

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **17 FEBRUARY 2015** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4**

REPORT OF: **Chief Executive, Chief Officer (People and Resources), Corporate Finance Manager**

SUBJECT: **COUNCIL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That the following recommendations be made to County Council on 17 February 2015:

- (a) The 2015/16 Council Fund Revenue Budget Requirement to be set at £249.979m (which is £1.872m below its calculated Standard Spending Assessment)
- (b) There be a 3.75% increase in Council Tax at Band D and an assumed 99% collection rate
- (c) Inclusion of the Outcome Agreement Grant of £1.479m in the budget
- (d) Acceptance of the levels of inflation assumed in the budget
- (e) Acceptance of the amount for transfers in and out of the settlement
- (f) Inclusion of £2.853 of recurring pressures in the budget
- (g) Inclusion of £0.730m of one-off costs to be funded from Reserves
- (h) Inclusion of efficiencies of £12.874m in the budget
- (i) The use of reserves to fund transitional funding of £0.270m pending the identification of

additional efficiencies

- (j) The contingency reserve be maintained and its use considered in the context of the overall medium term financial plan for 2015/16 and future years

DECISION:

As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION:

As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED:

Formal consultation on workforce proposals will be set out in the detailed plans and timescales of the workforce programme and in accordance with statutory requirements and Council policy. The requirement for further consultation on those proposals where there is a direct public impact will be subject to ongoing review.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:

The budget proposals have been published and were open to public feedback from 18 December 2014 to 11 January 2015.

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) workshop, attended by representative from older age groups, disability groups; the Welsh language; people from a black and minority background; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) groups; Trade Unions and other groups representing all protected characteristics such as North Wales Regional Equality Network was held on the evening of Monday 5 January 2015.

Consultations and EIA's have been undertaken, or are in progress, on a number of specific proposals to ensure there is no discrimination or disadvantage.

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees met on the dates below to debate the budget proposals and consider the public feedback and EIA findings:

Corporate Resources – 22 January

Housing – 23 January
Environment – 23 January
Social & Health Care – 26 January
Lifelong Learning – 26 January
Corporate Resources (open invitation for all members) – 30 January

The Schools Budget Forum has received updates on an ongoing basis throughout this process and formal consultation has now been completed.

Consultation with Business Ratepayers has been undertaken with Flintshire's largest businesses and representative trade and business organisations.

Dialogue and information sharing has been a regular feature of the ongoing process and formal consultation has now been completed with the FJTUC.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

As set out in detail in the report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

18 February 2015

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **17 FEBRUARY 2015** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5**

REPORT OF: **Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Organisational Change), Corporate Finance Manager**

SUBJECT: **COUNCIL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16 AND INDICATIVE FUNDING**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Cabinet is invited to recommend to Council on 17 February:

Approval of the allocation of funding to the core capital programme in 2015/16, as shown in Appendix 1, and note the indicative funding available for future years.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: All Members through Overview and Scrutiny.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30 January 2015.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: As set out in the report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 18 February 2015

SIGNED  **(Proper Officer)**

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **17 FEBRUARY 2015** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6**

REPORT OF: **Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise), Corporate Finance Manager**

SUBJECT: **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2015/16 & CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Cabinet is asked to approve and recommend to the Council:-

The proposed HRA budget for 2015/16 as set out in the Business Plan at Appendix A, with the 30 year financial assumptions in Appendix B and service efficiency and investment proposals in Appendix C.

The level of rents for 2015/16 as set out in the Business Plan with target rents applied for new tenancies and the introduction of service charges for new tenancies.

The proposed HRA Capital Programme for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix D.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: The proposed rent increase will be discussed with the Tenants Federation at their February meeting.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: Detailed consultation has been undertaken with tenants and elected members to inform the preparation of the revised WHQS investment programme.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: The HRA is a ring fenced budget. This HRA budget and business plan demonstrates that the Council can achieve the WHQS by 2020, can meet

service improvement plans and commitments and with prudential borrowing can commence a council house building programme in 2016.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

18 February 2015

SIGNED

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **17 FEBRUARY 2015** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 7**

REPORT OF: **Corporate Finance Manager**

SUBJECT: **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2015/16**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That the Cabinet approves and recommends to the Council the Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: Arlingclose Ltd as Treasury Management Advisers.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: Arlingclose Ltd as Treasury Management Advisers.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: As set out in the report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 18 February 2015

SIGNED  **(Proper Officer)**

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **17 FEBRUARY 2015** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Education and Youth)**

SUBJECT: **QUEENSFERRY CAMPUS PROJECT - PAUSE & REVIEW**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That on the basis that the data analysis does not support the continuation through to a Full Business Case for capital funding Cabinet is recommended to:

(a) not proceed with the Full Business Case

(b) open a period of formal consultation with key stakeholders for the area on how best to secure resilient sustainable high quality education in the area for future report to Cabinet.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: No further consultation required in respect of the pause and review of the capital project.

In terms of developing and evaluating future educational models for the area, work will be undertaken with the secondary headteachers in the area, John Summers and a representative Group of Governors John Summers High school.

Formal Consultation will be required with key stakeholders, including dedicated approaches with children and young people, employees, governors and parents/ carers, in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation Act

2013, this will involve Key stakeholders. Progress and authorisation to proceed will be sought from the County Council's Cabinet at key stages in the process at Appendix 2.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:

A total of 10 meetings with Local Members, Headteachers, Governors, representative group of governors & the Programme Board were held between 14th October 2014 and 7th January 2015.

