

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**                    **21 JANUARY 2014**                    **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4**

**REPORT OF:**                            **Head of Finance**

**SUBJECT:**                                **COUNCIL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**    Members are asked to endorse the initial budget proposals and ongoing work to close the budget gap, and refer them to overview and scrutiny committees for consideration.

**DECISION:**                                As detailed in the recommendation.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**                As in the report.

**CONSULTATION REQUIRED:**                Formal consultation is required with Overview and Scrutiny. Meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees have been arranged as follows:

- 28<sup>th</sup> January: Joint Housing (GF only) and Social & Health Care
- 28<sup>th</sup> January: Environment
- 28<sup>th</sup> January: Corporate Resources (for Corporate Departments)
- 30<sup>th</sup> January: Lifelong Learning
- 3<sup>rd</sup> February: Corporate Resources – Open to all members (to take an overview of budget based feedback from other scrutiny meetings).

The round of scrutiny meetings is to be preceded by a further Member Workshop (open to all members) on the afternoon of 27<sup>th</sup> January to consider the budget overview.

Formal consultation is required with the School Budget Forum. The next meeting of the School Budget Forum is arranged for 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

Statutory consultation is required with Business Ratepayers. This will be undertaken in writing after the Cabinet meeting with the largest businesses within Flintshire and the representative trade and business organisations.

The budget proposals will be discussed at a meeting with the Flintshire Joint Trade Unions on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, as part of ongoing dialogue and information sharing.

Formal consultation on workforce proposals will be in accordance with the detailed plans and timescales of the workforce programme taking account of statutory requirements and local policy.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:**

Prior to the formal consultation processes set out in 16.01 above, the developing financial position and the strategy to meet it have been discussed with members throughout the current financial year. This has been achieved through reports on the Medium Term Financial Plan updates as at May 2013 and September 2013 and at the Member Workshops held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

Updates to meetings of the School Budget Forum have been made on an ongoing basis over the same period.

Copies of the Medium Term Financial Plan updates have been provided to partner organisations in the Local Service Board and to local AM's and MP's for information.

Dialogue and information sharing is part of an ongoing process with Trade Unions through FJTUC.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The financial implications are set out in the report.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None.

**DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**

22 January 2014

**SIGNED**

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**(Proper Officer)**

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**            **21 JANUARY 2014**            **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5**

**REPORT OF:**                    **Head of Finance**

**SUBJECT:**                      **COUNCIL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/15**  
**AND INDICATIVE TO 2017/18**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**    Members are recommended to:

- (a) Note the report.
- (b) Approve the allocation of funding to the core capital programme in 2014/15, as shown in Appendix 1, including the additional items referred to in Section 5.05 and note the indicative funding available for future years.
- (c) Approve the setting of a minimal capital receipts target for 2014/15 and the process whereby receipts generated in one financial year are used to fund expenditure in the next (See Section 5.02.3 and 5.02.4).

**DECISION:**                      As detailed in the recommendations.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**        As in the report.

**CONSULTATION REQUIRED:**        A meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014, at which the capital programme proposals as set out in this paper will be considered. The scrutiny meeting is open to all Members of the Council and the feedback from the meeting will be incorporated into the final report to Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

Cabinet will make final recommendations for consideration at Council, also on 18<sup>th</sup> February.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:**

Initial discussion took place at the Member workshops on 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2013.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

As set out in the report.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None.

**DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**

22 January 2014

**SIGNED**

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**(Proper Officer)**

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**                    **21 JANUARY 2014**                    **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6**

**REPORT OF:**                            **Head of Finance**

**SUBJECT:**                                **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2014/15 & CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/15**

- RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**
- a) Members are asked to approve and recommend to Council:
    - I. The proposed HRA budget for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix 1, incorporating the financial assumptions in Appendix 2 and the service improvements and efficiencies in Appendix 3.
    - II. The level of rent and service charges for 2014/15 as set out in paragraphs 3.01 to 3.07.
    - III. The level of projected balances at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 at 3.20% of total expenditure.
    - IV. The proposed HRA Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 4.
  - b) Members are asked to note the impact of the proposed revenue budget and capital programme on the 30 year Business Plan.

**DECISION:**                                As detailed in the recommendations.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**            As in the report.

**CONSULTATION REQUIRED:**            Consultation with all tenants over any rent increase must take place and must be at least 28 days before any rent increase is due to come into effect. Consultation with tenants on the draft budget and proposed rent increase will be undertaken at the tenants' conference on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014.

