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Contact Officer:  
Tracy Waters 01352 702331  
tracy.waters@flintshire.gov.uk

To: Cllr Clive Carver (Chairman)

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Peter Curtis, Andy Dunbobbin, Robin Guest, Ron Hampson, Richard Jones, Brian Lloyd, Richard Lloyd, Vicky Perfect, David Roney, Ian Smith, Nigel Steele-Mortimer, Carolyn Thomas and Arnold Woolley

8 January 2016

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee which will be held at 10.00 am on Thursday, 14th January, 2016 in the Delyn Committee Room, County Hall, Mold CH7 6NA to consider the following items

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

### **1 APOLOGIES**

**Purpose:** To receive any apologies.

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)**

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

### **3 MINUTES (Pages 3 - 16)**

**Purpose:** To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

### **4 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

**Purpose:** To receive a verbal update on the progress of the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2015 - 2018

5 **PROVISIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT** (Pages 17 - 34)

Report of Member Engagement Manager enclosed. Portfolio of the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

**Purpose:** To enable the Committee to comment on the outline response to the Provisional Local Government Settlement which is to be presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 19th January.

6 **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 7)** (Pages 35 - 66)

Report of Corporate Finance Manager enclosed.

**Purpose:** To provide the latest revenue budget monitoring information for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account based on actual income and expenditure as at month 7 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available.

7 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 67 - 72)

Report of Member Engagement Manager enclosed.

**Purpose:** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Yours faithfully



Peter Evans  
Democracy & Governance Manager

## **CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** **10 DECEMBER 2015**

Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Thursday, 10 December 2015

### **PRESENT: Councillor Clive Carver (Chairman)**

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Peter Curtis, Andy Dunbobbin, Robin Guest, Richard Jones, Richard Lloyd, Vicky Perfect, Nigel Steele-Mortimer and Arnold Woolley

### **SUBSTITUTIONS:**

Councillor Mike Reece for Ron Hampson, Tim Newhouse for David Roney, Paul Shotton for Ian Smith and Dave Cox for Carolyn Thomas

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Councillor Haydn Bateman attended as an observer  
Chief Officer (Organisational Change)

### **APOLOGIES:**

Councillor Billy Mullin – Cabinet Member for Corporate Management  
Councillor Brian Lloyd

### **CONTRIBUTORS:**

Councillor Aaron Shotton – Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Chief Executive

For minute number 56

Mr. Winston Roddick (Police & Crime Commissioner), Mr. Julian Sandham (Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner) and Mr. Stephen Hughes (Acting Chief Executive of the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office)

For (minute numbers 57 and 58)

Corporate Finance Manager

For minute number 59

Councillor Bernie Attridge – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment, Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) and Finance Manager Environment,

For minute number 60

Chief Officer (Governance)

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Member Engagement Manager and Committee Officer

## **54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Arnold Woolley declared a personal interest in minute number 56 (Police & Crime Commissioner: Consultation on the Crime & Policing Plan for 2016/17) as he was the Vice-Chair of the International Police Association North Wales Branch.

**55. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 November 2015 had been circulated to Members with the agenda.

Matters Arising

Councillor Marion Bateman thanked officers for their email response to her request for information about recycling but added that it had not included details of tonnages. She had found some information herself but asked for the quarter 2 data which the Chief Executive agreed to provide.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**56. POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER: CONSULTATION ON THE CRIME & POLICING PLAN FOR 2016/17**

The Chief Executive introduced Mr. Winston Roddick (Police & Crime Commissioner), Mr. Julian Sandham (Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner) and Mr. Stephen Hughes (Acting Chief Executive) to the Committee. The full set of answers to the questions submitted to the Police & Crime Commissioner for his previous attendance at the County Council meeting on 23 July 2015 had been circulated to Members earlier in the week.

The Chief Executive provided an overview of the work of the Regional Safer Communities Board, for which Flintshire and Wrexham were the lead authorities, and the 'strategic fit' of the Flintshire Local Service Board priorities of reducing crime and disorder, substance misuse and reducing re-offending with those of the Police and Crime Plan

Mr. Roddick thanked the Chief Executive for the introduction and said that in part it was due to his efforts that there was such a good fit between the Council's policies and the Police & Crime Commissioner's Plan. He added that the Chief Executive had worked hard on the Safer Communities Board. One of the key tasks was to set out the strategic direction for North Wales and he was in the process of obtaining the views of the public, the voluntary sector and the business sector on what they felt was important, which was the reason for attending this meeting. North Wales was one of the safest places to live in and it was important that residents felt safe and that the Police were visible and available where they were needed the most. The Police & Crime Plan was revised each year and set out in detail the level of service that the public could expect. Mr. Roddick commented on a survey that Members could take part in.

Mr. Roddick provided a detailed presentation which covered the following areas:-

- Finance
- The future financial challenge
- Current planning assumptions
- Changes in North Wales Police (NWP) workforce numbers over time
- The current policing objectives
- Priorities
- Volume crime and protective services

He spoke of the financial challenge faced by NWP and the cuts in funding of over £24m by the end of March 2016 which made the delivery of priorities challenging. The force continued to perform well in the unprecedented situation and Mr. Roddick commented on the risks, particularly in the light of the recent attacks in Paris, associated with cutting funding which would affect the service. The final settlement figure would be received on 17 December 2015 and until this was received, there were some elements of funding that could not yet be finalised but the current financial assumptions indicated that £8.201m of savings would be required over the next four years to 2019/20. Mr. Roddick explained that cuts of this level would represent a significant challenge and would lead to a change in the way policing was carried out. He commented on the impact on Police Officer and Police Staff numbers and reflected on the success to date of protecting the front line from the financial cutbacks but acknowledged that further cuts would increase the pressure on the front line. The Commissioner said that the current Police & Crime Plan increased the focus on the most vulnerable which he felt should continue.

Mr. Roddick provided a detailed explanation on the four priorities which were:-

- Prevent crime
- Deliver an effective response
- Reduce harm and the risk of harm
- Build effective partnerships

He added that the NWP force was committed at a tactical and strategic level to keeping residents safe.

Councillor Paul Shotton thanked Mr. Roddick for his presentation. He sought clarification on whether there would be a reduction in the number of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) as it had been announced in the recent Autumn Statement that there would not be any cuts to Police funding. He also asked about a recent audit of funding which had highlighted payments of £70,000 per quarter for a mobile phone service that was not being used. He went on to query what reassurance could be given to encourage residents to report incidents to the Police. Mr. Roddick said that he would need to reflect on the funding allocations on 17 December 2015 before giving an undertaking on PCSOs. However, he advised that he greatly valued them and the work that they carried out and he gave a commitment that any changes to PCSOs would be considered carefully. The Police would not be

able to take any action if they were not aware of the crime/threat/danger and stressed the importance of all crimes being reported.

In response to a question from the Chairman, Mr. Roddick indicated that the continuation of payment for the mobile phone service was a mistake by both the Police and the mobile phone operator. The service had not been used and had been paid for but the phone provider had agreed to refund the payment. The Chairman also referred to the annotation on the Council Tax bills that part of the payment was made for the Police & Crime Commissioner function and he queried how the post was funded. Mr. Roddick indicated that payment for his office was made directly from the Home Office and through local taxation. The funding for the Police Service was through the Home Office grant. The Chairman suggested that the wording on the Council Tax bills should be amended to read 'North Wales Police'. The Chief Executive advised that the core costs of the Police & Crime Commissioner's office were funded directly by UK government. He agreed with the suggestion for the change to the wording on the Council Tax bills and said that he would look into this. Mr. Roddick indicated that the budget allocated for his office was not more than the amount for the Police Authority that preceded him.

Councillor Richard Jones sought clarification on what cuts would not now need to be made because the budget gap had reduced from £15.5m over four years to the £8.2m referred to in the presentation. He also referred to the perception of residents that the Police didn't respond to minor crime and therefore there was no point in reporting it. In response, Mr. Roddick advised there was no extra funding available and that the areas where savings would need to be made had not yet been identified and that decisions would not be decided prior to the receipt of the information on the budget assumptions due on 17 December 2015. On the issue of crimes not being reported, Mr. Roddick said that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) had commended NWP on the level of crimes reported and recorded. Confidence in NWP had been measured as 90% which was positive and Mr. Roddick hoped that this provided reassurance to Members.

Councillor Peter Curtis referred to the good working relationship between the Police and Holywell Town Council as the Police were now located in the Town Hall. He referred to a national press article which reported that some Police forces were not able to respond to burglaries and Councillor Curtis praised the emphasis that NWP had put on the area of domestic abuse, which had been neglected in the past. Mr. Roddick expressed concern about the newspaper article about burglaries as it was not true and said that this area would continue to be investigated. He spoke of the significant challenge faced by the cutbacks and reiterated his earlier comment that the Police should be 'where they were needed the most'.

Councillor Arnold Woolley spoke of recent reports of low morale in NWP and asked what could be done to alleviate this. He asked how satisfied Mr. Roddick was about the reliability of the statistics produced, referring in particular to a robbery that had been recorded as lost property. Councillor Woolley commented on the prevention of crime and the fact that Police

Officers and PCSOs were rarely seen patrolling the streets, which he felt emphasised the public perception of not reporting a crime because the Police would not respond. In response, Mr. Roddick reiterated his earlier comments on the measure by HMIC on the reliability of reported and recorded crimes. He also published statistics regularly to address the perception by the public. Mr. Roddick said that he did not accept the statement from the Police Federation on low morale but if it was the case, then it would need to be addressed. Mr. Roddick suggested that the good performance levels of the force, as measured independently, did not support the assertion of low morale but suggested an effective and efficient workforce. On the issue of incorrectly recorded crimes, Mr. Julian Sandham referred to the crime recording system which had a compliance rate of 94% and said that considerable reassurance should be taken from the reliability expressed in the HMIC report.

Councillor Richard Lloyd referred to the 101 phone service, about which he received a large number of complaints from residents and sought assurance that a review of the service would be carried out. Mr. Roddick indicated that this had been a matter for discussion and debate at the Strategic Executive Board. The concern was if the 101 service was not effective, then the 999 service would become overloaded. Mr. Sandham spoke of abandoned calls to the 101 service but advised that in June 2015 over 93% of calls had been answered within 40 seconds and 96.5% in 90 seconds. There was a procedure that had to be followed before calls could be put through to the relevant Police Force and it was understood that this could take up to 40 seconds. The matter had been raised with the Police & Crime Panel and negotiations on what should be considered an acceptable figure for abandoned calls was still being discussed; this was currently 5%. He added that there was also an 0300 number which would allow callers to directly contact NWP and that he could provide the details following the meeting.

In response to a query from Councillor Andy Dunbobbin, Mr. Roddick agreed to provide a list of savings made and proposed efficiencies following receipt of the final budget settlement figure due on 17 December 2015.

Councillor Marion Bateman commented on an incident that had occurred where a witness statement had been made to NWP but had been subsequently lost, requiring the witness to provide a second statement sometime after the event. Mr. Roddick advised that he could look in to the details following the meeting but added that it was extremely unusual for a statement to be lost. He also referred to the introduction of a service called 'Track My Crime' where those who had reported a crime would be able to find out what stage the investigation was at; this would be available bilingually.

