

To: All Members of the Council

24 February 2016

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Flintshire County Council which will be held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 1st March, 2016 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Mold CH7 6N to consider the following items

## **A G E N D A**

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**Purpose:** To receive any apologies.

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Purpose:** To receive any Declarations and advise Members accordingly.

### **3 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

**Purpose:** To receive the communications as circulated.

### **4 PETITIONS**

**Purpose:** To receive any Petitions.

### **5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**Purpose:** To receive any Public Questions.

#### **Mr John Yorke**

Planning Applications refused by this Council's Planning and Development Committee against the recommendations of officers, often result in appeals by the applicant to the Welsh Planning Inspectorate. If the applicant chooses the written representation appeal process, this Council's officers make no submission in support of members' refusal, and simply submit as evidence their original committee report of recommendation.

For appeals via the informal hearing or public inquiry process, the Council's officers submit a formal report of objection, sometimes prepared by external consultants. Are the Cabinet, Executive and the Council's elected members aware of this seemingly unfair disparity when the written process is utilised by an applicant. Are they knowledgeable of, and in agreement with the officers' actions when dealing with a written representation appeal, or do they agree there is a need to resolve that uniform professional protection is afforded to their electorate, regardless of appeal route chosen by the applicant.

## 6 **QUESTIONS**

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

## 7 **NOTICE OF MOTION**

**Purpose:** To consider the following Notices of Motion.

### **Councillor Aaron Shotton**

Flintshire County Council notes:

- The UK Government has set out plans in its Trade Union Bill that specifically impact on Local Authorities and our relationships with our employees and trade unions.
- The UK Government intends to grant ministers the power to cut so - called "facilities time" in the public sector. This is paid time-off, mutually agreed between employers and unions, for union reps to represent their members and negotiate with their employer.
- The UK Government also proposes to prohibit public sector employers assisting unions to collect their membership subscriptions through payroll (check-off) – even though this is used for a variety of other staff benefits such as cycle-to-work schemes and childcare vouchers, and even though unions often meet the costs of this.

Flintshire County Council believes:

- All workers should have the right to belong to, and be active in, an effective trade union.
- Trade unions play an essential role in ensuring good industrial relations.
- The facilitation of trade union representatives to carry out their roles and duties, and the collection of union dues by "check-off" are useful tools in ensuring good industrial relations.

Flintshire County Council resolves:

Immediately to support the Union's efforts to move members onto direct debit subscriptions, through:

- Allowing union officials access to workers.
- Allowing additional facility time to Union representatives to visit their members to achieve this aim.
- Allows the distribution of union material through our email, intranet, payslips, internal mail and other communication systems.

## **Councillor Tim Newhouse**

Council notes the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 section 85 and resolves that attendance by a member at a meeting of any committee or sub-committee of the Council as defined in section 85 (2) of the Act requires the attendance to be as a member of the committee, sub-committee or as appropriate or a substitute for a member. The fact of being a County Councillor and in attendance at such a meeting as an observer is not interpreted as attending as a member for this purpose, and that this is established as a convention in place of that approved by the Constitution Committee on 27 January.

### **8 COUNCIL TAX SETTING FOR 2016-17 (Pages 5 - 20)**

Report of Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) enclosed.

### **9 INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL TAX PREMIUM FOR LONG TERM EMPTY AND SECOND HOMES (Pages 21 - 28)**

Report of Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) enclosed.

### **10 PAY POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2016/17 (Pages 29 - 52)**

Report of Chief Executive enclosed.

### **11 PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO THE LOCAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE (Pages 53 - 60)**

Report of Chief Officer (Governance) enclosed.


### **12 TIMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS (Pages 61 - 64)**

Report of Chief Officer (Governance) enclosed.

### **13 CONTRACTS REQUIRING SEALING (Pages 65 - 68)**

Report of Chief Officer (Governance) enclosed.

Yours faithfully



Peter Evans  
Democracy & Governance Manager

### **WEBCASTING NOTICE**

This meeting will be filmed for live broadcast on the Council's website. The whole of the meeting will be filmed, except where there are confidential or exempt items, and the footage will be on the website for 6 months.

Generally the public seating areas are not filmed. However, by entering the Chamber you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and / or training purposes.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact a member of the Democratic Services Team on 01352 702345