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To: Cllr Aaron Shotton (Leader)

Councillors: Bernie Attridge, Chris Bithell, Helen Brown, Derek Butler,
Christine Jones, Kevin Jones and Billy Mullin

10 February 2016

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Cabinet which will be held at 9.30 am on Tuesday, 16th February, 2016 in the Clwyd 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

Purpose: To receive any Declarations and advise Members accordingly.

3 MINUTES (Pages 7 - 20)

Purpose: To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting.

TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REPORTS

STRATEGIC REPORTS

4 COUNCIL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17 (Pages 21 - 56)

Report of Chief Executive - Cabinet Member for Corporate Management

Purpose: To recommend the Annual Budget to Council for 2016/17.

5 COUNCIL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17 AND INDICATIVE PROGRAMME TO 2019/20 (Pages 57 - 68)

Report of Chief Officer (Organisational Change) - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

Purpose: To set the Capital Programme for 2016/17 financial year, and indicative programme for 2017/18 to 2019/20 financial years.

6 CAPITAL STRATEGY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016 - 2020 (Pages 69 - 126)

Report of Chief Officer (Organisational Change) - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

Purpose: This report introduces the Draft Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan 2015 - 2020, which is a new Strategy for Flintshire County Council combining medium term plans for managing the Council's assets and its Capital Programme.

7 DRAFT HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2016/17 & CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17 (Pages 127 - 138)

Report of Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) - Cabinet Member for Housing

Purpose: To provide the draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and proposed rent increase.

8 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2016/17 AND MID-YEAR REPORT 2015/16 (Pages 139 - 220)

Report of Corporate Finance Manager - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

Purpose: To present the draft Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17 for recommendation to Council and the mid-year report 2015/16.

9 **LOCAL SERVICE BOARD & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS - MID YEAR MONITORING 2015/16** (Pages 221 - 254)

Report of Chief Executive - Cabinet Member for Corporate Management

Purpose: i) An overview of arrangements for the transition of the Flintshire Local Service Boards (LSB) to a Public Services Board (PSB)
ii) An update on the Flintshire LSB Single Integrated Plan (SIP) priorities

10 **SCHOOL ORGANISATION - YSGOL MORNANT GWESPYR PICTON** (Pages 255 - 512)

Report of Chief Officer (Education and Youth) - Cabinet Member for Education

Purpose: Report back from consultation in accordance with the Council's school organisation policy.

11 **THE SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELL-BEING (WALES) ACT 2014** (Pages 513 - 520)

Report of Chief Officer (Social Services) - Cabinet Member for Social Services

Purpose: To seek endorsement of the Council's response to the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS

12 **REPORT BACK FROM THE ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY'S CONSIDERATION OF THE HOPE HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE CALL IN** (Pages 521 - 524)

Report of Member Engagement Manager - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment

Purpose: To inform of the decision of the Overview & Scrutiny committee.

13 **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 8)** (Pages 525 - 554)

Report of Corporate Finance Manager - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

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 8 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available.

14 **PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2016/17 TO 2018/19** (Pages 555 - 564)

Report of Corporate Finance Manager - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

Purpose: To present proposals for setting a range of Prudential Indicators in accordance with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

15 **MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION - 2016/17 POLICY** (Pages 565 - 570)

Report of Corporate Finance Manager - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

Purpose: To present proposals for the setting of a prudent Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for the repayment of debt in 2016/17, as required under the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (the 2008 Regulations).

16 **FLINTSHIRE APPRENTICESHIP ACADEMY** (Pages 571 - 580)

Report of Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) - Cabinet Member for Housing

Purpose: To update on progress of the Flintshire Apprenticeship Academy.

17 **INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL TAX PREMIUM FOR EMPTY AND SECOND HOMES** (Pages 581 - 588)

Report of Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) - Cabinet Member for Corporate Management

Purpose: To seek the introduction of a local scheme to charge council tax premiums for long term empty property and second homes.

18 **COUNCIL TAX & BUSINESS RATE STATUTORY POLICIES 2016-17** (Pages 589 - 594)

Report of Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) - Cabinet Member for Corporate Management

Purpose: To ratify annual policies for the financial year 2016-17 that determine discount scheme and administrative arrangements.

19 **FLINTSHIRE SUPPORTING PEOPLE COMMISSIONING PLAN** (Pages 595 - 622)

Report of Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) - Cabinet Member for Housing

Purpose: To consider appropriate measures to manage reductions within the Supporting People Programme Grant to protect service delivery as much as possible.

20 **REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES** (Pages 623 - 634)

Report of Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment

Purpose: To advise and update on the proposed review of subsidised bus services and outline the proposed approach for consulting with local communities on the development of community transport.

21 **EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS** (Pages 635 - 636)

Summary of the actions taken under delegated powers attached.

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME - COUNTY COUNCIL, CABINET, AUDIT AND OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY - FOR INFORMATION

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The following item is considered to be exempt by virtue of Paragraph(s) 15 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

It is not good employment practice or in the public interest for matters the subject of consultation with employees effected and other unions to be discussed in public at this stage of the process.

22 ADMINISTRATION REVIEW (Pages 677 - 684)

Report of Chief Officer (Governance) - Cabinet Member for Corporate Management

Purpose: To consider an establishment structure for generic administrative posts and to note the savings achieved by the administrative review.

The following item is considered to be exempt by virtue of Paragraph(s) 15 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

It is not good employment practice or in the public interest for matters the subject of consultation with employees effected and other unions to be discussed in public at this stage of the process.

23 CHILDREN'S SERVICES RESTRUCTURE (Pages 685 - 694)

Report of Chief Officer (Social Services) - Cabinet Member for Social Services

Purpose: To seek approval for the Children's Services Restructure in response to the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales.

Yours faithfully



Peter Evans
Democracy & Governance Manager

CABINET **19 JANUARY 2016**

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet of Flintshire County Council held in the Clwyd Committee Room, County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 19 January 2016

PRESENT: Councillor Aaron Shotton (Chair)

Councillors: Bernie Attridge, Chris Bithell, Helen Brown, Derek Butler, Christine Jones and Kevin Jones

APOLOGY:

Councillor: Billy Mullin

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise), Chief Officer (Education and Youth), Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation), Chief Officer (Organisational Change), Corporate Finance Manager and Committee Officer

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors: Veronica Gay, Ron Hampson, Dave Mackie and Nigel Steele-Mortimer

116. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Bithell and Brown declared personal and prejudicial interests in agenda item number 7, Review of Discretionary Rate Relief. The Chief Officer (Governance) explained that both Members had received dispensation from the Standards Committee to speak and answer questions but not vote and to leave the room when the voting took place.

