

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **15 JULY 2014** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer, Social Services**

SUBJECT: **ANNUAL COUNCIL REPORTING FRAMEWORK
(ACRF)**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That Cabinet agree the Annual Report to inform the organisation, workforce, clients, partners, public and CSSIW of our assessment of performance and priorities for 2014/2015.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: No further consultation is planned.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: Consultation has taken place with key stakeholders including a Members Task and Finish meeting, discussion at the Social and Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee who fully support the assessment. As a result of feedback from key Members the length of the report has been reduced to make it a more accessible and succinct document.

An independent critical friend has provided objective comment on the draft report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: The priorities identified within the report are aimed at delivering service improvements, improving outcomes and meeting local needs within the context of achieving challenging financial efficiencies and value for money.

Priority actions contained within the report have been identified for delivery within existing resources.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 16 July 2014

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **15 JULY 2014** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer, Social Services**

SUBJECT: **FLINTSHIRE CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY**
ASSESSMENT 2014 - 2017

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: To advise Members of the Council's
Childcare Sufficiency Audit 2014-2017.

Members to note the contents of the report and support the on-going work being undertaken by the Childcare Development Group in working towards addressing the recommendations in the audit of sufficiency.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: The Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to assess the sufficiency of childcare provision to enable parents to access employment or training. There is a requirement that consultation is undertaken to gather the views of:

- Parents
- Children/Young People
- Employers
- Childcare providers

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: Between October 2013 and February 2014, a consultation exercise took place to establish the views of parents and carers.

An electronic survey was publicised to all parents of children in Flintshire via schools, through existing childcare provision, local press, County Council website and Twitter account, local

employers and in a number of other locations where parents meet.

Face-to-face consultation took place through existing structures such as parent and toddler groups; integrated centres; family learning groups in schools; pre-schools; health clinics and other locations where parents were already meeting.

Parents in more deprived areas and in marginalised groups (such as parents of disabled children) were targeted to provide balance against the likelihood that fewer parents in these areas and groups would return surveys.

Feedback gathered throughout 2013-2014, from parents who access assistance with the costs of childcare has also been incorporated.

Childcare providers were engaged through a telephone survey carried out between September 2013 and December 2013. They were representative of types of provision as well as geographically spread across the authority.

Children and young people were engaged in consultation about their views of childcare within Flintshire. In August 2013, 41 children and 11 members of staff from 4 holiday clubs attended a consultation day. A further 41 children in 7 holiday clubs were consulted during holiday club sessions. Between November 2013 and February 2014 35 children from 1 Welsh after school childcare setting and 7 English settings were consulted on their views of childcare. The clubs were set in both rural and urban areas of Flintshire and representative of the type of provision and geographically spread across the county.

Thirty nine employers were consulted between September 2013 and December 2013. They ranged from small and medium enterprises to large

multifunctional employers employing in excess of 5,000 staff and they were located throughout the county.

In September the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2014-2017 will be presented to the Social and Health Scrutiny Committee for their consideration.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Funding to support the childcare market in Flintshire comes from the following sources:

- FCC Childcare budget
- FCC Early Education budget
- Welsh Government Flying Start Grant
- Welsh Government Out of School Childcare Grant
- HMRC via childcare tax credits

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

16 July 2014

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **15 JULY 2014** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 7**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer, Social Services**

SUBJECT: **REGIONAL COMMISSIONING OF CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE ADVOCACY SERVICE**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Cabinet is asked to support entering a regional collaboration, on the basis of efficiencies that can be achieved including reduced management costs and shared personnel and resources. In addition collaboration between 6 counties and BCUHB would create a consistent regional service.

On the basis of the business case Flintshire County Council will be assured that high quality advocacy services will continue to be delivered and extended to a broader population of children and young people in North Wales.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: There is an expectation that we would seek the views of children and young people and key partner agencies.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: North Wales Head of Children's Services.

The Clinical Programme Group Lead BCUHB.

A workshop and one-to-one interview have taken place with looked after children. Their input will be included in the service specification. Young people will be involved in the tendering interviews.