The Chief Executive referred to the assumptions of Council Tax funding being 3.5% for 2016/17 and 2.5% in subsequent years and questioned the rationale. Mr. Roddick confirmed that this information was subject to change based on the budget figure due in December 2015.

Mr. Roddick thanked the Committee for the invitation to address the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Committee supports the four priorities in the Police & Crime Plan:
  - 1. Crime Prevention;
  - 2. Delivering an effective response;
  - 3. Reducing harm and the risk of harm;
  - 4. Building effective partnerships
- (b) That the Police & Crime Commissioner provide his list of savings made and his proposed efficiencies in due course;
- (c) That the Council will investigate changing the wording on the Council Tax demand letter from 'Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales' to 'North Wales Police'; and
- (d) That the Police & Crime Commissioner and his colleagues be thanked for attending the meeting.

**57. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

The Chief Executive provided a verbal update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

He explained that the provisional settlement had been received the previous day and a full presentation would be provided to Cabinet at its meeting on 15 December 2015. The provisional settlement was a draft but it rarely changed prior to the publication of the final version. However, there was a longer consultation period to March 2016. Based on intelligence from Welsh Government (WG) to expect the same rate of cut for 2016/17 as for 2015/16, the Council had been working on a reduction of 3.5% in Revenue Support Grant (RSG). The average cut for Wales had been 1.4% and Flintshire County Council was to receive a reduction in RSG of 1.5% which put the authority at 12<sup>th</sup> out of 22 Councils. The difference between a reduction of 1.5% compared to 3.5% equated to £3.8m. Details of specific grants had not yet been provided but it had been indicated that the Supporting People grant would not change which was positive. It was anticipated that the Single Environment grant would be reduced by 6% to 7% and clarification was still awaited on the Families First grant. However, the Council Tax Reduction Scheme was not inflation protected and therefore provision of the scheme would become a budget pressure of approximately £350,000 over the two years to date. The Chief Executive said that it was important to remember that even though Flintshire was 12<sup>th</sup> in the table for RSG, it was 19<sup>th</sup> out of 22 for 'per capita' funding. The average 'per capita' was £1309, Flintshire received £1196 and the highest figure was £1576 which was a substantial difference. Discussions would be undertaken at a later date on the remaining budget gap. The Chief Executive added that the Pupil Deprivation grant allocation per head was to increase from £1050 to £1150 which amounted to £250,000 but this figure was passported directly to schools.



Councillor Aaron Shotton said that the timelines currently set for the budget meetings in December 2015 remained unchanged and further meetings would be arranged for January 2016 which would allow for the opportunity to consider the remaining budget gap. He felt that the improved position in funding should be welcomed along with the strong case put forward by Flintshire County Council to argue the case against cuts to public services. He felt that without the lobbying by the Council, the cuts by WG would have been greater and that the fact that the reduction was only 1.5% should be recognised as a success. He commented on the additional Social Care funding which had been announced totalling £50m but indicated that this was already included in the RSG allocation which was based on a formula. On the issue of Council Tax Reduction Scheme, further discussions needed to take place on exemptions to the scheme. Councillor Aaron Shotton welcomed the lower than anticipated reduction in funding, as a result of lobbying, which he felt was positive.

The Chief Executive said that WG had made a commitment to review the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) in the longer term. He added that WG had set the budget in the context of the Chancellor's four year plan.

Councillor Paul Shotton felt that recognition should be given for the commitment by WG for the slowdown in cuts as opposed to the devastating cuts seen across England. Councillor Marion Bateman thanked the Chief Executive and Councillor Aaron Shotton for their hard work and determined lobbying to WG.

Councillor Richard Jones suggested that the lower than anticipated cut in RSG was not as a result of lobbying and referred to the CTRS which was not a fully funded scheme and would therefore result in a budget pressure. He spoke of the extra investment in Social Care that had been lobbied for but added that the additional funding for health had been included in the RSG already allocated and was therefore not extra money. Councillor Jones said that the lobbying had not changed the funding formula and referred to the smaller reductions in RSG for many South Wales Councils.

In response to a query from Councillor Tim Newhouse, the Chief Executive explained that using the funding formula, Flintshire County Council were 19<sup>th</sup> out of the 22 Councils per capita and received £1196, the average was £1309 and the highest, which was Blaenau Gwent, received £1576. Councillor Newhouse suggested that if Flintshire received the average, the Council would be £17.5m better off and felt that the figure required to plug the gap was £25 per person which he felt was realistic. He added that he hoped that lobbying would continue.

The Chief Executive felt that there was expectation that a new WG would address the funding formula and commented on some of the rural counties that had seen significant reductions in their RSG based on the current formula.

Councillor Peter Curtis concurred with the comments of Councillor Bateman and welcomed the efforts of the Leader and all those who had lobbied.

Councillor Shotton reminded Members that the settlement would not be finalised until March 2016 and suggested that there was still more work to be done on lobbying WG. He gave thanks to those Members who had supported the proposals to carry out discussions with WG. The Chief Executive said that even though the indicative settlement had been better than anticipated, there was still a significant budget gap and some difficult decisions would still need to be made. On the issues raised by Councillor Jones, he said that discussions would be held on the unsustainability of the CTRS and on funding of the NHS and Social Care.

In response to a question from Councillor Newhouse about longer term budget forecasting, Councillor Aaron Shotton confirmed that the MTFS covered the period to 2018 and that the details had been included without any detail from WG of the indicative funding for 2017/18. Clarity from WG was important to allow the Council to plan accordingly but if the figures for 2016/17 were replicated, then the MTFS would need to be reassessed. Following a query from the Chairman, the Chief Executive said that indications had been given that the reduction for RSG for 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 was expected to be 3.5% as had been the case in 2014/15 and it had only been confirmed the previous day that the reduction for 2016/17 was 1.5% for Flintshire County Council.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Executive and Councillor Shotton for their lobbying work.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the verbal update on the Provisional Settlement and the Medium Term Financial Strategy be received; and
- (b) That the Leader and the Chief Executive be thanked for their efforts in lobbying on the Council's behalf.

**58. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 6) AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING (MONTH 6)**

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 6)

The Corporate Finance Manager introduced a report to provide Members with the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 6) for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) which was to be submitted to Cabinet on 15 December 2015.

For the Council Fund, the projected net in-year expenditure was forecast to be £0.291m higher than budget which was a reduction of £0.304m on the overspend at Month 5. Appendix 1 detailed the movements from

Month 5 which included a higher than expected income as a result of an ongoing rental review for the premises in Ewloe. Appendix 3 provided details of the latest position of the programme of efficiencies and it was projected that £10.770m (84%) would be achieved resulting in a net underachievement of £2.104m. Taking into account the current overspend at Month 6, the balance on the contingency reserve at 31 March 2016 was projected to be £4.245m. A summary of Earmarked Reserves as at 1 April 2015 was reported and the Month 6 estimate for the amount of reserves at 31 March 2016 was £15,922,928. The section on risk management included details of the levy of 15% that the Council was required to pay for Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) and the requirement to increase this levy in the future. Options were being considered for meeting the potential significant liability and would need to be met from the contingency reserves.

The Month 6 monitoring report for the HRA was projecting in-year expenditure to be £0.147m lower than budget and a projected closing balance as at 31 March 2016 of £1.384m.

In response to a query from Councillor Robin Guest on the amount of the increase for the MMI, the Corporate Finance Manager explained that it was anticipated that it would be an increase of 20% from 15% to 35% which equated to £0.800m.

Councillor Richard Jones referred to the lower than anticipated income from the Telecare Service, which he had calculated as being 1,000 fewer people using the service over a 26 week period, and queried whether this was correct. The Corporate Finance Manager indicated that the shortfall in income was for 52 weeks and explained that further information on the reason for the variance had been shared with Members in the summary circulated by the Member Engagement Manager the previous day.

Councillor Jones also queried the overspend in Democratic Services of £0.110m for an efficiency that was agreed within the 2014/15 budget and the revised efficiency for Staff Car Parking Charges of £0.030m. In response, the Chief Executive reiterated that a detailed explanation on the reduction in Telecare income had been provided to Members. On the Democratic Services efficiency, he indicated that there had been a delay in the completion of the staffing review but confirmed that it would be implemented. The Chief Executive added that the revised efficiency for Staff Car Parking was due to a delay in the implementation of the scheme within the County Hall complex. The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) confirmed that a revised date for charging had been agreed as 1 February 2016 and that implementation had been delayed due to a number of objections raised which had now been addressed. There would be an impact on the amount of income raised for 2015/16 due to the delayed implementation as this would now be for two months rather than a whole year. The Strategy had been agreed in April 2015 and this had to be consulted upon and the objections received considered before the scheme could be rolled out. The Chief Executive explained that parking charges had been the subject of complex discussions with the Trade Unions and a number of objections had been

raised during the consultation period which had now been addressed; it was anticipated that parking charges for the County Hall complex would be in place from 1 February 2016.

In referring to Flint, Councillor Peter Curtis asked when car parking charges were to be introduced. Councillor Bernie Attridge responded that due to the number of changes because of the provision of the extra care facility, the health centre and regeneration of Flint, and the need to use temporary parking areas for a short term period, a decision had been made not to implement charges for car parking until longer term parking solutions had been identified. He added that it was anticipated that charges would be introduced in the next financial year.

Councillor Paul Shotton commented on the dramatic fall in the recycling values and suggested that the implementation of car parking charges and proposals for the Household Recycling Centres could have been delayed because the decisions had been called-in by Members. He also commented on the increased level of property related income (£0.514m) and higher than projected income as a result of the Rent Review for Unilever (£0.173m). The Corporate Finance Manager indicated that the £0.173m was a one-off income for backdated rent.

#### Capital Programme 2015/16 (Month 6)

The Corporate Finance Manager introduced the report to provide Members with the Capital Programme Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 6) which was also to be submitted to Cabinet on 15 December 2015.

Table 2 reflected changes during this period which included an increase for the Queensferry Roundabout Scheme totalling £0.800m which included £0.572 of Welsh Government (WG) grant funding. A WG grant of £0.145m had also been received and this was to be used to upgrade the communal heating system in the Flint tower blocks. The amount of expenditure for the Capital Programme was reported in table 3 and a rollover of £0.435m into 2016/17 was being proposed for approval by Cabinet for the Education & Youth Service and for Organisational Change. The position on funding of 2015/16 approved schemes was reported in table 6 and showed a projected surplus of £1.179m to 2016/17.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Month 6 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report be received; and
- (b) That no formal recommendations be made to the Cabinet on this occasion.

**59. PERIOD 5 – OVERSPEND IN THE STREETSCENE AND TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO**

The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) introduced the report to provide more information on the reasons behind the projected overspend of £1.108m for the financial year 2015/16 in the Streetscene and Transportation Portfolio.

He explained that the projected overspend was due to a number of elements which had been as a result of the delay in implementation of some proposals. He assured Members that these delays would not reoccur in the future and were therefore one-off overspends.