The Housing Scrutiny committee will consider the budget proposals at their meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:**

None.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The Council has a statutory duty to review the income and expenditure of the HRA, and to set a budget for the forthcoming financial year which avoids a deficit closing balance position. This reports sets out how this can be achieved for the Council in 2014/15. The key financial assumptions on which this is proposed are set out in Appendix 2. The proposed budget estimates a closing balance of 3.20% to total expenditure.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None.

**DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**

22 January 2014

**SIGNED**



**(Proper Officer)**

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**            **21 JANUARY 2014**            **AGENDA ITEM NO. 7**

**REPORT OF:**                    **Chief Executive**

**SUBJECT:**                        **IMPROVEMENT ASSESSMENT LETTER FROM  
WALES AUDIT OFFICE**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**

- a) To advise Members of the Council's Improvement Assessment letter received from the Auditor General for Wales.
- b) Members to note the report and agree the Council's Executive response.

**DECISION:**                        As detailed in the recommendations.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**        As in the report.

**CONSULTATION REQUIRED:**        None required.


**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:**    Senior officers have had input into this report.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**      None.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**    None.

**DISPENSATIONS**                    None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**                22 January 2014

**SIGNED**                                                        **(Proper Officer)**



**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**                    **21 JANUARY 2014**                    **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8**

**REPORT OF:**                            **Director of Environment**

**SUBJECT:**                                **RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN LOCAL ACTION  
GROUPS 2014-2020**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**

- a) That the nomination of Cadwyn Clwyd as the Local Action Group for Flintshire for the 2014 to 2020 Rural Development Plan Programme be approved in principle subject to satisfactory agreement being reached on the areas listed in 3.06 above.
- b) That a further report is brought to Cabinet for approval of the final details of the management and delivery arrangements for the new Programme.

**DECISION:**                                As detailed in the recommendations.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**                As in the report.

**CONSULTATION REQUIRED:**                None at this stage.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:**            None.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**            The details of how the future Rural Development Programme will be managed and funded have not been made clear at this stage. No commitment will be made to support the Programme or Local Action Group beyond this 'in principle' agreement without a further report to Cabinet.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**            Councillor Derek Butler.

**DISPENSATIONS**                                None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**

22 January 2014

**SIGNED**

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**(Proper Officer)**

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**                    **21 JANUARY 2014**                    **AGENDA ITEM NO. 9**

**REPORT OF:**                            **Director of Environment**

**SUBJECT:**                                **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN DELIVERY**  
**AGREEMENT: FINALISING THE DELIVERY**  
**AGREEMENT FOLLOWING CONSULTATION**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**      That Cabinet approve the amendments to the Local Development Plan Delivery Agreement and Timetable for submission to the Welsh Government for formal approval.

**DECISION:**                                As detailed in the recommendation.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**                As in the report.

**CONSULTATION REQUIRED:**                Numerous consultation stages outlined in the Delivery Agreement.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:**            The draft Delivery Agreement has been the subject of a consultation exercise.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**            Current activity is met from within Base Budget of £140k. In addition specific Revenue Balances of £387k are held to facilitate the plan process. The most significant future costs envisaged will relate to the LDP Examination timetabled for 2017 which could amount to £200k, but it is difficult to predict at present as this is dependant on the length of the examination. Further work will be done to refine this estimate looking at the comparative costs incurred by neighbouring authorities.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**            None.

**DISPENSATIONS**                                None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**

22 January 2014

**SIGNED**

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**(Proper Officer)**

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**                    **21 JANUARY 2014**                    **AGENDA ITEM NO. 10**

**REPORT OF:**                            **Director of Community Services**

**SUBJECT:**                                **SARTH**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**

- a) To approve the new allocations policy for Flintshire County Council (appendix 1).
- b) To approve the phased implementation of the new allocations policy and housing solutions service in Flintshire as detailed in the project plan (appendix 2).
- c) To support continued involvement in the regional project work to the benefit of Flintshire residents.

**DECISION:**                                As detailed in the recommendations.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**                As in the report.

**CONSULTATION REQUIRED:**                Applicants currently on the register will be contacted about proposed changes. Nobody currently on the register will be removed unless they no longer wish to remain on the register.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:**            The policy has been subject to wide consultation in 2013.

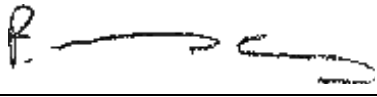
**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**            A £10,000 contribution to the regional development work has been identified from the 2014-15 budget.