Officers from Social Services, Health, Education and the voluntary sector are proactively involved in the regional task group.

Welsh Government Advocacy Unit and the chair of the Ministerial Expert Group on Advocacy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The financial commitment to the current contract between Conwy, Anglesey and Gwynedd is £116,475, which is comprised of:

- Conwy £38,967
- Anglesey £29,278
- Gwynedd £48,230

The financial commitment to the current contract between Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham is £95,868, which is comprised of:

- Denbighshire £26,266
- Flintshire £33,652
- Wrexham £25,950

The service was accessed by 58 NYAS children and young people from Flintshire Social Services for Issue Based Advocacy during 2012/13. Figures vary across the other five local authority areas. The advocacy provider also made monthly visits to residential units, supported the Looked After Children's Forum, and provided an Independent Visitors service (befriending). Savings have been identified for the next contract, for example excluding the participation element which can be run in-house.

A great deal of discussion has taken place regarding funding allocations, based on various formulas. This has proved challenging given the complexity of population, trends, referral trends and calculating a unit cost per case.

The Heads of Children's Services agreed to an appropriate budget of £100,000 for the contract and base their budget contributions on a percentage of the RSG

grant. This means that the following financial commitment will be made by each local authority.

- Anglesey £10,450
- Gwynedd £19,220
- Conwy £16,110
- Denbighshire £15,770
- Flintshire £20,440
- Wrexham £18,020

This will be clarified through a collaboration agreement between the six counties and will be based on an equitable service, which will be clarified through the tendering process.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

16 July 2014

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **15 JULY 2014** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer, Community and Enterprise**

SUBJECT: **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT SUBSIDY REFORM**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That Cabinet note and support the Flintshire response to the HRAS consultation document.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: None.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: Meetings have been held with both the Scrutiny Committee and Tenants Federation who are supportive of the Councils response to the consultation document.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Self financing will introduce a number of freedoms for Councils, including much greater self determination for the long term planning for investment in Council housing services.

Should the proposals supported in the paper for the distribution of the settlement amount and distribution of the borrowing cap be agreed, then Flintshire Council will benefit from increased revenue annual to achieve stock investment and service plan priorities and it will be able to commence a new build housing programme.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 16 July 2014

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **15 JULY 2014** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 9**

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

SUBJECT: **3 COUNTY REGIONAL PROCUREMENT PROJECT**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Cabinet to endorse the final business case for the 3 County Procurement Project and for the project to move to implementation stage.

Regular progress reports are provided to Cabinet, the next being in the autumn.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: Full consultation will continue with the procurement team and service based employees engaged in procurement activities.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: Workshops held and questionnaires undertaken with all employees involved in procurement and senior management. All six Councils were involved in the previous work on the project and were given the option to enter into an agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: The project costs are being met from the Welsh Government Regional Collaboration Fund.

Estimated savings are set out in paragraph 3.07 of the report and detailed further in the Final Business Case.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 16 July 2014

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **15 JULY 2014** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 11**

REPORT OF: **Corporate Finance Manager**

SUBJECT: **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2013/14**
(OUTTURN)

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Members are recommended to:

- (a) Note the overall report
- (b) Note the Council Fund Contingency Sum available as at 31 March 2014
- (c) Note the final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account
- (d) Approve that the additional contingency sum of £1.677m be held and its use considered for in-year and future use in relation to investment in organisational change in the context of the MTFP

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: None.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: None.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: As set out in the report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 16 July 2014

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **15 JULY 2014** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 12**

REPORT OF: **Corporate Finance Manager**

SUBJECT: **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2014/15**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Cabinet is recommended to note the report.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: None directly as a result of this report.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: None directly as a result of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: As set out in the report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 16 July 2014

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 15 JULY 2014 AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

REPORT OF: Corporate Finance Manager

SUBJECT: PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS - ACTUAL 2013/14

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Cabinet is requested to note and approve the report.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: None.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: None.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None. The financial information provided is retrospective.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 16 July 2014

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 15 JULY 2014 AGENDA ITEM NO. 14

REPORT OF: Chief Officer, Community and Enterprise

SUBJECT: ENFORCEMENT ACTION FOR THE RECOVERY OF COUNCIL TAX AND NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATES

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That Cabinet approve the establishment of an internal Enforcement agent team, as described in the report.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: None.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: Informal talks have taken place with Flintshire CAB, who were supportive of an in house option.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: The current use of Bailiffs contributes to the collection of £64 million income for the Authority; a reduction in the collection of Council Tax would result in increases to Council Tax for all payers or a reduction in services.