Waste Collection Policy

The Council's revised waste collection policy was approved by Cabinet in April 2015, which created a delay in the introduction of a number of revised working arrangements for the waste service. The policies required significant consultation and could therefore not be implemented immediately after approval by Cabinet. The cessation of the waste container delivery service which was introduced in July 2015 had resulted in an overspend of £50,000 and the new service charge for a second garden waste bin was to be introduced from March 2016 resulting in a loss of income of £25,000. Following extensive public engagement and resident/member notifications, the seven day waste collection service had been introduced from mid-September which meant that the full year benefit had not been achieved.

The proposed rationalisation and changes to Household Recycling Centre provision (HRC) were further delayed by a Call-in on the original Cabinet decision and as a result of the delay, the total overspend was £175,000.

Car Parking Strategy

The Strategy was approved in April 2015 and had been delayed due to the need for a full statutory consultation period which resulted in a loss of income amounting to £110,000 against the full year target at period 5.

Grass cutting policy

The grass cutting policy was also approved by Cabinet in April 2015 which included the reduction in the frequency of some grass cutting services and the decision to outsource some of the provision. The decision came after the commencement of the grass cutting season and the delay resulted in the partial loss of the full year saving of £50,000.

## Zero tolerance for littering

The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) explained that a later than expected introduction of the proposals had contributed to the overspend within the service which he was confident was a one-off.

Other areas, including the reduced electricity sales from the gas engines at Brookhill and Standard landfill sites (shortfall in income of £150,000), the under achieving income levels in the waste recycling market (loss in income at period 5 of £236,000) and Denbighshire County Council reviewing its own contractual arrangements for composting their domestic garden waste (loss of £60,000 income), had all contributed to the overspend within the service. The Chief Officer provided details of the reduction in rates per tonnage of glass, aluminium, steel and paper and said that, because this was a national problem, it had been identified as a corporate risk rather than a risk to the service.

In response to a question from Councillor Marion Bateman about the gas engines at Brookhill, the Chief Officer confirmed that the old engines were still being used. He spoke of options being considered to store the gas and use it during peak demand and added that the engines should be downgraded when the gas was low but this was prohibitively expensive. Councillor Bateman also spoke about recyclates and asked whether new ways of dealing with waste in relation to the national problem of fluctuating recycling sale values were being considered, particularly as landfill charges were increasing. The Chief Officer advised that WG recognised the problem and he spoke of the ongoing discussions with WG in an attempt to introduce a national merchant arrangement for the sale of recycling products across Wales.

Councillor Robin Guest was sympathetic on the issue of the volatile recycling rates and agreed that it should be identified as a corporate risk rather than for the service. He felt that there was little chance of recovering the amount, which accounted for 25% of the overspend, in year which was a cause for concern. He also suggested that lessons needed to be learned about the timing of when policies or strategies were agreed and that appropriate implementation dates and efficiencies from their introduction needed to be considered carefully.

The Chief Executive accepted the comments on the pace and expectation of the introduction of such policies/strategies. He reminded Members that discussions were also being undertaken for allocation to the new portfolios during the debates on the budget for 2015/16. He added that he was confident that the implementation of the car parking changes would overachieve on the amount of income expected to be raised. He concurred that the actual level of income was above the projected levels. On the recycling figures he advised that approximately a third of the overspend within the service was as a result of the reduction of income from recyclates.

Councillor Richard Jones said that the Council was unable to control the recyclate market rates but was in control of the remaining overspend of

£645,000 and suggested that more accurate estimates could have been made, referring in particular to estimation of Out of County Placements which were also estimated. He commented on the issue of the HRC sites and the delays in the implementation of car parking charges and requested a breakdown of the overspend of £645,000.

Councillor Peter Curtis commented on the reintroduction of the car parking charges in Holywell and spoke of a previous arrangement that had been in place for the car park at St. Winifred's Well where the charges were dropped for church users. He queried whether this arrangement was still in place and the Chief Officer indicated that he would provide a response following the meeting.

The Chief Executive welcomed the comments on the lessons to be learned on consideration of policies and their implementation dates and agreed that some policies took longer to implement than expected and that this had not been possible to reflect in the business plans.

Councillor Mike Reece referred to the loss of £60,000 income from the review undertaken by Denbighshire County Council for the composting of their domestic garden waste, and queried whether the introduction of a woodchip machine was to be considered. In response, the Chief Officer explained that this had been discussed but there were no immediate plans to do so.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Committee accepts the reasons for the overspend in the Streetscene and Transportation Portfolio and is assured by the on-going work within the service to mitigate the overspend.

#### **60. QUARTER 2 IMPROVEMENT PLAN MONITORING REPORT**

The Chief Executive introduced a report to provide an explanation of the progress being made towards the delivery of the impacts set out in the 2015/16 Improvement Plan.

He commented on the new format as a result of the purchase of performance management software, CAMMS, which he felt was an excellent system. There were two high level (Red) risk areas for this Committee which were the scale of the financial challenge, which was self-explanatory, and the second risk area on capacity and capability of the organisation to implement necessary changes.

Councillor Richard Jones referred to the actions on Developing Communities and suggested that a figure to identify the numbers involved should be shown alongside the percentage completed figure. He also queried the 'yellow' rating shown for the risk for 'public attitude to accessing services on-line' and was advised by the Chief Officer (Governance) that risks had five categories (green, amber, yellow, red and black) rather than the three of red, amber and green for performance indicators.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Committee is assured by the progress and performance reported on within the Quarter 2 Improvement Plan Monitoring report.

**61. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Member Engagement Manager introduced the report to consider the Forward Work Programme for the Committee.

He advised that the budget meeting for this Committee would take place on the morning of the 18 December 2015 with a 'mop up' meeting to which all Members would be invited, being held in the afternoon of the same day in the Council Chamber. The Chief Executive indicated that the Corporate Services budget and Corporate Finance issues would be considered at the morning meeting.

The Member Engagement Manager detailed the items for consideration at the 14 January 2016 meeting of the Committee. He explained that a further round of budget meetings would be held between 15 and 29 January 2016 and that Members would be advised once the dates for each Committee had been confirmed.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme, as submitted with the verbal amendments, be approved; and
- (b) That the Member Engagement Manager, in consultation with the Chair, Vice-Chair and officers, be authorised to vary the work programme between meetings.

**62. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS IN ATTENDANCE**

There was one member of the press and no members of the public in attendance.

(The meeting started at 10.00am and ended at 12.53 pm)

.....  
**Chairman**





## CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday, 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	Provisional Local Government Settlement
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Leader of the Council
<b>Report Author</b>	Member Engagement Manager
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Welsh Government published the Provisional Local Government Settlement for the 2016/17 financial year on 9<sup>th</sup> December. The attached report from the Chief Executive and Corporate Finance Manager provides a summary of the details and implications of the settlement for Flintshire. This is an opportunity for this committee to consider the report and make comments on it before it is considered by the Cabinet on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the committee considers and comments on the attached report of the Chief Executive and Corporate Finance Manager: those comments to be forwarded to the cabinet for consideration alongside the substantive report.
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### REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>PROVISIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT FOR THE 2016/17</b>
1.01	<p>On 9<sup>th</sup> December, the Welsh Government published the Provisional Local Government Settlement for the 2016/17 financial year. The Chief Executive and the Corporate Finance Manager have produced the attached report which provides a summary of the details and implications of the settlement for Flintshire.</p> <p>The substantive report is to be submitted to the Cabinet at its meeting on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> January. Given the role of the Corporate Resources</p>

	Overview & Scrutiny Committee in co-ordinating the scrutiny response to the budget proposals, it was considered appropriate that the committee should be given the opportunity to consider the report and make comments on it before it is considered by the Cabinet.
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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The resource implications for this report are as set out in the appended report.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	This report is being submitted for consultation with the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	The risks for this report are as set out in the appended report.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Report of the Chief Executive and Corporate Finance Manager on the Provisional Local Government Settlement to be submitted to the Cabinet on 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2016 is attached as Appendix 1
5.02	Attached as Appendix 2 are the Presentation Slides

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p><u>As identified in the relevant section of the attached appendix.</u></p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Robert Robins, Member Engagement Manager,</p> <p><b>E mail:</b> <a href="mailto:Robert.robins@flintshire.gov.uk">Robert.robins@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702320</p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	As identified in the relevant section of the attached appendix.



## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 19 January 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	Provisional Local Government Settlement
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Leader of the Council
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Executive and Corporate Finance Manager
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Welsh Government published the Provisional Local Government Settlement for the 2016/17 financial year on 9 December. The detail and implications of the Settlement for Flintshire are summarised in this report. The Settlement is open to consultation until 20 January, and the Final Settlement will be published in early March. The outline of a Council response is set out in the report.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet is invited to provide a response to the consultation based on the outline set out in the report.
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### REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>REFORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>
1.01	The annual Local Government Settlement announced by Welsh Government sets out the financial resources local government will receive the following year, both across the sector and council by council.
1.02	The Provisional Local Government Settlement for 2016/17 was announced on 9 December. The Settlement is open to consultation until 20 January. The Final Settlement will be announced in early March. It is not usual for the Final Settlement to change significantly from the Provisional.

1.03	A presentation was made to Cabinet (15 December) and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (18 December) on the Provisional Settlement and its impacts for Flintshire. The presentation materials are attached. The Settlement provides the context for the setting of the Council Fund Revenue Budget for 2016/17 which is the subject of a separate and more detailed report on the agenda for this Cabinet meeting.
1.04	The detail of the Settlement can be accessed by following the hyperlink within the background documents section.
1.05	<p>The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) made the following statement in receiving the news on the Provisional Settlement:-</p> <p><i>"The system used to fund local councils in Wales is based on a complex array of grant arrangements and while many Welsh councils will today cautiously welcome the Welsh Government's draft budget for its focus on preventative public services such as social care, we await further detail of how the budget can help to alleviate some of the mounting pressures on critical local services. A full and detailed settlement for local government in Wales will not be published until tomorrow and we now need to consider today's draft budget announcement in much finer detail.</i></p> <p><i>The WLGA has only recently published its Localism 2016-21 manifesto, which offers a 40 point plan for public services in Wales. Key to our call was the need to refocus resources on the local public services that make such an important contribution to alleviating the build-up of costly pressures elsewhere in the system such as in our NHS, and also the need for councils to be offered far greater financial flexibility in the future. It is heartening to hear these points acknowledged so strongly by Welsh Government within today's draft budget announcement.</i></p> <p><i>We have been clear that there is a need to rewrite the rulebook on how our councils are funded if we are to avoid a similar situation to that in England, where local public services have been cut to the bone and a number of councils face the very real possibility of being unable to meet even their most basic statutory duties. Today's announcement offers a glimmer of hope that a different reality can be written for vital local public services in Wales."</i></p>
1.06	<p>An outline of a suggested response for Cabinet is set out below.</p> <p><b>The Settlement for 2016/17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome the recognition by Welsh Government of the case made by local government and by Flintshire for some funding protection, as reflected in the lower Revenue Support Grant reductions (of a -1.4% average reduction for local government and a -1.5% reduction for Flintshire)</li> <li>• Press Welsh Government for a lower reduction in the new Single Environment Grant than the proposed reduction (of -6.7% and £0.210M for Flintshire) due to its likely impact on key local public</li> </ul>