The meetings informed key stakeholders of the rationale for the pause and review. They involved presentation of data, challenge and debate. The last meetings concluded with reporting on the recommendations to be made to the Cabinet on next steps. Correspondence is recorded in Background Document E.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The current value of the Queenferry Campus project is £18,264,000 in an overall programme of £64,200,000.

The decoupling of this project from the wider programme will have implications for financial profiling at local and national level.

Welsh Government officials have indicated that they are willing to work with the Authority, However, it is incumbent on the Authority to officially confirm its position to Welsh Government.

The Authority still has an in-principle agreement on the original funding envelope of £64m for Band A projects. However, any future proposals would require submission of new business case/s to Welsh Government for approval.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

18 February 2015

SIGNED

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(Proper Officer)

REASON FOR DECISION:

As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED:

None.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:

None.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The 2015/16 revenue budgets provide for the MRP as follows:

- Council Fund capital expenditure funded by supported borrowing, on the basis of Option 1 - Regulatory Method calculation.
- Council Fund capital expenditure funded by unsupported (prudential) borrowing, on the basis of Option 3 – Asset Life Method calculation.

HRA capital expenditure funded by borrowing, on the basis of Option 2 – Capital Financing Requirement Method calculation.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

18 February 2015

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **17 FEBRUARY 2015** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 10**

REPORT OF: **Corporate Finance Manager**

SUBJECT: **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2014/15 (MONTH 8)**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Members are recommended to :-

- a) Note the overall report.
- b) Note the projected Council Fund contingency sum as at 31st March 2015 (paragraph 6.06)

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 set out in Sections 3.00 – 7.00 of the report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 18 February 2015

SIGNED  **(Proper Officer)**

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **17 FEBRUARY 2015** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 11**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise)**

SUBJECT: **COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATE POLICIES**
FOR 2015-16

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Members are requested to consider continuation of the current Council Tax and Business Rate Policies for 2015-16, as follows:-

- Not to award Council Tax discounts on any prescribed class and that this applies to the whole of the County area (3.02).
- For the Chief Officer – Community & Enterprise and Cabinet Member for Corporate Management to consider section 13a discretionary discounts through the use of delegated powers (4.03).
- Discretionary rate relief for as set out (5.01).
- For the Chief Office – Community & Enterprise 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 5.01 through the use of delegated powers (5.05).
- Not to award discretionary 'top-up' discounts to small business (6.03).

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 budget.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

18 February 2015

SIGNED

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(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **17 FEBRUARY 2015** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 12**

REPORT OF: **Corporate Finance Manager**

SUBJECT: **PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2015/16 AND 2017/18**
AND REVISION OF THE 2014/15 PRUDENTIAL
INDICATORS

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That Members approve and recommend to County Council on 17th February 2015:

- (a) the Prudential Indicators for 2015/16 - 2017/18 and revised Indicators for 2014/15 as detailed in Section 3 of the report
- (b) delegated authority for the Corporate Finance Manager to effect movements between the separately agreed limits within the authorised limit for external debt and the operational boundary for external debt (3.06.5, 3.06.6)

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: None.


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: 18 February 2015

SIGNED  **(Proper Officer)**

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **17 FEBRUARY 2015** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 13**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Planning and Environment)**

SUBJECT: **GREENFIELD VALLEY HERITAGE LOTTERY PROJECT**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: (i) That Cabinet approve the submission of a Round 2 application to the HLF for £940,050 in funding.

(ii) That if successful, Cabinet approve a funding agreement with the HLF.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: None.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: Consultation has been undertaken with the Greenfield Valley Trust and its partners in the development of the HLF bid.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Project Costs

Project Management
20,000
Architectural & Landscape Improvements
322,600
Interpretation and Signage
377,650
Conservation of Collections & Curator hours
63,400
Contingency & Inflation (Capital costs)
68,600
Activity Costs
187,800
Non-cash contribution (volunteer time)
280,000

1,320,050 Total

Funding Breakdown

| | | |
|-------------|------------------|------|
| HLF` | 940,050 | |
| GVT | 30,030 | |
| | (secured) | |
| FCC | 20,800 | |
| | (secured) | |
| Fundraising | 50,000 | (£3k |
| | secured to date) | |

Long-term Financial Impact

Grant repayment liabilities relating to continued public access, maintenance and insurance of the site.

It is estimated that the minimum basic requirements to keep the pay boundary open to the public, provide minimal staffing, maintenance, operational costs and insurance are in the region of £145,000 per annum.

This cost can be offset by continuing to charge for entry. At present the site benefits from an income of around £90,000 per annum, which comes from entry costs, gift shop takings and some lettings.

The costs of the management and maintenance of the wider Heritage Park and elements within (Watercourses, Scheduled Ancient Monuments etc) are not included in this figure.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

18 February 2015

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **17 FEBRUARY 2015** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 14**

REPORT OF: **Member Engagement Manager**

SUBJECT: **CHANGING TIMES: HELPING FLINTSHIRE'S TOWN
CENTRES ADAPT TO A CHANGING WORLD -
RECOMMENDATIONS**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That the Cabinet considers and accepts the recommendations offered in 3.03 of the report.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATION REQUIRED: Any changes to town centre action plans will require consultation.


CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN: Publication of this report constitutes consultation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None directly arising from this report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 18 February 2015

SIGNED  **(Proper Officer)**