Implementing the policy locally will require investment in IT development which will be carried out at no additional cost over existing budgets.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**           None.

**DISPENSATIONS**                           None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**                   22 January 2014

**SIGNED**                                      **(Proper Officer)**

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**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**            **21 JANUARY 2014**            **AGENDA ITEM NO. 11**

**REPORT OF:**                    **Head of ICT and Customer Services**

**SUBJECT:**                        **CUSTOMER SERVICES STRATEGY UPDATE**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**    Members note the content of the report and the progress made in relation to the Customer Service Strategy.

**DECISION:**                        As detailed in the recommendation.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**            As in the report.

**CONSULTATION REQUIRED:**            Ongoing consultation will be required with our customers and partners in the implementation of the Customer Service Strategy and future customer access projects.

Further consultation will be taking place with user groups regarding the design and content of the new website early in 2014.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:**            Consultation has taken place on the new website and feedback has been used to make improvements.

There is ongoing consultation at Flintshire Connects – Holywell through a customer satisfaction questionnaire.

Increased use of ‘Twitter’ has opened up opportunities to consult with our customers on a range of topics.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**            None directly from this report.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**            None.

**DISPENSATIONS**                        None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**

22 January 2014

**SIGNED**

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**(Proper Officer)**



**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**                    **21 JANUARY 2014**                    **AGENDA ITEM NO. 12**

**REPORT OF:**                            **Director of Community Services**

**SUBJECT:**                                **DOUBLE CLICK & THE CASE TO PROGRESS TO A  
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**      Cabinet are asked to approve the development of Double Click to a Social Enterprise in accordance with the business model and governance arrangements proposed.

**DECISION:**                                As detailed in the recommendation.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**                As in the report.

**CONSULTATION REQUIRED:**                If the authority agrees to proceed with the externalisation process, formal consultations with staff and service users will take place.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:**            Two informal consultations with service users have taken place at various stages since 2011 and 3 with staff and trade union/HR representatives. Both groups are regularly updated as to the progress of the project.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**            In the short term (1-2 years) the council does not expect to see a change in its financial contribution to this service. The newly formed business will however be expected to manage inflationary pressures on the business.

Over time we will seek agreement to an increase in placements supported by the business and a reduced contribution by the council.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**            None.

**DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**

22 January 2014

**SIGNED**

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**(Proper Officer)**

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**            **21 JANUARY 2014**            **AGENDA ITEM NO. 13**

**REPORT OF:**                    **Head of Finance**

**SUBJECT:**                        **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2013/14 (MONTH 7)**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**    Members are recommended to:

- (a) Note the overall report.
- (b) Note the projected Council Fund contingency sum as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 (paragraph 6.02).
- (c) Note the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account (paragraph 7.03).

**DECISION:**                        As detailed in the recommendations.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**        As in the report.

**CONSULTATION REQUIRED:**        None.


**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:**    None.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**    The financial implications are as set out in Sections 3.00 – 7.00 of the report.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**    None.

**DISPENSATIONS**                    None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**                22 January 2014

**SIGNED**                                                **(Proper Officer)**

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**                      **21 JANUARY 2014**                      **AGENDA ITEM NO. 14**

**REPORT OF:**                              **Head of Finance**

**SUBJECT:**                                **COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATE POLICIES**  
**2014-15**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**      Members are requested to consider continuation of the current Council Tax and Business Rate Policies for 2014-15, as follows:-

- Not to award Council Tax discounts on any prescribed class and that this applies to the whole of the County area (2.02).
- For the Head of Finance and Cabinet Member for Corporate Management to consider section 13a discretionary discounts through the use of delegated powers (3.03).
- Discretionary rate relief for as set out (4.02).
- For the Head of Finance and Cabinet Member for Corporate Management to consider any applications for Business Rate discretionary discounts not within the scope of the existing policy as set out in 4.02 through the use of delegated powers (4.06).
- Not to award discretionary 'top up' discounts to small business (5.03).
- Members are also asked to note the payment dates for Precepting/Levying Bodies (6.01) and payment dates for Council Tax and Business Rates (7.01 - 7.04).

**DECISION:**                                      As detailed in the recommendations.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**                      As in the report.