On agenda item numbers 9 and 10, School Organisation – Ysgol Llanfynydd and School Organisation – Ysgol Maes Edwin, the Chief Officer (Governance) explained that any Members who were a school governor had a personal interest in both items. The interest was not prejudicial as none of the Cabinet Members were school governors of the schools being discussed. Councillors Bithell, Brown, Butler, Christine Jones, Kevin Jones and Aaron Shotton declared personal interests in agenda item numbers 9 and 10 accordingly.

117. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2015 had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

The Chair advised that agenda item numbers 9 and 10, School Organisation – Ysgol Llanfynydd and School Organisation – Ysgol Maes Edwin would be brought forward.

118. SCHOOL ORGANISATION – YSGOL LLANFYNYDD

Councillor Chris Bithell provided details of the responses from the statutory consultation period for Ysgol Llanfynydd. The proposal to enter into formal consultation on closure was approved in June 2015 on the basis of criteria laid down in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy which were: Unfilled places across the primary school portfolio; diminishing resource criteria and small school criteria.

Any school review was sensitive and emotive however the Council was challenged with balancing community feeling with providing a high quality education offer which could be sustained and afforded.

The governing body of Ysgol Llanfynydd had not been able to secure a willing partnering school or schools with which to pursue a federation which had been suggested by a number of consultees.

The Council would take all practicable steps to ease the transition for all pupils, most especially for vulnerable learners such as those with Additional Learning Needs (ALN). It would work alongside pupils, their parents and the relevant schools to make appropriate transition arrangements for pupils to familiarise themselves with their new environments.

In its consultation documents the Council had demonstrated that there was sufficient capacity within the local school network to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Llanfynydd should it close, which was a view that was upheld by Estyn in its response. Additional places could be established at Ysgol Parc Y Llan, Treuddyn, at either no cost or minimal cost for that school to be available to all current pupils at Ysgol Llanfynydd.

Transport eligibility would be determined by the Authority in which the pupil resided and 17 pupils who lived in Flintshire would be entitled to free home to school transport based on the assumption that they would transfer to their nearest school of Ysgol Parc Y Llan.

Comments on the consultation which had been presented to the Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee were appended to the report.

The Chief Officer (Education and Youth) said there was a lot of affection from the community for this local school and no proposals were made without care and attention to the resilience in the area for those that would be affected.

On resources, he explained that the net saving that could be achieved if the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd was £83,392pa. The estimated costs of transport as a result of the proposals were £16,150 however actual transport costs could only be fully assessed once all families had chosen their preferred school.

He provided details on each of the documents appended to the report, which were: compliance statement; consultation report; Estyn response; statutory proposal anticipated timeline and comments raised by the Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In response to questions from Councillor Kevin Jones, the Chief Officer explained that no proposals for a federation had been received and that all pupils could be accommodated at Ysgol Parc Y Llan.

Councillor Butler sought assurance that pupils with ALN would be eased into the transition to which the Chief Officer confirmed they would, with that support being extended to all pupils.

Councillor Shotton asked if there was still an opportunity for the proposal of a federation to be submitted prior to the report being considered again at Cabinet in April 2016. The Chief Officer responded that if a viable federation proposal was submitted, that could be considered by Cabinet. He explained that following the meeting today, a statutory notice would be issued for a 28 day period for submission of any objections. The deadline for objections would be 26 February 2016. The objection report would then be published within 28 days and to Cabinet within 35 days with a report being submitted to the next available meeting being on 19 April 2016.

The Chief Executive added that discussion on a possible federation and timeline also applied to the next agenda item, School Organisation – Ysgol Maes Edwin. At Cabinet on 19 April 2016 the report would recommend either implementation of the school closure or to withdraw the statutory proposals and substitute with an alternative should a viable proposition be put forward. The current status quo was not a sustainable option and a feasible alternative would need to be submitted with formal proposal from two or more schools to form a federation, which would need to be in the best interest of the schools and pupils.

A subsequent discussion took place on agenda item number 10, School Organisation – Ysgol Maes Edwin where a formal additional resolution was agreed as follows: “That if a detailed business case for a federation is received by the end of February 2016 Cabinet will consider it alongside the outcome of the statutory consultation process at its meeting on 19 April 2016”.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the responses from the statutory consultation period for Ysgol Llanfynydd be considered;
- (b) That the comments from the Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the evidence and analysis provided by officers within the reports be considered; and
- (c) That Cabinet proceed to a formal statutory consultation on the closure of Ysgol Llanfynydd.

119. SCHOOL ORGANISATION – YSGOL MAES EDWIN

Councillor Bithell provided details of the responses from the statutory consultation period for Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain. The proposal to enter into formal consultation on closure was approved in June 2015 on the basis of criteria laid down in the Council’s School Modernisation Strategy which were: Unfilled places

across the primary school portfolio; diminishing resource criteria; small school criteria and being currently in Welsh Government (WG) categorisation 4, on a scale of 1-4, with 4 being the lowest, for educational standards.

He reiterated his earlier comments of any review being sensitive and emotive however the Council was challenged with balancing community feeling with providing a high quality education offer which could be sustained and afforded.

The concerns raised by pupils, community, staff, parents and carers were outlined in the report.

The Council would take all practicable steps to ease the transition for all pupils, most especially for vulnerable learners such as those with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and would work alongside pupils, their parents and the relevant schools to make appropriate transition arrangements for pupils to familiarise themselves with their new environments.

It was the Council's view that there was sufficient capacity within the local school network to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Maes Edwin should it close, with Estyn commenting "The local authority has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to finance, surplus places and the continuity and progression in pupils' learning".

Under the current transport policy fewer than 10 pupils would be entitled to free home to school transport based on the assumption that they would transfer to their nearest school, Ysgol Owen Jones in Northop, on the basis of the route being a hazardous one.

On 6 January 2016 Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee met to consider the outcomes from the consultation. The resolutions from that meeting were (1) That the process be suspended for two months to allow the opportunity for federation to be reviewed and (2) that comments be collated and presented to Cabinet. Those comments were appended to the report.

Councillor Bithell explained that at the time of writing the report the governing body had not been able to identify a willing partnering school or schools in which to pursue a federation with neighbouring schools confirming that they had not and would not bring forward a federation proposal with Ysgol Maes Edwin. However, the previous evening an email that had been sent to Cabinet Members from the acting Chair of Governors who indicated that there was the possibility of a federation of more than two schools that could be proposed. On that basis he moved an amendment to recommendation 3 in the report to be "That the process be suspended for three weeks to allow the opportunity for a federation to be reviewed and submission of a firm and viable proposition", which was seconded by Councillor Attridge. He felt that this would provide sufficient time to allow any information to be gathered and submitted.

