of the on-going communication service for employers and members and other aspects of the benefit administration service.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 Members are asked to note the report.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None directly as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None directly as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None directly as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None directly as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None directly as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.00 None directly as a result of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None directly as a result of this report.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Pension Fund Panel Papers

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE: TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2013
REPORT BY: DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE MANAGER
SUBJECT: COMMUNITY REVIEW

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 For Council to recommend to the Cabinet:-
- a) The guiding principles for the proposed community review.
 - b) That the community review be commenced.
 - c) The consultation process for this phase of the review.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The County Council has a duty under the Local Government Act 1972 to keep Town & Community boundaries and electoral arrangements for communities within its area under review. Over a period of time the numbers living in the communities change as a result of factors such as new housing developments. This can lead to anomalies and inconsistencies, not only between differing communities but also within different wards of a single community.
- 2.02 The County Council has not completed a community review of all electoral areas since coming into being. For some time it has been the intention to undertake a review during 2013 and early 2014 to take advantage of the fact that no elections are planned until May 2014 so the Council's elections staff would have the capacity to assist in the community review process.
- 2.03 At its meeting on the 19 February the Council received a report on the proposed community review. That report referred to the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill published on the 29 November 2012 which contains provisions relating to community reviews. The report explained how that could create a potential difficulty if the Council conducted a community review in accordance with the detailed provisions in that Bill and those provisions were amended as part of the parliamentary process. That potential difficulty has been overcome as it has been clarified that community reviews commencing before the Bill receives Royal Assent will be governed by the 1972 legislation.

2.04 At its meeting on the 28 February the County Forum received a report on the proposed community review including a draft timetable showing the various stages of a community review and an indicative timescale for each stage (appendix 1). On the 12 March all Town & Community Councils were written to seeking their views on the draft guiding principles for the review. Those draft guiding principles are attached as appendix 2.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 At the time of preparing this report the responses received from Town or Community Councils to the proposed draft guiding principles are shown on appendix 3. Those guiding principles to a large extent are based on the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972. The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill replicates these provisions but also adds detailed provisions about the process that should be followed in conducting a community review. An update on responses to consultation on the draft principles will be given at the meeting. The Council's views on the draft guiding principles will be reported to the Cabinet meeting on the 23 April 2013.

3.02 Guidance issued by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales indicates that following the launch of a community review the first formal stage is to write to all Town & Community Councils and other potential interested parties with a view to identifying potential changes to the existing community boundaries and electoral arrangements. It also indicates that a public notice announcing the review might be helpful. It suggests that this initial consultation period should be 9 weeks.

3.03 In addition to the proposals in paragraph 3.02 the Council intends to consult with the Police & Crime Commissioner for North Wales and with the Boundary Commission itself. It is also proposed to devote a section of the Council's website to the community review. The Council is keen to engage with each Town & Community Council and as part of this intends to send each a questionnaire on relevant issues for their community. It is also proposed to co-host with individual Town or Community Councils a series of consultation meetings. In addition, officers will be available to deal with any queries.

3.04 All information obtained during the consultation period will then be collated, analysed and considered so that a report with proposals for change or no change can be prepared for consideration by the Council and Cabinet in the autumn.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 The Council recommends to Cabinet:

- a) That the community review be commenced.

- b) That the guiding principles of the review be as in appendix 2 subject to any amendments Council feels appropriate.
- c) That the consultation on the first formal stage be as indicated in paragraphs 3.02 and 3.03.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 Budget provision of £10K for the costs of publicity and consultation.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 The workload arising from the community review can be accommodated within existing resources.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None in advance of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 With Group Leaders and with Town & Community Councils.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 - Draft timetable
Appendix 2 - Draft guiding principles
Appendix 3 - Town or Community Councils responses

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

Community review guidance issued by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales

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APPENDIX 1

Community Review 2013/2014		
Activity	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
Pre-Review Stage		
Draft guiding principles to be sent to Senior County Councillors	CE/PJE	March 2013
Draft guiding principles to be sent to Town/Community Councils for observations and to other interested parties e.g. Boundary Commission and Police & Crime Commissioner	CE/PJE	March 2013
Report of intent and guiding principles to be submitted to County Council/Cabinet for approval	CE/GO/PJE	April 2013
Consultation and Investigation		
Consultation with Town/Community Councils, Boundary Commission and Police & Crime Commissioner. Public notice to be given of the review with consultation end date	SGJ/LP	April/May 2013
Conduct such investigations as considered appropriate	PJE/LP/AR	April/May 2013
All information obtained, collated and analysed	SGJ/LP	June 2013
Prepare a report with proposals for change or no change and details of the review conducted	CE/GO/PJE/ SGJ/LP	July/August 2013
Publish report electronically and invite representations on it. Send copies to Welsh Ministers, Boundary Commission and Town/Community Councils (consultation period to be between 6 and 12 weeks). Make copies of report available at Council offices.	SGJ/LP	September/October 2013
Reporting on Review		
Consider the proposals for change with regard to representations received	CE/GO/PJE/ SGJ/LP	November 2013