	<p>services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Express concern over the risk of any further above average reductions which may yet be intended for unpublished specific grants</li> <li>• An end to further in-year specific grant reductions as has been the experience during 2015/16, as such short-term reductions and their impacts on services are impossible to plan for</li> <li>• The newly announced joint health-social care additional funding to be made equally accessible for current and emerging service demands with the minimum of bureaucracy</li> </ul> <p><b>Future Settlements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restate the critical importance of the removal of social care and other charging caps</li> <li>• Restate the unsustainability of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) and the principle that national welfare schemes should be funded nationally in their entirety</li> <li>• Aggregate External Finance (AEF) reduction from 2017/18 onwards to be maintained at this limited level or a reduced level for local government to be sustainable</li> <li>• The medium term reform of local government funding to be a commitment of the new Welsh Government from May 2016. The work of the Independent Commission for Local Government Finance in Wales, which is due to report by March, should be instrumental in proposing such reforms</li> </ul> <p><b>Immediate National Budget Work for 2016/17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work through the Welsh Local Government Association, Welsh Government and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to secure access to a proportion of the new funds announced for the NHS and Social Care to help alleviate the cost pressures in Social Care in 2016/17</li> <li>• Flintshire to formally apply for an exemption from social care charging caps to introduce a cost recovery plan within 2016/17</li> </ul>
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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The implications of the Settlement for the Council are significant. The Settlement for 2016/17 is an improved position on the previously forecasted position. Refer to the separate report on the Council Fund Revenue Budget, on the agenda for this meeting, for more information and analysis.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	The Council is being consulted by Welsh Government as the proposer of the Provisional Settlement. The consultation is an open public consultation.
<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	There are significant risks to the Council caused by the annual reductions in national funding for public services as set out in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Presentation on the Provisional Local Government Settlement 2016/17 made to the Cabinet (15 December) and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (18 December).
<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>Provisional Settlement  <a href="http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2015/lqsettlement1617/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2015/lqsettlement1617/?lang=en</a></p> <p>Medium Term Financial Strategy Parts 1 and 2  <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy.aspx">http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy.aspx</a></p> <p>Medium Term Financial Strategy Executive Summary  <a href="http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy/Summary-Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy.pdf">http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy/Summary-Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Colin Everett  Chief Executive</p> <p><b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702101</p> <p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk">chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Budget:</b> a statement giving the Council's policy and service commitments and choices and how they will be funded for a financial year. It includes both revenue and capital.</p> <p><b>Local Government Finance Settlement:</b> This sets out what the Welsh Government is to allocate to each local authority in Wales. It is issued in two stages. This year, the Provisional (or draft) Settlement was announced</p>

for consultation on 9<sup>th</sup> December, with the final Local Government Finance Settlement being due to be announced in March 2016.

**Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS):** a written strategy which gives a forecast of the financial resources which will be available to a Council for a given period, and sets out plans for how best to deploy those resources to meet its priorities, duties and obligations.

**Council Fund:** the majority of the Council's revenue expenditure covering all services except Council Housing for which there is a stand-alone and ring-fenced account called the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

**Annual Settlement:** the amount of its funds the Welsh Government will allocate annually to local government as a whole, as part of its total budget, and to individual councils one by one. The amount of Revenue Support Grant (RSG) each council will receive is based on a complex distribution formula for awarding Aggregate External Finance (AEF). The formula is underpinned by assessments of local need based, for example, of population size and demographics and levels of social deprivation.

**The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA):** the representative body of principal council, fire and rescue authorities and the national parks in Wales.

**Single Environment Grant:** a new consolidated specific grant which brings together a number of existing specific grants, such as the Sustainable Waste Management Grant, which are provided by Welsh Government to local authorities to co-fund specific services such as recycling.

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# Local Government Provisional Settlement 2016/17

Page 25  
Implications for Flintshire  
Cabinet Briefing  
December 2015



# Settlement Context

- » Welsh macro-budget\* announced on 8 December in the context of a 4.5% reduction over 4 years based on the Chancellor's Comprehensive Spending Review
- » Local Government Provisional Settlement\* announced on 9 December
- » Settlement open for consultation until 20 January
- » Announcement of new or extended ring-fenced budgets for Health and Health and Social Care

\* full background papers available on Welsh Government website

# Settlement Headlines

- » A one year settlement only
- » Average reduction to Aggregate External Finance (AEF) for local government of -1.4% (North Wales range of -1.2 to -2.2%)
- » Some base protection for Schools and Social Services
- » List of many specific grants published
- » Protection for Supporting People and increase in Pupil Deprivation Grant
- » Above average reductions in Single Environment Grant and Families First
- » Capital Funding set at 2015/16 level

# Flintshire Position in the Settlement

» Ranked 12<sup>th</sup> of 22 in being at a -1.5% AEF reduction (0.1% above the average reduction of -1.4%)

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» Ranked 19<sup>th</sup> of 22 per capita on AEF at £1,196 per capita. The Welsh average is £1,309 per capita with the highest, Blaenau Gwent, being £1,576 per capita. Flintshire is £113 below the per capita average. If Flintshire received the average the Council's AEF would be £17.455M per annum higher

# Known Impacts for Flintshire 1

- » Reduction of -1.5% in AEF; an improved position of £3.770M against the forecast when combining the recovery of RSG (£3.370M) and an increase in the Council Tax base (£0.400M)
- » Many specific grants at same level or a marginal reduction from 2015/16
- » -6.4% in the new Single Environment Grant which includes the former Sustainable Waste Management Grant (£0.201M)
- » -10% reduction on Families First Grant (£0.203M)

# Known Impacts for Flintshire 2

- » Supporting People Grant protected (*analysis of level of protection and distribution across Wales ongoing*)
- » Former Outcome Agreement Grant ended and incorporated into the Settlement at full value (£1.479M)
- » Impacts of other movements into the Settlement under review
- » Increase in Pupil Deprivation Grant from £1,050 to £1,150 per eligible pupil (£0.250M)
- » Capital reduction of £0.143M (-2.08%)

# Ongoing Local Budget Work

- » Reassessing the 2016/17 budget 'gap' for 2016/17 based on the Settlement benefits and risks, and a recalculation of emerging financial pressures
- » Report to Cabinet and then CROSC in January on the revised budget position with 'fall back' options to move towards balancing the budget
- » Re-profile the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) noting that this is a one year Settlement only

# Ongoing National Budget Work

- » Work through the Welsh Local Government Association to secure access to a proportion of the new funds for NHS and Social Care to help alleviate the cost pressures in Social Care in 2016/17
- » Apply for an exemption on social care charging caps to introduce a cost recovery plan within 2016/17
- » Press the Welsh Government to honour its commitment to review the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) and to place it on a financially sustainable footing from 2017/18
- » Make a formal response to the Settlement consultation



# Timescale for Phasing the Budget

- » Complete the current Overview and Scrutiny round of meetings on the first two parts of the proposed budget
- » Cabinet reappraisal report in January with further options to close the remaining budget 'gap'
- » Further Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee rounds leading to a final Council decision on the total budget, and Council Tax level, by 10<sup>th</sup> March
- » Council dates provisionally in the diary for 26 January, 16 February and 10 March

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## CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 14 January 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	Revenue Budget Monitoring (Month 7)
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Leader of the Cabinet and Cabinet Member for Finance
<b>Report Author</b>	Corporate Finance Manager
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 7).

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the committee considers and comments on the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 7) report. Any specific matters for attention will be noted and reported verbally to the Cabinet when it considers the report.
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### REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING POSITION 2015/16 (MONTH 7)</b>
1.01	The Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 7) report will be presented to Cabinet on Tuesday 19 January 2016. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix A to this report.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	As set out in Appendix A; Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 7).

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	None required.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	As set out in Appendix A; Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 7).

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix A; Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 7).

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	None required.  <b>Contact Officer:</b> Sara Dulson, Finance Manager <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702287 <b>E-mail:</b> sara.dulson@flintshire.gov.uk

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	(1) <b>Revenue:</b> a term used to describe the day to day costs of running Council services and income deriving from those services. It also includes charges for the repayment of debt, including interest, and may include direct financing of capital expenditure.  (2) <b>Budget:</b> a statement expressing the Council's policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them.



## CABINET MEETING

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 19 January 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 7)
<b>Cabinet Holder</b>	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
<b>Report Author</b>	Corporate Finance Manager
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This regular monthly report provides the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The position is based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 7, and projects forward to year-end.

The projected year end position is as follows:

#### **Council Fund**

- Net in year expenditure forecast to be £0.387m lower than budget
- Projected contingency reserve balance at 31 March 2016 of £4.923m

#### **Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**

- Net in year expenditure forecast to be £0.149m lower than budget
- Projected closing balance as at 31 March 2016 of £1.386m

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1	Note the overall report and the projected Council Fund contingency sum as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2016.
2	Note the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account.

3	To agree a contribution from the contingency reserve of £0.800m to meet the estimated increase in levy required to meet past and future claim liabilities in relation to the former Municipal Mutual Insurance company (see paragraph 1.13).
4	To agree a contribution from the contingency reserve of £0.100m to meet the resource requirements for specialist social work for child protection (see paragraph 1.14).

### REPORT DETAILS

1.00	<b>THE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING POSITION FOR MONTH 7 - 2015/16</b>																																																																						
1.01	<p><b><u>Council Fund Latest In Year Forecast</u></b></p> <p>The table below shows the projected position by portfolio.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME</b></th> <th><b>Original Budget</b></th> <th><b>Revised Budget</b></th> <th><b>Projected Outturn</b></th> <th><b>In-Year Over/ (Under) spend</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <th><b>£m</b></th> <th><b>£m</b></th> <th><b>£m</b></th> <th><b>£m</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Social Services</td> <td>59.696</td> <td>59.031</td> <td>59.248</td> <td>0.217</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community &amp; Enterprise</td> <td>12.598</td> <td>12.719</td> <td>12.471</td> <td>(0.248)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</td> <td>27.782</td> <td>28.427</td> <td>29.425</td> <td>0.998</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Planning &amp; Environment</td> <td>4.887</td> <td>5.331</td> <td>5.502</td> <td>0.171</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education &amp; Youth</td> <td>13.760</td> <td>13.184</td> <td>13.092</td> <td>(0.092)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Schools</td> <td>82.670</td> <td>83.161</td> <td>83.161</td> <td>0.000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>People &amp; Resources</td> <td>4.595</td> <td>4.665</td> <td>4.546</td> <td>(0.119)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Governance</td> <td>8.689</td> <td>8.715</td> <td>8.858</td> <td>0.143</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Organisational Change</td> <td>9.569</td> <td>9.618</td> <td>9.229</td> <td>(0.389)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chief Executive</td> <td>3.296</td> <td>3.177</td> <td>3.000</td> <td>(0.177)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Central &amp; Corporate Finance</td> <td>23.915</td> <td>23.429</td> <td>22.538</td> <td>(0.891)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>251.457</b></td> <td><b>251.457</b></td> <td><b>251.070</b></td> <td><b>(0.387)</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Revised Budget</b>	<b>Projected Outturn</b>	<b>In-Year Over/ (Under) spend</b>		<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	Social Services	59.696	59.031	59.248	0.217	Community & Enterprise	12.598	12.719	12.471	(0.248)	Streetscene & Transportation	27.782	28.427	29.425	0.998	Planning & Environment	4.887	5.331	5.502	0.171	Education & Youth	13.760	13.184	13.092	(0.092)	Schools	82.670	83.161	83.161	0.000	People & Resources	4.595	4.665	4.546	(0.119)	Governance	8.689	8.715	8.858	0.143	Organisational Change	9.569	9.618	9.229	(0.389)	Chief Executive	3.296	3.177	3.000	(0.177)	Central & Corporate Finance	23.915	23.429	22.538	(0.891)	<b>Total</b>	<b>251.457</b>	<b>251.457</b>	<b>251.070</b>	<b>(0.387)</b>
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1.02	The reasons for the projected variances occurring to date are summarised within appendix 2 with movements between periods summarised in appendix 1.																																																																						