Relating the discussion back to the previous item, Members felt there needed to be consistency with how both reports were dealt with and based on that, Councillor Bithell withdrew his amendment with Councillor Attridge withdrawing his support as seconder.

As with the previous item, the Chief Officer (Education and Youth) explained that following the meeting today, a statutory notice would be issued for a 28 day period for submission of any objections. The deadline for objections would be 26 February 2016. The objection report would then be published within 28 days and to Cabinet within 35 days with the next available meeting being on 19 April 2016 when the report would recommend either implementation of the school closure statutory notice or to withdraw the statutory proposals and support a federation proposal should a viable proposal be put forward. The current status quo was not a sustainable option and a feasible alternative would need to be submitted with formal proposal from two or more schools to form a federation, which would need to be in the best interest of the schools and pupils. The Chief Executive added that any proposals for a federation would be expected to be received in the coming days to enable early engagement.

Following the discussion an additional recommendation was suggested as “That if a detailed business case is received before the end of February 2016 Cabinet will consider it alongside the outcome of the statutory consultation process at its meeting on 19 April 2016” which was agreed.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the responses from the statutory consultation period for Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain, be considered;
- (b) That the comments from the Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the evidence and analysis provided by officers within the report be considered;
- (c) That Cabinet proceed to a formal statutory consultation on the closure of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain; and
- (d) That if a detailed business case for a federation is received before the end of February 2016 Cabinet will consider it alongside the outcome of the statutory consultation process at its meeting on 19 April 2016.

120. PROVISIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT

Councillor Shotton introduced the report, explaining that a draft response had been submitted to Cabinet on 15 December 2015. The Settlement was open to consultation until 20 January 2016 with the Final Settlement being published in early March 2016.

The Chief Executive explained that the draft outline of a Council response was set out in the report which covered The Settlement for 2016/17; Future Settlements and Immediate National Budget Work for 2016/17.

He highlighted the response on pressing Welsh Government (WG) for a lower reduction in the new Single Environment Grant (SEG) than the proposed reduction of -6.7% and £0.210m for Flintshire, due to its likely impact on key local public services. Also highlighted was the request made to WG for an exemption from social care

charging caps to introduce a cost recovery plan within 2016/17, both of which were supported by Cabinet Members.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet provide a response to the consultation based on the outline set out in the report.

121. COUNCIL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17

Councillor Shotton introduced the report on the Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 for adoption by Cabinet and recommendation to County Council.

Work on the budget was not complete which was due to the scale of the savings and efficiencies to be found and the uncertainty over the national budget position and its impacts on the Council.

The Chief Executive and Corporate Finance Manager delivered a presentation which covered the following areas:

- 'Building Blocks' of the budget
- Initial Forecast for 2016/17
- Budget Stage 1 Phase 1
- Budget Strategy Stage 1 Phase 1
- Impact of Provisional Settlement
- Service Business Planning Proposals
- Corporate Finance Efficiency Proposals 2016/17
- Summary of Revised Gap at Phase 1
- Budget Stage 1 Phase 2
- First Stage Second Phase Proposals
- Summary of Proposals Phases 1 and 2
- New and Emergent Pressures 1
- New and Emergent Pressures 2
- Budget Stage 2
- Ongoing Work to Balance the Budget
- First Revision of the MTFS 2017/18 Forecast
- MTFS Revised Forecast 2017/18
- MTFS Forecast 2017/18
- Next Steps and Timescales

There was a remaining budget gap of £1.598m which would rise to around £3.447m when taking into account new and emergent pressures which were under ongoing review. If approved, ongoing work on the budget would be restricted to the details described in C and D of the report.

The MTFS forecast was based on a working assumption that Council Tax would be increased in 2016/17 by 3%. Given the outstanding work on the examination of new and emergent pressures, the level at which Council Tax would need to be set would require serious consideration. This would be determined by County Council.

Councillor Shotton said the details within the report demonstrated the scale of the challenge faced by the authority and provided a clear picture about what the authority aimed to achieve. He commented on the indication from the First Minister that schools funding would be protected be 1% above the change in the overall Welsh Government budget. For 2016/17 that equated to 1.85%. The budget proposals met the Ministerial expectation of protecting schools and the Council would continue to review investment in schools, particularly inflationary pressures.

In responding to a question from Councillor Attridge, the Chief Executive said that the Schools Budget Forum had recently met and received an update on the budget, as had the Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the first stage – first phase of budget proposals for the Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 be adopted for recommendation to Council;
- (b) That the first stage – second phase proposals for the Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 be adopted for referral to the respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and secondly to Cabinet and then final consideration by Cabinet in February; and
- (c) That the strategy for ongoing work to seek to close the remaining budget ‘gap’ be endorsed and recommend a balanced annual budget to Cabinet in February.

122. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

The Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) explained that there was a requirement for the Council to formally adopt the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the Authority on an annual basis.

There was limited discretion given to the Council to apply additional elements that were more generous than the normal scheme and details of the discretions exercised in the current scheme were outlined in the report.

To mitigate inflationary increase in Council Tax, the Council had set a budget provision of £317,000 for 2016/17 which assumed an annual increase in Council Tax of 3.0%.

RESOLVED:

That the adoption of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and to maintain the current discretionary elements for 2016-17 be agreed.

123. REVIEW OF DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF

The Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) sought approval of a review of the Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR) Scheme which would review the current levels of

rate relief and potentially provide efficiencies for the Council to help bridge the budget gap from 2017/18 and beyond.

Councillor Attridge asked if it the letters to all business ratepayers currently in receipt of DRR would be able to be sent out in January. The Chief Officer explained that if the review was approved by Cabinet and not the subject of a call-in, the letters could be finalised and sent out within one week.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the review of Discretionary Rate Relief leading to the development of a new scheme which could be implemented from April 2017 be approved; and
- (b) That the despatch of letters in January 2016 to all business ratepayers with the statutory 12 months lead in time to revoke the current scheme and the existing level of awards before changes to Discretionary Rate Relief levels are implemented in 2017-18.

Councillors Bithell and Brown left the room during consideration of this item.

124. WELSH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WLGA) MANIFESTO LOCALISM 2016-21

Councillor Shotton explained that the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) had recently published its Manifesto for Local Government, Localism 2016-21, in advance of the National Assembly for Wales's elections which were taking place in May 2016 and sought support of local authorities.

Councillor Attridge said he was pleased to see that Cabinet's earlier comments on the draft Manifesto had been included by the WLGA.

Councillor Shotton commented on the call for *Commitment to the principle of Subsidiarity* with Councils seeking momentum behind the devolution of powers beyond Cardiff Bay to local government and to local communities.