<p>Prepare further report. This report to contain changes intended to be made to the electoral arrangements for communities under review and a statement of where no change is appropriate. Details of the review conducted and the consultation carried out and details of any changes to the proposals made in the light of representations, together with an explanation of why those changes have been made.</p>	<p>CE/GO/PJE/ SGJ/LP</p>	<p>December 2013</p>
<p>Publish report electronically and make available for at least six weeks at its offices. Send copies to Town/Community Councils, Ordinance Survey and Welsh Ministers. If any proposed changes to community boundaries, report to be sent to the Boundary Commission.</p>	<p>SGJ/LP</p>	<p>January/February 2014</p>
<p>Implementation</p>		
<p>No earlier than six weeks after publishing the report, make the Order to implement changes within the existing community boundaries.</p>	<p>PJE/SGJ/LP</p>	<p>February 2014</p>
<p>For any boundary changes to the communities, the Boundary Commission may make the Order after the expiry of six weeks of receiving the Council's recommendations. With the agreement of the County Council, recommendations may be modified. If there is no agreement the Commission may carry out its own review</p>		<p>April 2014</p>

DRAFT GUIDING PRINCIPLES

First Principle

To provide effective and convenient local government [Sec 54(1) of the Local Government Act 1972].

In considering this principle it is believed that local Town & Community Councils need to have a membership between seven as a minimum and twenty as a maximum and the following table to be used as a flexible guide.

Electorate	Suggested Councillor Allocation
0 -299	7
300 – 499	8
500 – 749	9
750 – 999	10
1000 – 1499	11
1500 – 1999	12
2000 – 3999	13
4000 – 5999	14
6000 – 8999	15
9000 – 11,999	16
12,000 +	17 - 20

Second Principle

To recognise that the different demands and issues between urban and rural communities will mean different levels of representation being appropriate.

This is reflected in the above table having an increased Councillor allocation for smaller electorates.

Third Principle

To consider the number and distribution of the local government electors in each community including any change in either, which is likely to take place within 5 years [Sch 11, para 4(3)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972]

For example, if a large residential development is likely to be implemented within 5 years it is likely to lead to an increase in the number of electors in that community.

Fourth Principle

In considering whether any town or community is to be divided into wards regard should be had to the questions whether [Sch 11, para 4(2) of the Local Government Act 1972] –

- a) ***The number or distribution of the local government electors for the town or community is such as to make a single election of town or community councillors impractical or inconvenient/***

If it is impractical or inconvenient to have a single election of the town or community council that would support having separate wards within that town or community council.

- b) ***It is desirable that any area or areas of the town or community should be separately represented on the town or community council.***

It may, for example, be desirable because a particular part of the town or community has a separate identity which should be reflected by it being a separate ward.

Fifth Principle

Where a town or community is being divided into wards regard will be had to the desirability of fixing boundaries which are and will remain easily identifiable [Sch 11, para 4(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972].

Examples of such boundaries are the course of a river or the route of a road.

Sixth Principle

Where a town or community is divided into wards regard should be had to any localities which will be broken by the fixing of any particular boundaries [Sch 11, para 4(3)(c) of the Local Government Act 1972].

In fixing ward boundaries identifiable localities should not be broken wherever this is practical.

Seventh Principle

Where a town or community is divided into wards to equalise as far as practical the number of electors in each ward.

This is to ensure fair representation on the Council.

Eighth Principle

Where a town or community is divided into wards for each ward to elect the same number of Councillors as far as practical.

This is to ensure fair representation on the Council.

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Holywell Town Council support the draft guiding principles in general with the following additional comments:-

1. It is believed that within the Holywell community there are potentially a percentage of non-registered electors. Whilst appreciating the difficulty in quantifying this figure, Members felt that this aspect could well have a bearing on review outcomes and should be kept in mind / accommodated in some way as part of the process.
2. The inclusion of an adequate period in the review timetable for consultation responses, to ensure that local Councils have enough time to consider proposals within their respective meeting cycles.

Response

Point 1 will be taken into account in as far as it can be. To the extent that it can not it should not distort proposals as there is no reason to believe this is a greater issue in Holywell than elsewhere in Flintshire.

In relation to Point 2, Yes, it is intended that 9 weeks be allowed for each of the two formal consultation stages.

Saltney Town Council – Initial views of the Clerk are that it looks to be a very sensible approach.

Ysceifiog Community Council has no objection to the first three principles and consider that as the Council's area is very rural the remaining principles should not apply.