**CONSULTATION REQUIRED:** None.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:** None.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:** On the basis of a continuation of existing policies, costs will be contained within the current budget.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**DISPENSATIONS** None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:** 22 January 2014

**SIGNED**  **(Proper Officer)**

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 21 JANUARY 2014 AGENDA ITEM NO. 15

REPORT OF: Head of Finance

SUBJECT: COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:

- a) To note the making of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations (“the Prescribed Requirements Regulations”) by Wales Government on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013. As amended by the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.
- b) To recommend to Council to adopt the Council Tax Reduction Scheme discretionary element as outlined in Appendix 1, subject to any input from Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: Yes, as below:-

- Members of the Public
- Flintshire County Council Elected Members
- Members of Parliament and Assembly Members
- Local Service Board Members
- Advice Management Board Members
- Office for Police and Crime Commissioner for Wales
- Royal British Legion
- Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## **CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:**

Due to the extent of the far reaching and detailed consultation approach taken in 2012/13 in relation to the brand new Scheme it has been agreed that a more targeted consultation approach would be adopted for the Scheme for 2014/15.

The consultation period was 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013 to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and a summary of the results of the consultation can be found at Appendix 2.

Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The Welsh Government's estimate of the whole cost of the scheme at this time last year was £222m, this was based on the intention to fund 90% of the scheme. Later a further £22m was paid to Council's via a specific grant, after a late decision was made by Welsh Government to fund a 100% reduction (where applicable).

The cost of Council Tax Reduction needs to be managed within the Council's budget. The amount identified by Welsh Government in the Financial Settlement for 2014/15 is £9.924 million.

The funding arrangements for 2014/15 include funding of up to 100% of the estimated cost of the scheme based on the 2012/13 cost of the Council Tax Benefit and therefore funding does not include the 2013/14 increase in Council Tax producing an immediate additional shortfall of 3.14% including precepts. With the Council having a responsibility to meet this shortfall in order to maintain the scheme at 100% reduction (where applicable).

The Council must also meet the cost applied as a result of 2014/15 Council Tax increases.

In addition to Flintshire's initial estimates to maintaining the scheme at 100%, the

Council are also liable for any fluctuations in caseload, which is dependent on the economic climate.

Current projection as to the cost to the Authority is:

2013/14 CTRS paid	£10.200m
2014/15 C.Tax increase 3.5% (inc. police and community councils)	£0.357m
Projected Cost	£10.557m
WG Funding	£9.924m
Shortfall / pressure	£0.633m

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**DISPENSATIONS** None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:** 22 January 2014

**SIGNED**

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**(Proper Officer)**





**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**                    **21 JANUARY 2014**                    **AGENDA ITEM NO. 17**

**REPORT OF:**                            **Director of Environment**

**SUBJECT:**                                **CHARGING FOR RE-RATING INSPECTIONS**  
**CARRIED OUT UNDER THE FOOD HYGIENE**  
**RATING (WALES) ACT 2013**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**

- a) That Cabinet agrees to the £150 Rescore Charge recommended by the Welsh Heads of Environmental Health "All Wales Food Technical Panel".
- b) That Cabinet delegates authority to review the fee level in the future to the Director of Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Waste and Recycling.

**DECISION:**                                As detailed in the recommendations.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**            As in the report.

**CONSULTATION REQUIRED:**            None.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:**      None.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**        The charge for re-rating of £150 will result in some additional income. The current level of requests for rescoring is around 80 per year. If this level continues, this should see an income generation of around £12,000 per annum.

If the request for rescore level remains at a similar level seen over the last 2 years, the current resource should be able to absorb this work. However, if the level increases significantly, additional resource may be required. Therefore, the number of requests for rescoring received

will be monitored closely and resource levels reviewed on a regular basis.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Councillor Aaron Shotton.  
Councillor Bernie Attridge.

**DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**

22 January 2014

**SIGNED**

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**(Proper Officer)**

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**            **21 JANUARY 2014**            **AGENDA ITEM NO. 18**

**REPORT OF:**                    **Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

**SUBJECT:**                        **ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FLINTSHIRE  
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**    That the eleventh annual report of the Flintshire Local Access Forum, for 2012/2013, be noted and approved by Cabinet, on behalf of the County Council, and be submitted to Natural Resources Wales for their records.

**DECISION:**                        As detailed in the recommendation.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**            As in the report.

**CONSULTATION REQUIRED:**            None.


**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:**        The report has already been submitted to the Local Access Forum.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**        There are costs associated with the administration of the Local Access Forum. Those costs are met from the Environment Directorate's budget.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**        None.

**DISPENSATIONS**                        None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**                    22 January 2014

**SIGNED**                                                        **(Proper Officer)**