The Chief Executive added that the Local Government Bill was being reported to County Council the following week where localism could be debated.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Cabinet formally support the Welsh Local Government Association Manifesto Localism 2016-21; and
- (b) That the Council engage with the Association and fellow councils in working with a newly elected Welsh Government in May to promote adoption of the Manifesto proposals in national policy and funding plans.

125. STRATEGIC HOUSING AND REGENERATION PROJECT (SHARP)

The Cabinet Member for Housing introduced the report which sought approval to progress to the next key stages of the Council's Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP) and set out the proposals to develop the former Custom House School site in Connah's Quay. She was pleased to inform Members that of the 11 local authorities who had voted to retain its housing stock, Flintshire was the first authority to start to build new Council homes.

Properties and land associated with each property would be designed to comply with Secured by Design guidelines and the Council's "Flintshire House Standard". The standard would inform the design and specification of all the new housing delivered through the SHARP and form a benchmark to ensure consistent, good quality of internal layout, fixtures and fittings, high standards of energy efficiency and external appearance in keeping with local circumstance, low maintenance product specifications, adequate parking and a public realm designed to promote cohesive and inclusive communities.

The Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) explained that Standard Development Scheme assumptions had been developed which made allowances for voids; maintenance costs and rental income levels and would be used to assess all potential new build development schemes to determine scheme feasibility and viability with a minimum requirement for all Cabinet approved schemes to pay back the scheme costs within 50 years.

Discussions were taking place with Welsh Government (WG) to seek receipt of the Social Housing Grant which was a grant that was available to Housing Associations.

Councillor Butler welcomed the scheme which would employ Social Enterprises as part of the supply chain who would provide services such as cleaning, printing, signage and recruitment services.

Councillor Shotton commented on the plans to develop a Training Academy with Coleg Cambria, Contractor partners and other key stakeholders to ensure that sustainable and meaningful apprenticeship opportunities were created for young people to not only work on the SHARP, but also other major Council construction programmes.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the development of 12 new Council homes on Custom House School site, Connah's Quay, be approved, at a total cost of £1,548,936; and
- (b) That the standard scheme development assumptions as identified in the report be approved.

126. MEDIUM TERM LIBRARIES PLAN: HOPE, MYNYDD ISA AND SALTNEY LIBRARIES

Councillor Bithell introduced the assessment of the feasibility of Community Asset Transfers (CAT's) of libraries in the areas of Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney. A recommendation on the way forward for each library was detailed in the report along with a timescale that was within the context of the medium term libraries plan. It aimed to support the achievement of the £0.544m of savings through CAT's put forward as a budget efficiency proposal for 2016/17.

He thanked the officers for the level of engagement with the public in each area who were seeking the best solution for their library. The early work to support the communities demonstrated that a CAT was feasible in both Hope and Mynydd Isa, with community organisations coming forward with a commitment to make a CAT work. Further work was required to support the communities to finalise their plan for a CAT with a proposed target date for completing the work of 31 March 2015, however recognising that it may require more time. A final date for completion of those CAT's and therefore provision of library services in those areas was proposed at the end of June 2016.

The early work to support the community and the formal consultation showed that at present a CAT was not feasible in Saltney. Given that the consultation responses had asked for more time, and whilst recognising there were proposed budget savings for 2016/17, it was recommended to give the community of Saltney until the end of February 2016 to consider again if a CAT was feasible and how that might work. It was proposed to make clear that if an interest was not expressed by then, the service would cease at the end of March 2016. The final date for completion of the CAT and therefore provision of library service was proposed at the end of June 2016.

Councillor Shotton welcomed the extension to the consultation for the community of Saltney which was a positive move in identifying an ADM.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the assessment of the feasibility of community asset transfers for the libraries in Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney be considered, in particular reviewing the formal consultation with communities and the draft notes from Organisational Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (b) That community asset transfers be proceeded in Hope and Mynydd Isa, with a target date range of April-June 2016 for completion, and with the final basis for transfer to be brought back to Cabinet;
- (c) That in Saltney, based on the formal community consultation, the end of February 2016 be agreed for further consideration by the community to express an interest with a final date of the end of June 2016 for any final transfer; and
- (d) That if no interest is expressed by the community of Saltney by the end of February 2016 that provision of a library service is ceased from 31 March 2016.

127. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 7)

The Corporate Finance Manager provided the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and the Housing Revenue Account and reported that no specific issues had been raised when considered at the recent Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting. The position was based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 7 and projected to the year-end. The projected year-end position, as estimated at Month 7 was 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

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

There was a significant budget change between the Social Services and Streetscene and Transportation portfolios in Month 7 as the transport budget of £0.656m had been transferred from Social Services to Streetscene and Transportation which reflected current reporting structures.

Another significant budget virement was the movement of £0.367m between Education and Youth and Central and Corporate Finance which related to local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) funding for 21st Century Schools which had been included in the Education and Youth portfolio but was now reflected within Central and Corporate Finance.

The report provided details on the programme of efficiencies, inflation, unearmarked reserves and earmarked reserves.

The report also outlined details on a number of risk areas as follows:

- Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI)
- Recycling
- Car Parking
- Out of County Placements
- Former Euticals Site
- In Year Reductions in Specific Government Grants

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the overall report and the projected Council Fund contingency sum as at 31 March 2016 be noted;
- (b) That the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account be noted;

- (c) That 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 be agreed; and
- (d) That a contribution from the contingency reserve of £0.100m to meet the resource requirements for specialist social work for child protection be agreed.

128. PARKING PROVISION IN TALACRE

Councillor Attridge provided a summary of the processes followed to date in tackling the parking problems in Talacre and recommended future actions to alleviate the parking pressures in the village, recognising that options for parking in the village were limited by the wildlife importance of most of the surrounding land.

To alleviate the pressures on the village on busy days it was proposed that:

1. The Lighthouse car park be leased from its owners, extended to include the Council owned car park adjacent to the site and managed by the Council to maximise parking availability
2. Agreement be sought with the Talacre Community Centre Trust to use the land to the rear of the building for parking
3. An agreement be made with National Resources Wales (NRW) and ENI for the Council to manage the hardstanding area at the entrance to the beach car park
4. Small scale maintenance work be undertaken on the beach car park to maximise availability during the year
5. That a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) be put in place to regulate on-street parking, reduce congestion on busy days, and alleviate problems for residents. The provision of such an order could not be accommodated without the provision of some alternative off road parking facilities. In the event that the agreements could not be made, the TRO would need to be reconsidered.

It was expected that subject to the various agreements, those measures could be put in place before the summer of 2016.