Response

There need to be common guiding principles for all communities within Flintshire but the weight attached to each individual principle can vary from one community to another.

Bagillt Community Council

The first principle refers to a suggested Councillor allocation and for the current Bagillt electorate this would mean a reduction of one member from 14 to 13, although there is reference to flexibility.

The seventh principle refers to equalising as far as practical the number of electors when a community is divided into wards and the current electorate in each ward is less than 60 apart with each having seven Councillors.

The eighth principle indicates the same number of Councillors for each ward as far as practical and clearly there would be difficulty in complying with these three principles in Bagillt without flexibility.

Response

None of the individual principles are intended to be rigidly applied in isolation from the others.

Northop Community Council - Happy that the number of councillors for Northop and Sychdyn, under the proposals, remain unchanged and believe that this reflects the 7 principles described in the report.

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE: TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2013

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: NW ARMED FORCES DAY 2013, FLINTSHIRE'S
ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT AND
'FREEDOM OF THE COUNTY' ANNIVERSARY
PARADE

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide details of the planning arrangements for each of the above events.

2.00 BACKGROUND

Armed Forces Day 2013

Flintshire County Council will be hosting the North Wales Armed Forces Day 2013 celebrations on 22 June at Deeside College campus, Connah's Quay.

This event will provide an opportunity for local communities to show their support for the men and women of the United Kingdom's Armed Forces. The event will be multi-organisational and aimed at a huge public attendance across the whole of North Wales and bordering Counties.

An important part of the day's celebrations will be the presentation of HM Armed Forces Veterans Badges to a number of former members of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force.

The day will commence with a military parade from the rear of the college grounds into the athletics stadium, around the athletics pitch and conclude with a Drumhead Service. Presentation of the Veteran's Badges will be made by the Lord Lieutenants of Clwyd and Gwynedd (subject to the details of the recipients). The finale for the day will be a ceremony that will include a salute with standards (RBL).

There are plans for a Military Village, Army Climbing Wall, Paint Ball Range and Inflatable assault course, Field Gun Display and the various Armed Services recruitment trailers together with a comprehensive programme of entertainment including a fairground,

face painting, Brass Band, Falconry display, local Cheer Leading Teams and Veterans' Stories.

Throughout the day display stands and static and active presentations will be on show including entries from Royal British Legion, Service Charities and Association and Volunteer Groups.

Flintshire County Council's Play Development Team will also provide an exhibition of their current "Play Memories Campaign". Residents across the County have been asked to provide their "memories" of their childhood experiences during World War 2.

Community Covenant

At its meeting on the 29th January the County Council agreed to the adoption of an Armed Forces Community Covenant between the Council, The Armed Forces in Flintshire and representatives from the Voluntary, Business, Health and Education Sectors.

Community Covenants are voluntary statements of mutual support between civilian communities and their local Armed Forces community. They are intended to complement, at a local level, the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the mutual obligations between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces.

A "stakeholder" event is now being arranged for Friday 3rd May to provide our partners with more information about the Armed Forces Community Covenant and a better understanding of how we can jointly develop a practical and committed approach to supporting the lives of both veteran and service military personnel in our County. The event will take place in the Alyn and Deeside Room, County Hall at 2.00 p.m.

It is then proposed to arrange a formal "signing" and launch ceremony. (see section 3 below)

Out of the 6 NW Local Authorities, Anglesey and Wrexham have already signed a Community Covenant, Conwy is due to sign on the 30th April and initial discussions are being held with Denbighshire and Gwynedd.

At its meeting on the 18th March, 2013, the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority also agreed to sign up, as a recognised partner, to each of the 6 NW Councils Community Covenants in due course.

Freedom of the County

Members will recall that in April 2009 the Royal Welsh Regiment was granted the Freedom of the County of Flintshire. A parade and

celebration took place around the town of Mold and the Mold Alun Campus.

Arrangements are now in hand to celebrate the 4th Anniversary with a parade and celebration in Flint Town Centre on Saturday 27th July, 2013. Final details of the route and venue are still to be determined.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

It is proposed to hold a formal “signing” and launch ceremony of Flintshire’s Armed Services Community Covenant alongside the celebrations for the Freedom of the County parade on the 27th July.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the contents of the report and the positive involvement of the Council in these events.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None directly associated with this report.

The development of a Community Covenant could provide the Council with access to further funding streams.

Applications for funding from the Welsh Government and Ministry of Defence have been submitted for associated costs with the NW Armed Forces Day.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

None.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

None.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

The purpose of the Community Covenant is to ensure that Members, or veterans, of the Armed Forces and their families are not disadvantaged in accessing public services.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

None.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

None.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

None.

12.00 APPENDICES

None.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Contained and listed in the Executive Office, County Hall, Mold.

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