1.03	<p><b>Significant budget movements between original and revised budget</b></p> <p>There was a significant budget change between the Social Services and Streetscene &amp; Transportation portfolios in month 7. The transport budget of £0.656m has been transferred from Social Services to Streetscene &amp; Transportation. This is to reflect the current reporting structure. All associated expenditure has also been transferred between these portfolios.</p> <p>Another significant budget virement is the movement of £0.376m between Education &amp; Youth and Central &amp; Corporate Finance. This relates to Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) funding for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools which had been included in the Education &amp; Youth portfolio but is now reflected within Central &amp; Corporate Finance.</p>
1.04	<p><b>Streetscene and Transportation</b></p> <p>The overall overspend within Streetscene &amp; Transportation has decreased from a projected £1.042m overspend at Month 6 to £0.998m as at Month 7. The projected overspend within the service is due in part to the delay in the implementation of a number of efficiencies as reported to the Programme Board. In addition fluctuations in recycle sales due to a volatile market has led to an increased pressure on income projections which have resulted in a shortfall of £0.397m. Full details of movements are explained in Appendix 2.</p>
1.05	<p><b>Programme of Efficiencies</b></p> <p>The 2015/16 budget contains £12.874m of specific efficiencies which are being tracked.</p>
1.06	<p>Appendix 3 provides detail on the latest position where there is a variation to the level of efficiency achievable compared to the budget.</p>
1.07	<p>This shows that it is currently projected that £10.642m (83%) will be achieved resulting in a net underachievement of £2.232m. The underachieved efficiencies are included within the projected outturn figure. The position will continue to be monitored and reported throughout the monthly monitoring process. Any efficiencies which remain unachievable for future years will be taken into consideration as part of the 2016/17 budget setting process.</p>
1.08	<p><b>Inflation</b></p> <p>Included within the 2015/16 budget are provisions for pay (£1.304m), targeted price inflation (£0.421m), non-standard inflation (£0.102m) and income (£0.254m).</p>
1.09	<p>For 2015/16 the amounts for non-standard inflation (NSI) include an allocation for food (£0.064m) and an allocation for Non Domestic Rates (£0.038m).</p>

1.10	There is also an amount of £0.240m remaining from 2014/15 which is currently also being held centrally. Areas subject to NSI increases will be monitored throughout the year and allocations made to portfolio areas only where a critical funding need is evidenced.
<b>Reserves and Balances</b>	
<b>Unearmarked Reserves</b>	
1.11	The 2014/15 outturn reported to Cabinet on 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2015 showed unearmarked reserves at 31 March 2015 (above the base level of £5.769m) of £4.746m.
1.12	Taking into account previous allocations and the current underspend at Month 7 the balance on the contingency reserve at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2016 is projected to be £4.923m.
1.13	The month 6 report identified an emerging risk as described in section 4.01 of this report to meet past and future claim liabilities in relation to the former Municipal Mutual Insurance company. It is recommended to use £0.800m from the contingency reserve to meet the estimated 20% increase of the levy required.
1.14	There is an increased need for specialist social work capacity for child protection support working in partnership with statutory agencies. Currently there are projected costs of £0.100m being shown within the Children's Service budget and it is recommended that this be met from the contingency reserve.
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>	
1.15	<p>The Council has developed a reserves protocol which was considered by Audit Committee and approved by County Council on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015. This sets out the principles around how the Council will determine, manage and review the level of its reserves and includes reference to regular reporting of the latest position to Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>The next updated position on earmarked reserves will be included in the Month 9 monitoring report.</p>
<b>Housing Revenue Account</b>	
1.16	On 17 February 2015 the Council approved a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2015/16 of £30.776m.
1.17	The budget provided for a closing balance of £1.396m which at 4.5% of total



	expenditure, satisfies the prudent approach of ensuring a minimum level of 3%.
1.18	The 2014/15 Outturn Report to Cabinet on 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2015 showed a closing balance at the end of 2014/15 of £1.510m.
1.19	The Month 7 monitoring report for the HRA is projecting in year expenditure to be £0.149m lower than budget and a projected closing balance as at 31 March 2016 of £1.386m, which at 4.48% of total expenditure satisfies the prudent approach of ensuring a minimum level of 3%.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The Budget Monitoring Report reflects the planned use of the financial resources of the Council for the current financial year and details the variations occurring to date.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	None Required.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	<p><b>Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI)</b> MMI was the predominant insurer of public sector bodies prior to 1992 when it failed. To ensure an orderly “run off” Flintshire, along with other local authorities, was required to pay a levy of 15% of its share of claims paid previously and of any future claims. MMI’s administrator has recently published their 2015 accounts which shows that due to an increase in the number of claims generally, there will be a need to increase the levy in the future, affecting claims paid previously and future claims. There is a recommendation in section 1.13 to meet a significant liability which reflects a 20% increase in the levy. Status: unstable/red risk.</p>
4.02	<p><b>Recycling</b> The recycling market (paper in particular) is going through a volatile period with fluctuating re-cycle sale values. This will impact on 2015/16 recycling income levels for the Council. The current impact is reflected in the Month 7 projections and continues to be monitored throughout the year. Status: unstable/red risk.</p>
4.03	<b>Car Parking</b>

	<p>Due to car parking charges being introduced in some Flintshire towns later than anticipated during 2015/16, there will be a shortfall in achieving the increased car park income targets. The full impact is being assessed and is being built into the projected outturn position.</p> <p>Status: unstable/amber risk.</p>
4.04	<p><b>Out of County Placements</b></p> <p>The risk is the volatility in demand and the impacts on service costs which cannot be predicted with any certainty. Therefore there is always a risk of significant variances occurring although this area continues to be closely monitored.</p> <p>Status: unstable/amber risk.</p>
4.05	<p><b>Former Euticals Site</b></p> <p>Monthly costs for ongoing security and maintenance of the site are in the region of £0.030m and will accumulate throughout the financial year until site disposal.</p> <p>Status: unstable/amber risk.</p>
4.06	<p><b>In Year Reductions in Specific Government Grants</b></p> <p>This is a generic risk associated with the risk of some Government grants reducing in year. Whilst these continue to be managed and mitigated where known, they can add to cumulative cost pressures. As we are now late on in the financial year further reductions are unlikely, therefore this risk has been closed.</p> <p>Status: closed.</p>

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	<p>Council Fund – Movement in Variances from Month 6 – Appendix 1</p> <p>Council Fund – Budget Variances – Appendix 2</p> <p>Council Fund – Programme of Efficiencies – Appendix 3</p> <p>Council Fund – Movement on unearmarked reserves – Appendix 4</p> <p>Housing Revenue Account Variances – Appendix 5</p>

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>None required</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Sara Dulson Finance Manager</p> <p><b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702287</p> <p><b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:sara.dulson@flintshire.gov.uk">sara.dulson@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

7.00	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<b>Budget:</b> a statement expressing the Council's policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them.
7.02	<b>Council Fund:</b> the fund to which all the Council's revenue expenditure is charged.
7.03	<b>Financial Year:</b> the period of twelve months commencing on 1 April.
7.04	<b>Housing Revenue Account:</b> the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a local authority account showing current income and expenditure on housing services related to its own housing stock. The account is separate from the Council Fund and trading accounts and is funded primarily from rents and government subsidy.
7.05	<b>Projected Outturn:</b> projection of the expenditure to the end of the financial year, made on the basis of actual expenditure incurred to date.
7.06	<b>Reserves:</b> these are balances in hand that have accumulated over previous years and are held for defined (earmarked reserves) and general (general reserves) purposes. Councils are required to regularly review the level and purpose of their reserves and to take account of the advice of the Chief Finance Officer.
7.07	<b>Revenue:</b> a term used to describe the day-to-day costs of running Council services and income deriving from those services. It also includes charges for the repayment of debt, including interest, and may include direct financing of capital expenditure.
7.08	<b>Underspend:</b> when referring to expenditure the actual expenditure incurred is less than budget. Shown as a -ve. When referring to income the actual income achieved exceeds the budget. Shown as a -ve.
7.09	<b>Variance:</b> difference between latest budget and actual income or expenditure. Can be to date if reflecting the current or most up to date position or projected, for example projected to the end of the month or financial year.
7.10	<b>Virement:</b> the transfer of budget provision from one budget head to another. Virement decisions apply to both revenue and capital expenditure heads, and between expenditure and income, and may include transfers from contingency provisions. Virements may not however be approved between capital and revenue budget heads.





COUNCIL FUND - REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16  
FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Budget Monitoring (Month 7)**  
**Summary of Movement from Month 6**

	£m	£m
<b>Month 6</b>		
Portfolios	0.772	
Central and Corporate Finance	(0.481)	
<b>Variance as per Cabinet Report</b>		<b>0.291</b>
<b>Month 7</b>		
Portfolios	0.504	
Central and Corporate Finance	(0.891)	
<b>Variance as per Directorate Returns</b>		<b>(0.387)</b>
<b>Change Requiring Explanation</b>		<b>(0.678)</b>
 <b><u>Social Services</u></b>		
<b>Services For Adults</b>		
• Locality Teams (Localities) - Increases in projected costs of externally provided Residential Care £0.038m and Domiciliary Care £0.021m. Other minor variances amount to (£0.009m).	0.050	
• Other minor changes of less than £0.025m for Services for Adults.	0.019	
<b>Subtotal: Services for Adults</b>		<b>0.069</b>
<b>Development &amp; Resources</b>		
• Other minor changes of less than £0.025m.	(0.005)	
<b>Subtotal: Development &amp; Resources</b>		<b>(0.005)</b>
<b>Children's Services</b>		
• Professional Support - Increase in use of agency staff to cover for staff deployed on support for areas of key risk within the service.	0.062	
• Out of County placements - additional cost of 1 new high cost placement	0.071	
• Residential Placements - increase in number of placements.	0.030	
• Prevention and Support - increase in Section 17 payments.	0.033	
• Other minor changes of less than £0.025m.	0.009	
<b>Subtotal: Children's Services</b>		<b>0.205</b>
<b>Total: Social Services</b>		<b>0.269</b>
 <b><u>Community &amp; Enterprise</u></b>		
<b>Council Fund Housing</b>		
• Procurement of Telecare equipment	0.040	
• Community Based Accommodation Support Service structural review and vacancy savings	(0.082)	
<b>Subtotal: Council Fund Housing</b>		<b>(0.042)</b>
<b>Revenues &amp; Benefits</b>		
• Council Tax Collection Fund Surplus due to increase in collection rates	(0.040)	
• Housing Benefit Subsidy estimated outturn based on the latest projection of Housing Benefit expenditure	0.157	
• Vacancy savings identified in respect of the Revenues and Benefits services	(0.076)	
• Minor changes such as increased fines income - Revenues	(0.035)	
<b>Subtotal: Revenues &amp; Benefits</b>		<b>0.006</b>
<b>Minor changes of less than £0.025m.</b>		
• Customer & Housing Services	(0.001)	
• Flintshire Connects underspend	(0.017)	
• Council Fund Housing	(0.014)	
• Regeneration	0.009	
• SHARP Procurement	0.019	
• Benefits	(0.019)	
<b>Total minor variances of less than £0.025m</b>		<b>(0.023)</b>
<b>Total: Community &amp; Enterprise</b>		<b>(0.059)</b>