The proposed plan for parking provided 415 spaces as follows:

- Overspill car park on Gamfa Wen – 150 spaces
- Lighthouse Inn car park leased from owners and existing Council car park – 60 spaces
- Hard standing area at entrance to beach car park (subject to flooding) – 35 spaces
- Land to rear of community centre – 70 spaces
- A portion of the beach car park was still available for visitor use although it was subject to closure due to flooding and would reduce in size over time as the natural habitat regenerated – 100 spaces

The parking in Talacre would continue to be monitored and an ongoing dialogue would be maintained with NRW and ENI to find further long-term alternative solutions as the beach car park reduced in size.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed plan for providing improved parking in Talacre be approved.

129. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS

An information item on the actions taken under delegated powers was submitted. The actions were as set out below:-

Organisational Change

- **Revision of Records Office Fees and Charges**
To approve minor changes to charges at the Records Office including photocopying and reproduction fees. These increases were in line with charging elsewhere and would make a minor difference to overall finance of the Records Office.

Organisational Change

- **Museum Accreditation**
To approve a one year extension to the existing Museum Service Collections Management Framework and Forward Plan to enable Mold and Buckley Museums to continue as fully accredited within the national Museum Accreditation Scheme.

Organisational Change

- **Leisure Services – Tariff / Price List 2016**
The average price increase for 2016 across all Leisure Services’ activities was 1.8%. Spa charges were not included in the tariff; they were revised as necessary in line with industry norms. Leisure Services’ tariff ran in accordance with the calendar year rather than the financial year.

RESOLVED:

That the actions taken under delegated powers be noted.

127. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were two members of the press and seven members of the public in attendance.

(The meeting commenced at 9.30am and ended at 12.15pm)

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Chair

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 16 February 2016
Report Subject	Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager and Chief Executive
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents budget options for the closing Stage Two of the annual budget process. By deciding on these, and then adding them to the budget proposals adopted at Stage One in January, Cabinet will be in a position to recommend a balanced budget to full Council for 2016/17. The earlier and substantive Stage One budget report is appended to this report for reference.

The budget has been built up in two main stages. Stage One was concluded in January. At the end of Stage One the remaining budget 'gap' to be closed stood at £3.447M. Cabinet has directed officers to develop options for the closing Stage Two from four work-streams: review of the new and emergent pressures; workforce; Council Tax; use of reserves and balances. The Stage Two options presented within this report are drawn from those four work-streams and from these alone.

The report includes a summary risk assessment of the budget and the formal opinions of the Corporate Finance Manager in their statutory role as Section 151 Officer, and of the Chief Executive.

The final and complete budget will be drawn together by Cabinet on the morning of Tuesday 16 February and will then be recommended to full Council on the afternoon of the same day. Council will be recommended to adopt a balanced budget, without any deferral, on that day, to meet its statutory duty in good time. Council will then meet again on 1 March. The purpose of this second Council meeting will be to pass the Council Tax resolution, including the Town and Community Council precepts, based on the budget resolution to be passed on 16 February.

A list of tables within the report is set out below as a guide:-

Table 1: Stage Two Budget Proposals

Table 2: A Complete and Balanced Budget

Table 3: Summary Risk Assessment

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To consider the remaining options for the closing Stage Two of the annual budget process; and
2	To recommend to Council a final balanced budget based on a combination of the previously adopted Stage One budget proposals and the closing Stage Two options from within this report

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	PRESENTING THE SECOND STAGE OF THE COUNCIL FUND REVENUE BUDGET
	Conclusion of Stage One of the Budget Process
1.01	Cabinet have already agreed the majority of its proposals to achieve a balanced budget during Stage One of the budget process. The Stage One proposals adopted by Cabinet on 19 January were presented to the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 29 January (Appendix C). The Committee did not recommend the withdrawal or amendment of any of the proposals presented, or recommend any additional or alternative proposals for further work by officers. Further explanation was requested on the variations made to the Service Business Planning figures since the round of Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held in December (attached at Appendix A). At the conclusion of Stage One of the budget process the remaining budget 'gap' stood at £3.447M.
1.02	Cabinet has directed officers to develop proposals for the closing Stage Two from four work-streams: review of the new and emergent pressures; workforce; Council Tax; use of reserves and balances. As per the direction given by Cabinet, and as supported by all six overview and scrutiny committees, no new options have been sought from within service portfolios themselves. The Stage Two options presented within this report are drawn from those four work-streams and, in the opinion of the Chief Executive and Chief Officer Team, there are no other corporate sources from where efficiencies and savings could be identified and relied upon at this late stage of the budget process.

	Additional Service Issues for Consideration		
1.03	A service issue which was raised late in the budget was the provision of a weekly allowance to the clients of the Learning Disability Workplace Schemes. Cabinet, since the publication of the January budget report, has directed that this allowance be continued for 2016/17 and the budget reinstated. This will require a budget provision of £0.070M which has the impact of increasing the remaining gap to £3.517M.		
1.04	Discussions and negotiations are ongoing between the independent care providers and the councils which commission their services in residential, nursing, specialist care, domiciliary care, and direct payments social services over the rate of annual uplift to be made by commissioning councils to contribute to inflationary costs in the sector. Whilst some provision has been set aside by the Council in the corporate provision made for inflation, it is recognised that the inflationary pressures are higher in 2016/17 than in previous years specifically due to the impact of changes to the Minimum Wage and the incremental introduction of the Living Wage. Subject to the outcome of these negotiations the corporate provision may not be sufficient and there is a risk of a further financial pressure to be met in 2016/17 and later to be built into base costs for funding from 2017/18. Whilst the Council could draw further on reserves to meet this additional inflationary impact in 2016/17 this would not be sustainable from 2017/18. The North Wales councils are in discussion with the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board over the allocation of a proportion of the additional Intermediate Care Fund monies granted to the region by Welsh Government to subsidise commissioning costs to support the care sector. Any such allocation made would reduce or even mitigate this cost impact. For 2017/18 onwards Welsh Government will need to recognise in its annual budgets these high annualised inflationary pressures in the care sector for the sector to have a sustainable funding base. The risks are acute in Flintshire where the provider market is finely balanced with client demand rates, and a large proportion of residential and nursing homes are of relatively smaller size and therefore less resilient in accommodating inflationary pressures without financial support.		
1.05	The Provisional Settlement advised of an estimated reduction of £0.201M in the Single Environment Grant. Final notification of the allocation (received on 9 February) gave an amount of £2.998M which is £0.055M more than previously notified. This has the effect of reducing the new and emergent pressures total by the same amount.		
	Stage Two Budget Proposals		
1.06	The remaining Stage Two budget options are shown in Table 1 below and reflect how the amount of £3.517M will be met.		
	Table 1: Stage Two Budget Proposal		
	Work-Stream	Proposal with Risk Mitigation	£M
	<i>Review of New and Emergent Pressures</i>	Reduction of provision for the following new and emergent pressures listed in the attached report following reassessment of the likelihood of them impacting and of alternative	0.209