An internal EA service would provide an income surplus over costs of a minimum £97k per year.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 16 July 2014

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 15 JULY 2014 AGENDA ITEM NO. 15

REPORT OF: Chief Officer, Community and Enterprise

SUBJECT: GARDEN SERVICE FOR COUNCIL TENANTS

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That Cabinet approve a temporary suspension in service charging for the garden service for sheltered tenants and those with protected characteristics who received the service prior to 1 April 2014.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: Full consultation with tenants is required to introduce service charging.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: None to date.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: The HRA budget approved at February 2014 Cabinet assumed that the income received for the charging of garden services would fully recoup the yearly cost of the Ground control contract of £126k.

The breakdown of this is:

954 sheltered gardens
521 sheltered hedges
Anticipated income £87.1k

248 general gardens
210 general hedges
Anticipated income £38.6k

In addition administration charges of 15% were to be charged.

Assuming that the majority of general needs tenants who have been accessing the service have protected characteristics,

the loss in income to the HRA in 2014/15 should the council not charge either the sheltered tenants or those with these characteristics would be £126k.

This will be met through prudent management of the budget ensuring that the budgeted balance at year end of 3.20% is met.

The rent reform policy due to be implemented in 2015/16 requires all local authorities to commence a policy to introduce service charges. The current business plan, approved by Welsh Government therefore assumes a phased implementation of charging from 2015/16, generating income of £383.6k (including the assisted gardens income) in that year, and full anticipated service charge recovery in 2016/17 and beyond of £810.5k per year.

Most service charges (but not the individual garden service) are eligible for Housing Benefit.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

16 July 2014

SIGNED

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **15 JULY 2014** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 16**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer, Community and Enterprise**

SUBJECT: **IMPLEMENTATION OF A RISK BASED
VERIFICATION POLICY**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That Cabinet approve the proposal to implement a RBV process to administer Housing Benefit.

That Cabinet approve the implementation of the proposed RBV policy as prepared by Community and Enterprise Senior Officers.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: None, although key stakeholder partners will be made aware of the plans.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: The policy was considered by the Audit Committee on 25 June as recommended by the DWP as good practise for an Authority to refer the RBV policy to Audit Committee for consideration.

Internal Audit has reviewed the RBV process and policy.

Section 151 Officer has approved the RBV process and policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: There is an initial cost of £14,250 plus annual maintenance costs of £900 per annum. This can be met from existing budgets.

There will be improved performance at no additional cost with projected annual savings of £30k from 2015/16 achieved

through reduced postage and staff resource savings.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

16 July 2014

SIGNED

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **15 JULY 2014** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 18**

REPORT OF: **Member Engagement Manager**

SUBJECT: **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LEISURE
FINANCE TASK & FINISH GROUP**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That Cabinet consider ring-fencing capital receipts received from the sale of land at Ysgol Perth y Terfyn Infants and Ysgol y Fron Junior School for maintenance works for Leisure Centres in Flintshire.

That officers be asked to initiate discussions with schools where dual use leisure facilities were provided to assess whether they would consider assuming responsibility for community access of the facilities in the future.

DECISION: (a) That recommendation (a) of the report not be supported as it is not in line with Council Policy and maintenance of leisure centres will be considered as part of the ongoing asset management strategy.

(b) as detailed in the recommendation (b)

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: N/A.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: Publication of this report constitutes consultation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None directly as a result of this report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

16 July 2014

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(Proper Officer)