**Streetscene & Transportation Portfolio****Minor variances of less than £0.025m**

• Ancillary Services & Performance	(0.003)	
• Highway Network	(0.018)	
• Transport & Logistics	(0.023)	
<b>Total minor variances of less than £0.025m</b>		<b>(0.044)</b>

**Total: Streetscene & Transportation****(0.044)****Planning & Environment Portfolio****Minor variances of less than £0.025m**

• Business	(0.004)	
• Community	(0.008)	
• Development	0.006	
• Access	(0.009)	
• Shared Service	0.003	
• Strategy	0.005	
• Administration	0.001	
<b>Total minor variances of less than £0.025m</b>		<b>(0.006)</b>

**Total: Planning & Environment****(0.006)****Education & Youth****Primary & Early Years Education**

• Primary School Services.	0.002	
<b>Subtotal: Primary &amp; Early Years Education</b>		<b>0.002</b>

**Inclusion Services**

• Out of County - Various movements in placements including new placements, withdrawn follow on placements and minor variances.	0.035	
<b>Subtotal: Inclusion Services</b>		<b>0.035</b>

**Access (School Planning & Provision)**

• School Provision.	(0.024)	
<b>Subtotal: Access (School Planning &amp; Provision)</b>		<b>(0.024)</b>

**Commissioning & Performance**

• Business Support - Vacancy savings following a Senior Management Restructure with E&Y Portfolio. Includes other minor variances.	(0.043)	
<b>Subtotal: Commissioning &amp; Performance</b>		<b>(0.043)</b>

**School Management & Information**

• School Management Information - Vacancy savings following a Senior Management Restructure with E&Y Portfolio.	(0.042)	
<b>Subtotal: Commissioning &amp; Performance</b>		<b>(0.042)</b>

**Minor variances of less than £0.025m**

• Access - School Planning	(0.008)	
• Community Centres	(0.004)	
• Youth & Community Service	0.002	
<b>Total minor variances of less than £0.025m</b>		<b>(0.010)</b>

**Total: Education & Youth****(0.082)**

**People & Resources****HR & OD**

• This variance from last month is due to a vacancy within the Trade Union Facility budget (£0.021m) and income received from Unison (£0.020m). The balance is due to minor variances.	(0.044)	
<b>Subtotal: HR &amp; OD</b>		<b>(0.044)</b>

**Corporate Finance**

• The variance reflects recent workforce reappportionment between Council Fund and Housing Revenue Fund.	(0.035)	
<b>Subtotal: Corporate Finance</b>		<b>(0.035)</b>

<b>Total: People &amp; Resources</b>		<b>(0.079)</b>
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**Governance****Minor variances of less than £0.025m**

• Legal Services	0.001	
• Democratic Services	(0.015)	
• Business Support	(0.017)	
• ICT	0.018	
<b>Total minor variances of less than £0.025m</b>		<b>(0.013)</b>

<b>Total: Governance</b>		<b>(0.013)</b>
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**Organisational Change****Valuation & Estates**

• In year salary savings from 2 ftes leaving mid-year.	(0.044)	
<b>Subtotal: Valuation &amp; Estates</b>		<b>(0.044)</b>

**Property Design & Consultancy**

• Additional Design fees anticipated from SHARP 21st Century Schools.	(0.097)	
<b>Subtotal: Property Design &amp; Consultancy</b>		<b>(0.097)</b>

**Facilities**

• Anticipated additional income from an increased uptake in school meals. Salary savings from an fte leaving mid-year.	(0.069)	
<b>Subtotal: Facilities</b>		<b>(0.069)</b>

**Minor variances of less than £0.025m**

• Public Libraries & Arts, Culture & Events	0.003	
• Leisure Services	0.005	
<b>Total minor variances of less than £0.025m</b>		<b>0.008</b>

<b>Total: Organisational Change</b>		<b>(0.202)</b>
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**Chief Executive**

• The change in variance is due to a reduction to the projected spend on public consultation for the Medium Term Financial Strategy by £0.025m, a reduction in workforce costs by £0.016m and minor variances of £0.011m.	(0.052)	
<b>Total: Chief Executive</b>		<b>(0.052)</b>

**Central & Corporate Finance**

• CLIA - Short Term Savings from Interest Costs - Delayed Capital Expenditure.	(0.596)	
• Reduced Matrix Income.	0.050	
• Unachievable Workforce Efficiencies.	0.136	
<b>Total: Central &amp; Corporate Finance</b>		<b>(0.410)</b>

**Total Changes**

		<b>(0.678)</b>
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MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Social Services Locality Teams (Localities)	14.250	14.039	(0.211)	(0.261)	<p><b>Domiciliary Care</b> There are some significant compensating variances in this area. The main area of pressure is Domiciliary Care, which is still being influenced by clients returning to the service following successful past reablement, the changing demographic profile, increased complexity of need and increasing numbers of people with dementia. The current level of projected overspend is £0.468m which has significantly reduced from the 2014/15 outturn position of £0.837m, which has been partly influenced by the cessation of one complex package.</p> <p><b>Residential Care</b> The significant projected overspend on Domiciliary care is being more than offset by a projected underspend of (£0.723m) on residential care, which includes, an underspend of (£0.220m) on payments to care home providers, an underspend of (£0.474m) due to an increase in the level of property related income, plus further increases in income above budget including (£0.029m) for free nursing.</p> <p><b>Professional Support</b> A further area of significant area of underspend is the professional support within the area Localities teams. There is a total projected underspend of (£0.071m) which relates to staffing due to Social Worker vacancies.</p> <p><b>Other</b> A further area of significant overspend is Minor Adaptations where an efficiency measure for £0.100m was approved in the budget relating to a means testing approach is now considered to be unachievable. It is intended that this pressure is addressed by way of realignment of budget from another area. Other minor variances amount to a net £0.015m within Day care services.</p>	<p>Recommend budget realignment adjustments to use underspends elsewhere in service to address pressures.</p> <p>Recommend budget realignment adjustments to use underspends elsewhere in service to address pressures.</p>

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
First Contact (Intake and Reablement)	0.519	0.438	(0.081)	(0.084)	The projected underspend is due to additional income of (£0.107m) offset by other minor variances amount to net £0.026m.	Keep under review.
Reablement Services (Intake and Reablement)	0.451	0.398	(0.053)	(0.053)	The projected under spend is mainly due to the reallocation of an officer to another service promoting Continuing Health Care independence.	Keep under review.
Hospital Social Work	0.427	0.308	(0.119)	(0.119)	Staffing savings due to vacant posts - which are intended to be used as part of budget realignment adjustments in respect of efficiency proposals which cannot be achieved.	Keep under review.
Resources & Regulated Services (Intake and Reablement)	5.798	5.728	(0.070)	(0.082)	Area of significant area of underspend is the Home Care within the area Resources & Regulated Services teams. There is a total projected underspend of (£0.097m) which relates to staffing due to vacancies. There is an offsetting overspend of £0.063m on residential care. Other minor variances amount to a net (£0.036m) within Day care services.	Keep under review.
Transition and Disability Services (Disability Services)	0.607	0.698	0.091	0.086	The projected overspend is mainly due to the cost of the support arrangements provided by Penderels in respect of direct payments. This accounts for £0.082m of the total projected overspend of £0.091m with other minor variances making up the remaining £0.009m.	Keep under review.
Resources & Regulated Services (Disability Services)	15.239	15.392	0.153	0.148	This service is now reflecting the transfer of budget in relation to the Independent Living fund (ILF) to Central and Corporate as a one off efficiency. The remaining element is in relation to the additional administration capacity needed to manage the payments to service users and for obligations to fund employer liability insurance payments for service users who employ carers.	Recommend budget realignment adjustments to use underspend elsewhere in service to address pressures.
Vulnerable Adults and Disability Service (Disability Services)	2.299	2.470	0.171	0.143	Reflects current care packages for 2015/16, estimated commitment with additional transition clients.	Keep under review.

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Administrative Support (Disability Services)	0.304	0.381	0.077	0.112	This overspend is mainly due to pressures on employees costs, including use of agency staff.	Keep under review.
Residential and Domiciliary Service (Mental Health & Substance Misuse Service)	0.813	0.920	0.107	0.112	Increases in Residential and Domiciliary packages alongside additional new package costs.	Keep under review.
Professional Support (Mental Health & Substance Misuse Service)	0.693	0.751	0.058	0.062	Overspend is mainly due to pressures on employees costs, including use of agency staff.	Recommend budget realignment adjustments to use underspends elsewhere in service to address pressures.
Forensic Budget (Mental Health & Substance Misuse Service)	0.317	0.137	(0.180)	(0.186)	Reflects current care packages for 2015/16.	Keep under review - potential volatility due to changes in client numbers and demands at short notice from prison or courts.
Other Services for Adults variances (aggregate)	3.422	3.369	(0.053)	(0.057)	Various minor variances.	Continue to review but not expected to be recurrent.
Business Services - Charging Policy Income	(1.673)	(1.936)	(0.263)	(0.246)	Impact of an increase by Welsh Government in the level of the maximum charge cap from £55 per week to £60 per week.	Recommend budget realignment adjustments to use underspends elsewhere in service to address pressures.
Training	0.047	0.185	0.138	0.148	The base budget for this service has naturally reduced as a consequence of the combined impact of Single Status outcomes and EVR/VR determinations. As a consequence the match funding element of the budget has fallen below the level required to meet the grant conditions for the Social Care Workforce Development Programme Grant (SCWDP). It will be necessary therefore to realign the budget from elsewhere within Social Services to top up to the level required.	Recommend budget realignment adjustments to use underspends elsewhere in service to address pressures.