	ways of absorbing the costs (1) Leisure income (£0.070M) (2) Housing Benefit Subsidy (£0.043M) (3) Remittance Advice to Landlords (£0.041M) and (4) Sustainable Recycling Grant (£0.055M) <i>Acceptability Risk: none</i> <i>Workability Risk: low</i>	
<i>Workforce</i>	A managed further round of voluntary redundancies and reductions in other workforce costs notably overtime costs and agency worker costs. (The option of deferring automatic salary increments has been discounted in consultation with the Trade Unions): £0.500M A significant reduction in the number of posts eligible for essential car user allowances as a first phase of a review of travel allowances with fleet vehicles to be provided as an alternative mode of transport where required. The Trade Unions have been notified of this intention and are not in complete agreement at this stage: £0.500M <i>Acceptability Risk: medium</i> <i>Workability Risk: medium</i>	1.000
<i>Council Tax</i>	Setting Council Tax at 4.5% with the objectives of (1) maximising this local taxation income source to balance the budget (2) protecting the committed net increase of £0.869M in the contribution to schools through the schools funding formula, and the continuity of the community assets which are proceeding through the community asset transfer process and (3) closing the gap between Council planned expenditure and the Standard Spending Assessment. The recommended contribution of £0.862m to the budget gap is net of the increase in relation to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) of £0.103M. <i>Acceptability Risk: medium to high</i> <i>Workability Risk: none</i>	0.862
<i>Use of Reserves and Balances</i>	Deployment of reserves and balances, as a balancing figure, to meet both non-recurring and recurring budget pressures specifically for (1) the local costs pressures arising from the nationally imposed charging cap on domiciliary care charging (£0.500M), and for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) (£0.474M) and (2) a proportion of the costs of the new and emergent pressures (£0.455M).	1.429

		<p><i>Acceptability Risk: low</i> <i>Workability Risk: none for 2016/17 noting that any impacts for future years of meeting recurring costs through one-off use of reserves would have to be mitigated in the 2017/18 budget</i></p>	
	<p><i>Other Adjustments</i></p>	<p>Adjustment to the levy payable to North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority due to variations in the regional population base on which the per capital contribution per local authority is based: £0.010M</p> <p>Reduction in the annual contribution to GWE (Regional School Improvement Consortium) due to an agreed reduction of 1.6% to its contributory budget: £0.007M</p> <p><i>Acceptability Risk: none</i> <i>Workability Risk: none</i></p>	0.017
	Total		3.517
Council Tax and the Use of Reserves and Balances			
1.07	<p>Having taking into account the reduction in pressures and the additional efficiency options including workforce, the finalisation of the budget comes down to striking a balance between the level of Council Tax to be set and drawing upon reserves and balances.</p> <p>Several factors require careful consideration. These are the extent of the remaining 'gap' to be funded, the comparison of planned Council spend with the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) as our national spending guideline, and the impact of using too high a level of reserves now on the 2017/18 budget later.</p> <p>The final recommended position has to be a balanced judgement and is a material factor in the formal advice of the Section 151 Officer.</p> <p>Although higher than in previous years the proposed increase in Council Tax of 4.5% is still 0.5% lower than the maximum allowable level of 5%, and the utilisation of £1.429M of reserves and balances is consistent with examples of recent local practice (e.g. utilisation of £1.450M in 2014/15) and is not at a level where sustainability of budget planning is unachievable against the latest Medium Term Financial Planning forecast.</p>		

Achieving a Complete and Balanced Budget																																							
1.08	<p>Through combining the Stage One budget proposals and the Stage Two budget options a balanced budget can be achieved as shown in Table 2 below</p> <p>Table 2: A Complete and Balanced Budget</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Proposed Budget 2016/17</th> <th>£M</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Funding</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aggregate External Funding (AEF)/RSG NNDR</td> <td>184.743</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Council Tax</td> <td>67.240</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Budget Requirement</td> <td>251.983</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Specific Grants (Estimated)</td> <td>34.159</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use of Reserves</td> <td>1.429</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Funding</td> <td>287.571</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenditure</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Base Budget Rolled Forward</td> <td>287.605</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prior Year Budget Decisions Recurring (Appendix 6)</td> <td>8.845</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prior Year Budget Decisions One off dropping out (Appendix 6)</td> <td>(0.730)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inflation (Appendix 7)</td> <td>2.193</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pressures & Investments Recurring (Appendix 8)</td> <td>1.928</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Efficiencies - Business Planning (Appendix 9)</td> <td>(7.755)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Efficiencies - Corporate Finance (Appendix 10)</td> <td>(3.527)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Less Specific Grants 2015/16</td> <td>(35.147)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plus Specific Grants 2016/17 (Estimated Appendix 11)</td> <td>34.159</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Expenditure</td> <td>287.571</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Proposed Budget 2016/17	£M	Funding		Aggregate External Funding (AEF)/RSG NNDR	184.743	Council Tax	67.240	Budget Requirement	251.983	Specific Grants (Estimated)	34.159	Use of Reserves	1.429	Total Funding	287.571	Expenditure		Base Budget Rolled Forward	287.605	Prior Year Budget Decisions Recurring (Appendix 6)	8.845	Prior Year Budget Decisions One off dropping out (Appendix 6)	(0.730)	Inflation (Appendix 7)	2.193	Pressures & Investments Recurring (Appendix 8)	1.928	Efficiencies - Business Planning (Appendix 9)	(7.755)	Efficiencies - Corporate Finance (Appendix 10)	(3.527)	Less Specific Grants 2015/16	(35.147)	Plus Specific Grants 2016/17 (Estimated Appendix 11)	34.159	Total Expenditure	287.571
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1.09	<p>The budget proposals in this report set a budget requirement of £251.983M which is an amount of £1.748M below the calculated Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) of £253.731M. At this level of spend, the increase on the Band D Council Tax Rate (excluding Police and Town/Community Council precepts) is 4.5%. This equates to an increase of £46.14 on 2015/16 and a Band D rate of £1,071.41. The Council Tax</p>																																						