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Other Development & Resources variances (aggregate)	2.418	2.533	0.115	0.093	Various minor variances.	Continue to review but not expected to be recurrent.
Family Placement (Children's Services)	2.227	2.437	0.210	0.206	The £0.210m overspend is a result of an increase in the number of foster care placements within the service. Part of this is also due to the increasing number of court orders for Residence and Special Guardianship orders which invariably attract an ongoing allowance for the carers.	A review of the Family Placement Team has been undertaken the outcome of which is being considered and will inform future planning and possible efficiencies.
Professional Support	4.997	5.212	0.215	0.153	There is a projected overspend of £0.213m on agency pay costs within the Duty & Assessment team, which is due to the need to deploy staff to address key risks within this area of the service. There is a further pressure of £0.106m which relates to the Children's and Young Adults Support team (CYAST). This is due to pressures within payments to external providers of £0.085m and Transport £0.045m, with some offsetting underspends against pay budgets due to vacancies. Disability Service (CIDS) which is due to an increased numbers of direct payment service users. There are offsetting net underspends of (£0.104m) elsewhere within Children's Services Professional Support, including a significant underspend on staffing within the Family Intervention team.	Recommend budget realignment adjustments to use underspends elsewhere in service to address pressures.
Out of County Placements	3.416	3.355	(0.061)	(0.132)	Reflects current care packages for 2015/16.	Keep under review.
Other Services for Children variances (aggregate)	2.460	2.433	(0.027)	(0.095)	Various minor variances.	Continue to review but not expected to be recurrent.
<b>Total Social Services</b>	<b>59.031</b>	<b>59.248</b>	<b>0.217</b>	<b>(0.052)</b>		

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Community & Enterprise Customer & Housing Services	1.464	1.224	(0.240)	(0.222)	Additional in-year efficiency identified in respect of Homeless Accommodation (£0.094m). Community Centres additional efficiency (£0.049m). Underspend on the Flintshire Connects service provision (£0.066m). Other minor variances (£0.031m).	Continue to monitor and review.
Council Fund Housing	(0.035)	(0.013)	0.022	0.078	Telecare income lower than anticipated by £0.061m. Procurement of telecare equipment £0.040m. Savings of (£0.082m) in respect of the Community Based Accommodation Support Service. Other minor variances of £0.003m.	Continue to monitor and review.
Regeneration	0.550	0.634	0.084	0.075	Estimated shortfall of £0.059m in markets due to income targets increasing in line with inflation each year, where charges have not increased at the same rate. Other minor variances £0.025m.	Continue to monitor and review.
Revenues & Benefits	10.668	10.499	(0.169)	(0.156)	Anticipated surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund currently stands at (£0.183m) higher than initially estimated. Vacancy savings (£0.076m). Projected underspend on the budgeted provision for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (£0.226m). Housing Benefit Subsidy budgeted shortfall of £0.350m. Other minor variances of (£0.034m).	Continue to monitor closely as these areas are highly volatile and projections are likely to change throughout the year.
Housing Programmes	0.072	0.127	0.055	0.036	Expenditure of £0.055m to enable the Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP) to move forward with the development of the Over Arching Legal Agreement with Wates Living Space. This expenditure has supported the expedient development of schemes on The Walks, Flint and Custom House School, Connah's Quay which will both be on site by March 2016.	Continue to monitor and review.
<b>Total Community &amp; Enterprise</b>	<b>12.719</b>	<b>12.471</b>	<b>(0.248)</b>	<b>(0.189)</b>		

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Streetscene & Transportation Ancillary Services & Performance - Waste Disposal & Waste Collection	6.589	7.390	0.801	0.792	<p>Reduced electricity sales from gas engines following equipment breakdown and fluctuating levels of gas extraction is now estimated at £0.100m.</p> <p>Further options are being considered and consultation undertaken in relation to the proposed closure of Hope recycling centre. In addition, changes to the later than expected introduction of new operating times at Connah's Quay and Flint sites will result in a total projected shortfall on the budgeted efficiency of £0.160m.</p> <p>Delayed implementation of delivery service for waste containers £0.050m and introduction of charge for second waste bin £0.025m.</p> <p>Under achieving in the recycling market due to a volatile period with fluctuating re-cycle sale values £0.397m. Part year income due of £0.020m in 2015-16 for compost from Denbighshire CC (£0.040m shortfall against £0.060m budget) as they will not be using the composting facilities at Greenfield until January 2016.</p>	<p>Potential for investment to upgrade/install new extraction wells and new management arrangement.</p> <p>Reported through Programme Board Efficiency Tracker.</p> <p>Reported through Programme Board Efficiency Tracker.</p> <p>Monitor recycling market closely throughout 2015/16 and amend projections accordingly.</p>
Ancillary Services & Performance - Parking & Enforcement	0.096	0.206	0.110	0.110	Shortfall from Business Planning proposals following delays in the implementation of car parking charges across the County.	Monitor Car Parking Income closely and amend projections accordingly.
Ancillary Services & Performance - Other Variances	0.778	0.768	(0.010)	0.002	Minor Variances.	Reported through Programme Board Efficiency Tracker.

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Transportation & Logistics - other Variances	13.407	13.394	(0.013)	0.010	Minor Variances.	Reported through Programme Board Efficiency Tracker.
Highways Strategy & Network	7.366	7.476	0.110	0.128	Delay in the full externalisation of grass cutting service resulting in a net shortfall of £0.050m. The implementation of the reduced cleansing standards is now anticipated to be 1st January 2016 which will result in an estimated shortfall in the efficiency of £0.090m. Aggregate of minor variances totalling (£0.030m).	Reported through Programme Board Efficiency Tracker. Reported through Programme Board Efficiency Tracker.
Highway Network - other Variances	0.191	0.191	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
<b>Total Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>28.427</b>	<b>29.425</b>	<b>0.998</b>	<b>1.042</b>		

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Planning & Environment						
Pest Control Dog Warden	0.043	0.048	0.005	0.009	Potential Shortfall in the self financing position	Monitor level of services provided and adjust income commitment as appropriate.
Licensing	(0.008)	0.016	0.024	0.024	Potential Shortfall in the self financing position	Monitor level of services provided and adjust income commitment as appropriate.
Community - Aggregate of other Variances	0.668	0.668	0.000	(0.003)	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Animal Health & Defra	0.126	0.170	0.044	0.044	Shortfall on Grant Income target due to partnership with Wrexham ending in late 2015. Salary recharge moved to correct service area.	Investigate ways to reduce Grant Income target through potential budget realignment.
Business - Aggregate of other Variances	1.466	1.458	(0.008)	(0.004)	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Planning Control & Enforcement	(0.133)	0.018	0.151	0.144	Shortfall from Planning App fees not increasing until October, 2015. Reduced level of planning fees income in September, 2015.	Planning Fee Income levels will be closely monitored.
Development - Aggregate of other Variances	0.133	0.127	(0.006)	(0.005)	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Portfolio Aggregate of other Variances	3.036	2.997	(0.039)	(0.032)	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
<b>Total Planning &amp; Environment</b>	<b>5.331</b>	<b>5.502</b>	<b>0.171</b>	<b>0.177</b>		



## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Education & Youth						
Primary & Early Years Education	0.868	0.868	0.000	(0.002)	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Secondary, 14-19 & Continuing Education	1.122	1.127	0.005	0.005	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Inclusion Services	8.676	8.699	0.023	(0.013)	Complex placements present a significant budget volatility risk in all Authorities. Whilst most placements are stable with predictable costs, individual in-year high cost placements can have a significant impact on planned budgets.	Continue to review.
Access (School Planning & Provision)	0.508	0.487	(0.021)	0.011	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
21st Century Schools	0.148	0.148	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Youth Services	1.436	1.432	(0.004)	(0.002)	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Commissioning & Performance	0.234	0.188	(0.046)	(0.003)	Vacancy savings following a Senior Management Restructure with Education and Youth Portfolio.	Continue to review.
School Management & Information Team	0.192	0.143	(0.049)	(0.006)	Vacancy savings following a Senior Management Restructure with Education and Youth Portfolio.	Continue to review.
<b>Total Education &amp; Youth</b>	<b>13.184</b>	<b>13.092</b>	<b>(0.092)</b>	<b>(0.010)</b>		
<b>Schools</b>						
Primary & Early Years Education	43.614	43.614	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Secondary, 14-19 & Continuing Education	35.641	35.641	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Inclusion Services	3.906	3.906	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
<b>Total Schools</b>	<b>83.161</b>	<b>83.161</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>		

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
People & Resources						
HR&OD	2.243	2.232	(0.011)	0.034	A 2015/16 budget efficiency of £0.105m is being reported as not achievable. This is being partially offset by workforce underspends of (£0.071m) and minor variances of (£0.045m).	The efficiencies are expected to be achieved in full next year. Workforce underspends are in-year only.
Corporate Finance	2.422	2.314	(0.108)	(0.073)	A 2015/16 budget efficiency is being reported as being partially achieved with a shortfall of £0.038m. This is being offset by temporary workforce underspends of (£0.146m).	The efficiencies are expected to be achieved in full next year. Workforce underspends are in-year only.
<b>Total People &amp; Resources</b>	<b>4.665</b>	<b>4.546</b>	<b>(0.119)</b>	<b>(0.039)</b>		
Governance						
Legal Services	0.610	0.642	0.032	0.030	Minor Variances.	Overspend is not expected to be recurrent.
Democratic Services	1.911	2.008	0.097	0.112	The overspend is due a delay in achieving an efficiency of £0.110m which was agreed within the 2014/15 budget. An underspend of (£0.013m) is due to minor variances.	The efficiency is expected to be achieved in full next year.
Internal Audit	0.416	0.414	(0.002)	(0.002)	Minor Variances.	Underspend is not expected to be recurrent.
Procurement	0.138	0.150	0.012	0.012	Minor Variances.	Overspend is not expected to be recurrent.
Business Support	0.740	0.695	(0.045)	(0.027)	Minor Variances.	Underspend is not expected to be recurrent.
Records Management	0.174	0.195	0.021	0.020	Minor Variances.	Overspend is not expected to be recurrent.
ICT	4.726	4.754	0.028	0.010	Minor Variances.	Overspend is not expected to be recurrent.
<b>Total Governance</b>	<b>8.715</b>	<b>8.858</b>	<b>0.143</b>	<b>0.155</b>		

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Organisational Change						
Public Libraries & Arts, Culture & Events	1.773	1.771	(0.002)	(0.005)	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Museums Service	0.064	0.064	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
County Archives	0.260	0.261	0.001	0.001	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Leisure Services	3.969	3.981	0.012	0.007	£0.070m Deeside Ice rink income pressure offset by premises & supplies cost savings of (£0.058m).	Continue to review.
Community Assets	0.018	0.018	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Valuation & Estates	(0.807)	(0.948)	(0.141)	(0.097)	Workforce efficiencies of (£0.141m) achieved following staff releases within this Service area.	Continue to review.
Property Design & Consultancy	2.688	2.520	(0.168)	(0.071)	An additional (£0.090m) in Design fees over the budgeted income target has been identified, this relates to SHARP and 21st Century schools feasibility works. Projected costs of (£0.054m) relating to the demolition of Connahs Quay office has been met through funding support from the Vibrant and Viable Places initiative resulting in savings as well as an NNDR rebate of (£0.017m). Other minor variances of (£0.007m) on Admin Buildings.	Continue to review.
Engineering Services	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Facilities Services	1.653	1.562	(0.091)	(0.022)	Additional income of (£0.055m) anticipated over and above income target from increased uptake in school meals. Salary savings of (£0.011m) from the Team Leader post that is currently vacant. Other minor variances of (£0.025m) within the service.	Continue to review.
<b>Total Organisational Change</b>	<b>9.618</b>	<b>9.229</b>	<b>(0.389)</b>	<b>(0.187)</b>		

## MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 6 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Chief Executives	3.177	3.000	(0.177)	(0.125)	The underspend is due to workforce savings of (£0.101m) and also a reduction in Core Funding Agreements of (£0.028m). There is an underspend of (£0.042m) relating to the budget required for performance related increments. An overspend £0.025m is due to a projected spend for public consultation on the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The balance of (£0.031m) underspend is due to minor variances.	The employee savings of (£0.101m) are expected to be in-year only.
<b>Total Chief Executives</b>	<b>3.177</b>	<b>3.000</b>	<b>(0.177)</b>	<b>(0.125)</b>		
Central & Corporate Finance	23.429	22.538	(0.891)	(0.481)	HRA Financing - The settlement amount changed after the budget was set. Based on all original assumptions this equates to a reduction in efficiencies of approximately £0.600m. However, there is no need to borrow this financial year, as capital expenditure is later than planned, resulting in short term savings from interest costs built into the budget.	Review of CLIA will identify overall position for possible mitigation.
					Balance of unused Non Standard Inflation from previous year (£0.240m). Pension Actuarial Review (£0.905m) due to lower than anticipated costs of additional contributions.	Review as part of Medium Term Finance Strategy, Corporate Financing Options. Consider realignment options.
					Estimated Workforce Efficiency of £0.285m considered unachievable in year.	Currently looking at other options.
					One off identified efficiencies (£0.300m) in relation to the Independent Living Fund (ILF).	Continue to review.
					Higher than projected income as a result of Rent Review for Unilever (£0.173m).	Continue to review.
					One off / time limited, Unbudgeted costs of £0.400m in relation to former Euticals Ltd - Sandycroft site.	Keep under review.
					Minor Variances of £0.042m.	Keep under review.
<b>Total Central &amp; Corporate Finance</b>	<b>23.429</b>	<b>22.538</b>	<b>(0.891)</b>	<b>(0.481)</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>251.457</b>	<b>251.070</b>	<b>(0.387)</b>	<b>0.291</b>		

## 2015/16 Efficiencies Month 7 - Under or Over Achieved

Portfolio	Original Efficiency	Revised Efficiency	(Under)/Over Achievement
	2015/16 £(m)	2015/16 £(m)	2015/16 £(m)
<b>People &amp; Resources</b>			
Review of specialist finance functions to identify efficiencies in process	0.170	0.166	(0.004)
Ensure continuation of grant maximisation opportunities identified in 2014/15	0.100	0.066	(0.034)
Review of specialist human resources functions to identify efficiencies in process	0.105	0.000	(0.105)
<b>Total People &amp; Resources</b>	<b>0.375</b>	<b>0.232</b>	<b>(0.143)</b>
<b>Central and Corporate Finance</b>			
Workforce efficiency proposal	0.300	0.015	(0.285)
Central Loans and Investment Review	1.830	1.230	(0.600)
<b>Total Central &amp; Corporate Finance</b>	<b>2.130</b>	<b>1.245</b>	<b>(0.885)</b>
<b>Social Services</b>			
Develop means testing approach for minor adaptations	0.100	0.000	(0.100)
Review model/costs contracts for catering	0.050	0.000	(0.050)
Rationalise the number of sites where In-House short term care is provided	0.075	0.110	0.035
Develop a 'progression' model for Supported Living	0.250	0.145	(0.105)
Review commissioning with Action for Children	0.075	0.015	(0.060)
Regional approach to advocacy	0.053	0.005	(0.048)
Review and realign funding to voluntary sector	0.203	0.065	(0.138)
<b>Total Social Services</b>	<b>0.806</b>	<b>0.340</b>	<b>(0.466)</b>
<b>Community &amp; Enterprise</b>			
Welfare Rights Team Review	0.020	0.035	0.015
Community Centres	0.048	0.096	0.048
Community Based Accommodation Support Service	0.030	0.090	0.060
Telecare Charging	0.200	0.139	(0.061)
Stopping sending remittance advices to Landlords	0.054	0.013	(0.041)
In-house bailiff service	0.100	0.050	(0.050)
Removal of Post Office as payment option	0.028	0.017	(0.011)
Review Single Person Discount	0.150	0.270	0.120
<b>Total Community &amp; Enterprise</b>	<b>0.630</b>	<b>0.710</b>	<b>0.080</b>
<b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>			
Introduce non-generic Streetscene roles (3 year plan)	0.080	0.115	0.035
Staff Car Parking Charges (within Workforce Savings)	0.100	0.030	(0.070)
Develop Energy Production at Landfill	0.050	0.000	(0.050)
Rationalise HRC Sites	0.400	0.240	(0.160)
Removing the Waste Containers delivery service	0.150	0.100	(0.050)
Introduce Charge for 2nd Garden Waste Bin	0.050	0.025	(0.025)
Car Parking Charges	0.400	0.290	(0.110)
Cancel Real Time Info System	0.020	0.025	0.005
Charge Maintenance of Bus Shelters	0.005	0.000	(0.005)
Review subsidised bus routes	0.075	0.050	(0.025)
Externalise grass cutting service	0.075	0.025	(0.050)
Reduced Street Lighting resource	0.050	0.038	(0.013)
Remove second grass cut for highway verges	0.030	0.025	(0.005)
Reduce Cleansing standards zero tolerance litter	0.150	0.060	(0.090)
Part night street lighting in residential areas	0.020	0.030	0.010
Winter Maintenance (Car Parks and standard)	0.150	0.170	0.020
<b>Total Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>1.805</b>	<b>1.223</b>	<b>(0.583)</b>
<b>Planning &amp; Environment</b>			
Staffing & Management Restructure (incl. all vacancies)	0.295	0.207	(0.088)
Staffing & Collaboration	0.024	0.040	0.016
Animal & Pest Control	0.030	0.007	(0.023)
Increased Planning Fees (15% WG increase)	0.135	0.050	(0.085)
Increase in number of Planning Applications	0.060	0.030	(0.030)
Additional elements of charging (discharge of conditions)	0.050	0.025	(0.025)
Pre-Planning Advice PDM111952P	0.020	0.019	(0.001)
<b>Total Planning &amp; Environment</b>	<b>0.614</b>	<b>0.378</b>	<b>(0.236)</b>
		%	£
<b>Total 2015/16 Budget Efficiencies</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>12.874</b>
<b>Total Projected 2015/16 Budget Efficiencies Underachieved</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>2.232</b>
<b>Total Projected 2015/16 Budget Efficiencies Achieved</b>		<b>83</b>	<b>10.642</b>



**Movements on Council Fund Unearmarked Reserves**

	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Total Reserves as at 1 April 2015	10.515	
Less - Base Level	(5.769)	
Total Reserves above base level available for delegation to Cabinet		<b>4.746</b>
Less - Allocation from the Contingency Reserve for the costs of the speed limit review		(0.210)
Plus projected underspend as at Month 7		0.387
<b>Total projected Contingency Reserve as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016</b>		<b>4.923</b>





## HRA Major Variance Report - Period 7

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Last Month (£m)	Cause of Variance	Action Required
Estate Management	1.634	1.592	(0.042)	0.031	Salary projections have contributed a (£0.054m) underspend. The remaining balance of £0.012m relates to minor variances.	Keep under review.
Repairs & Maintenance	8.394	8.201	(0.193)	(0.185)	All of the projected underspend relates to stores materials. A (£0.029m) profit share relating to last year and careful monitoring has contributed to this underspend although this is a volatile area which could see spend increase in the winter months.	Keep under review.
Other variances (aggregate)	(9.794)	(9.708)	0.086	0.007	£0.025m of the projected variance relates to revaluation of properties. This is a cost which is incurred once every 4 or 5 years. £0.030m relates to garden recharges. The remaining £0.031m relates to minor variances.	Keep under review.
<b>Total :</b>	<b>0.234</b>	<b>0.085</b>	<b>(0.149)</b>	<b>(0.147)</b>		





## CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 14 January, 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	Forward Work Programme
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	N / A
<b>Report Author</b>	Member Engagement Manager
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview & Scrutiny presents a unique opportunity for Members to determine the Forward Work programme of the Committee of which they are Members. By reviewing and prioritising the Forward Work Programme Members are able to ensure it is Member-led and includes the right issues. A copy of the Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' consideration which has been updated following the last meeting.

The Committee is asked to consider, and amend where necessary, the Forward Work Programme for the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

### RECOMMENDATION

1	That the Committee considers the draft Forward Work Programme and approve/amend as necessary.
2	That the Member Engagement Manager, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee be authorised to vary the Forward Work Programme between meetings, as the need arises.

## **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME</b>
1.01	Items feed into a Committee's Forward Work Programme from a number of sources. Members can suggest topics for review by Overview & Scrutiny Committees, members of the public can suggest topics, items can be referred by the Cabinet for consultation purposes, or by County Council or Chief Officers. Other possible items are identified from the Cabinet Work Programme and the Improvement Plan.
1.02	<p>In identifying topics for future consideration, it is useful for a 'test of significance' to be applied. This can be achieved by asking a range of questions as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Will the review contribute to the Council's priorities and/or objectives?</li><li>2. Is it an area of major change or risk?</li><li>3. Are there issues of concern in performance?</li><li>4. Is there new Government guidance of legislation?</li><li>5. Is it prompted by the work carried out by Regulators/Internal Audit?</li></ol>
<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	None as a result of this report.
<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	Publication of this report constitutes consultation.
<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	None as a result of this report.
<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – Draft Forward Work Programme
<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>None.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Robert Robins Member Engagement Manager</p> <p><b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702320</p> <p><b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:robert.robins@flintshire.gov.uk">robert.robins@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

7.00	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<b>Improvement Plan:</b> the document which sets out the annual priorities of the Council. It is a requirement of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to set Improvement Objectives and publish an Improvement Plan.

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## Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2015/16

DATE	SUBJECT	O&S Focus	REPORT FROM
Thursday, 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2016 10.00	Medium Term Financial Strategy (Verbal)	Assurance and comment	Chief Executive/Gary Ferguson
	Revenue Budget Monitoring (Month 8 )	Monitoring	Sara Dulson
	Quarter 3 Workforce Information	Monitoring	Andrew Adams
	Forward Work Programme	Approval and development	Robert Robins
Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2016 10.00	Revenue Budget Monitoring (Month 9 )	Assurance and comment	Sara Dulson
	Q3 Improvement Plan Monitoring	Monitoring	Robert Robins
	Forward Work Programme	Approval and development	Robert Robins
Thursday, 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2016 10.00	Revenue Budget Monitoring (Month 10 )	Monitoring	Sara Dulson
	Forward Work Programme	Approval and development	Robert Robins
Items to be scheduled	Health and Well-being update  Customer services and Call-handling update  Emergency planning response work	Information	Helen Stappleton

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