	system in Wales contains nine property bands ranging from Band A to Band I. In order to ensure consistency between councils when reporting Council Tax information it is agreed practice that all related information is expressed in terms of Band D equivalents.
	Schools Budget
1.10	A further Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting was held on 19 January 2016 and no specific amendments were raised. There was a request to maintain the 1% uplift of the Schools Budget of £0.869M and for this investment to remain unchanged as part of the final balancing proposals. This request has been met in that there are no changes to the School Budget proposals within this report.
1.11	Since the January report confirmation of the Education Improvement Grant has been received which is in line with previous assumptions. It has also been confirmed that this grant will not transfer into the settlement in 2016/17.
	Unearmarked Balance and Earmarked Reserves
	Base Level of Unearmarked Reserves
1.12	The budget proposals do not change the current base level of reserves of £5.769M as set out in the January report which provide an additional safeguard in the current uncertain financial climate.
	Contingency Reserve
1.13	The monthly budget monitoring report has provided updates on the movements on the reserve and the Month 8 monitoring report shows an estimated balance of £4.379M in the Contingency Reserve as at 31 March 2016. It is recommended that this reserve is retained and its use considered within the context of the overall financial plan for 2016/17 and future years. Whilst the base level of reserves is a known sum which is set aside, the level of Contingency Reserve is based on the current estimate and is subject to change at the end of the financial year.
	Council Fund Earmarked Reserves
1.14	As outlined in the Reserves and Balances Protocol the level of Earmarked Reserves is now reported quarterly through the monthly budget monitoring report. Appendix B details the estimated closing balances for 2015/16 and 2016/17 for all reserves and balances. The Section 151 Officer is satisfied that the level of these reserves is appropriate (see also Section 1.19 – 1.25 below).
	Final Settlement Announcement
1.15	The Final Settlement is not due to be announced until the 9 March 2016 which presents challenges for all councils in setting a balanced budget within the statutory timescale, ensuring that there is sufficient time to deal with the practicalities of Council Tax billing in advance of the new financial

	<p>year.</p> <p>Advice provided by Welsh Government is that there is unlikely to be any significant change from the allocation provided at the Provisional Settlement stage. Setting a budget based now, based on the Provisional Settlement, is considered to be low risk.</p> <p>If there were to be any change in funding at the Final Settlement stage it is recommended that the level of utilisation of reserves is adjusted accordingly on the advice of the Corporate Finance Manager.</p>												
	Medium Term Outlook												
1.16	<p>A full refresh of the Medium Term Financial forecast reflecting latest intelligence and demand expectations is underway. A high level indication of the initial amended forecast budget gap of £9.8M was shared with members at the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny meeting. This will be increased to approximately £11M after taking into account the adjustment for the utilisation of reserves of £1.429M and other factors.</p>												
	Budget Risk Assessment												
1.17	<p>A summary risks assessment is set out in Table 3 below.</p> <p>Table 3: Summary Risk Assessment</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Risk</th> <th>Mitigation</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Impact of reductions in Specific Grant funds</td> <td>The reductions in specific grants already notified by Welsh Government have been built into the budget through a combination of budget reductions and provision for new and emergent pressures. Few grants remain unconfirmed at this late stage of the budget process.</td> <td>Amber</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inflationary impacts</td> <td>A detailed risk assessment has been completed of the likely trends in and impacts of inflation with a medium level of financial provision included within the budget proposals. The Contingency Reserve provides an in-year safeguard for any un-met efficiency targets.</td> <td>Amber</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Failure to achieve income targets in full</td> <td>Income targets have been set service by service based on careful calculations and trends in service use. The Contingency Reserve provides an in-year safeguard for</td> <td>Amber</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Risk	Mitigation	Status	Impact of reductions in Specific Grant funds	The reductions in specific grants already notified by Welsh Government have been built into the budget through a combination of budget reductions and provision for new and emergent pressures. Few grants remain unconfirmed at this late stage of the budget process.	Amber	Inflationary impacts	A detailed risk assessment has been completed of the likely trends in and impacts of inflation with a medium level of financial provision included within the budget proposals. The Contingency Reserve provides an in-year safeguard for any un-met efficiency targets.	Amber	Failure to achieve income targets in full	Income targets have been set service by service based on careful calculations and trends in service use. The Contingency Reserve provides an in-year safeguard for	Amber
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		any un-met efficiency targets.	
	Failure to achieve efficiency targets in full	Provided that there is no delay in decision-making around the specific budget proposals which still require further work/consultation then there is a high probability of efficiencies being achieved in full. The Contingency Reserves provides an in-year safeguard for any un-met efficiency targets. The Council has a track record of making other adjustments in-year to compensate for any unachieved efficiencies from other sources.	Amber
	Insufficient capacity to implement change programmes and projects to time and to financial target	Organisational capacity has been aligned to implement efficiency plans both within services and corporately. The option always remains to bring in additional external capacity and capability, or to adjust the allocation of internal capacity, as required.	Amber
	Impact of new and emergent pressures	Significant provision has been made in the draft budget to meet the new and emergent pressures which are evident at this late stage of the budget process.	Amber
	Over use of reserves and balances	Only partial use of set aside reserves and balances is made in the draft budget.	Green
	Sufficiency of remaining reserves and balances to meet unforeseen pressures	Neither the Contingency Reserve nor earmarked reserves have been drawn upon as part of the budget. The Contingency Reserve at £4M+ has the specific purpose of acting as a safeguard to meet unforeseen cost pressures and variations in-year.	Green
	Opinions of the Statutory Officers		
1.18	The formal opinions of the Corporate Finance Manager in their statutory role as Section 151 Officer, and of the Chief Executive, are set out below.		

	Opinion of the Corporate Finance Manager
1.19	Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 includes a specific duty on the Chief Finance Officer (for Flintshire this is the Corporate Finance Manager) to report to the Council when it is considering its budget and Council Tax setting on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of reserves. The Act requires the Council to have regard to this report in making its decisions in relation to the budget.
1.20	The 2016/17 budget has been set within the context of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and continues to recognise a significant reduction in the funding available to the Council from Welsh Government, being a 1.5% cash reduction in 2016/17 which follows a 3.4% reduction in 2015/16. The Council's budget strategy for dealing with this significant financial challenge has been clearly set out in detail for all stakeholders in previous budget reports and complemented by a range of member workshops and scrutiny sessions together with seven Community Engagement events.
1.21	For the estimates contained within the budget, all figures are supported by a clear and robust methodology with the efficiency proposals considered achievable and the pressures supported by evidenced method statements.
1.22	In September 2015 County Council approved a new Reserves and Balances Protocol which sets out how the Council will determine, manage and review the level of its Council Fund Balance and Earmarked Reserves taking into account relevant legislation and professional guidance. An outcome of this protocol was to report quarterly the level of Earmarked Reserves held to both Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee which improves both the transparency and understanding of all reserves held by the Council.
1.23	The Council's overall level of reserves and balances is reviewed annually as part of the budget process and the adequacy and purpose of reserves held challenged, with any reserves no longer required at the same level made available for corporate use.
1.24	Supported by the above, I can confirm the reasonableness of the estimates contained in the proposed budget, having regard to the Council's spending needs in 2016/17 and the financial context within which the budget is being set. Inevitably in managing a budget of this scale across a large and diverse organisation variances will occur, but I believe that the budget assumptions represent a measured and acceptable level of risk. A robust programme for the delivery of the £11.282M of efficiencies within the budget and to the timescales set together with effective and disciplined in-year financial management will ensure that budgets are managed effectively with prompt action taken to mitigate any impacts should variances occur.
1.25	Within the context described above, I recommend that the Council should maintain the level of general balances of £5.769M which will safeguard its position and also enable it to plan ahead to meet future financial challenges as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The

	Contingency Reserve (currently estimated to be £4.379M) also provides further assurance around the Council's ability to manage any in-year variances should they not be able to mitigate from other areas which the Council has successfully been able to do in recent years.
	Opinion of the Chief Executive
1.26	My professional advice complements that of the Corporate Finance Manager as set out above.
1.27	The draft budget follows the Medium Term Financial Strategy adopted by the Council and is a balanced approach to achieving an annual budget, as required by law and the principles of good governance, whilst protecting the improvement objectives and public service duties and obligations of the Council.
1.28	As each year passes during a period of central government fiscal policy, a policy which necessitates annualised reductions in net public expenditure, then the challenge of setting an annual budget in this way becomes ever harder. As shown in the summary risk assessment in Table 3 the Council has to have a greater 'appetite' for risk. This is indeed the case for all public bodies. Provided that the risks are understood, the likelihood of their occurring and the impact they will make if they do so occur is assessed, and there are sufficient plans to mitigate those impacts in that eventuality, then the approach to risk can be supported. An underlying organisational risk is that there is less financial flexibility to adjust to new cost pressures in year as (1) budgets are more precisely based on forecast need with smaller margins for flexibility and error and (2) the total quantum of funding available to the Council as a corporate body is smaller than in past years.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	As within the substantive Stage One budget report which is attached.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	As within the substantive Stage One budget report which is attached.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	As within the substantive Stage One budget report which is attached.

5.00	APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS
	Appendix A: List of variations to the Service Business Planning figures from the version reported in December

	<p>Appendix B: Reserves and Balances</p> <p>Appendix C: Cabinet report of the Chief Executive and Corporate Finance Manager from January 2016 - Council Fund Revenue Budget for 2016/17</p>
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6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>As listed within the substantive Stage One budget report which is attached at Appendix C.</p> <p>The Budget Factsheets which are available on request and available in the Members' Services area for inspection.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Gary Ferguson Telephone: 01352 702101 E-mail: gary.ferguson@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	As set out within the substantive Stage One report which is attached.

Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee 29th January 2016**Business Planning Efficiency Proposals – Changes since December O&S Committees****Streetscene & Transportation**

Proposal	Members Papers December 2015	Members Papers January 2016	Movement in Figures	Reasons
Rationalise HRC Sites	£425k	£250k	–£175k	Efficiency overstated by £175k in December papers. It had been increased incorrectly by the projected under achieved efficiency in 2015/16.
Removing the waste containers delivery service	£50k	Nil	–£50k	2015/16 proposal only. Included in 2016/17 in error.
Second Garden Waste bin charge	£25k	Nil	–£25k	2015/16 proposal only. Included in 2016/17 in error.
Review Subsidised Bus Routes	£100k	£75k	–£25k	Efficiency overstated by £25k in December papers. It had been increased incorrectly by the projected under achieved efficiency in 2015/16.
Externalise grass cutting service	£75k	£25k	–£50k	Efficiency overstated by £50k in December papers. It had been increased incorrectly by the projected under achieved efficiency in 2015/16.
Reduce Cleansing Standard in towns	£50k	Nil	–£50k	2015/16 proposal only. Included in 2016/17 in error.
Remove second grass cut for highways verges	Nil	£20k	+£20k	Omitted from December papers in error.
Reduced Street Lighting resource	Nil	£13k	+£13k	Omitted from December papers in error.
Total	£725k	£383k	–£342k	
Total – All S&T Proposals	£2,500k	£2,158k	–£342k	

All of the above proposals were incorrectly presented in the December papers given to Member Workshops and Environment O&S Committee. Therefore, the figures presented to the January meeting were always the intended efficiency proposals and no change has been made to the intended implementation of each proposal.

Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee 29th January 2016**Business Planning Efficiency Proposals – Changes since December O&S Committees****Social Services**

Proposal	Members Papers December 2015	Members Papers January 2016	Movement in Figures	Reasons
Consult on the potential to commission provision currently provided by in-house Supported Living houses	£125k	£65k	-£60k	The full year efficiency level was expected to be £0.125m based on the comparative costs of current externally provided supported living. However, the likely implementation date is now expected to be in second half of 2016/17, therefore the level of efficiency has been reduced accordingly.
Develop alternative approaches to in-house day services and work opportunity schemes	£238k	£200k	-£38k	The latest ADM proposal is to undertake a commissioning process for day opportunities services. The commissioning process will seek to secure a partnership with an external service provider, or several providers, to design and deliver a modern, progressive and sustainable service delivery model. The budgets for the work opportunities service have been critically reviewed and savings have been identified primarily from staffing reductions within the work opportunities team and the removal of bonus incentive payments. The commissioning process implementation timetable has resulted in the £38k reduction in the efficiency.
Total	£363k	£265k	-£98k	
Total – All Social Services Proposals	£936k	£838k	-£98k	

Summary of Council Fund Earmarked Reserves

	Estimated Balance 01/04/16 £m	Estimated Balance 31/03/17 £m
<u>Service Balances</u>		
Environment	0.688	0.191
Education & Youth	0.432	0.216
Community & Enterprise	0.261	0.261
Organisational Change	0.298	0.298
Corporate Services	0.018	0.000
Total	1.697	0.966
<u>Corporate Balances</u>		
Equal Pay / Single Status	7.326	5.574
General Reserve - Review of Reserves	3.871	2.371
General Reserve - Investment in Organisational Change	0.722	0.000
Total	11.919	7.945
<u>Specific Reserves</u>		
Insurance	0.778	0.761
Benefits Equalisation	0.105	0.105
Supporting People	0.832	0.353
Building Control	0.058	0.058
Waste Disposal	0.217	0.017
Flintshire Business Services	0.097	0.097
Winter Maintenance	0.250	0.250
Design Fees	0.120	0.120
County Elections	0.154	0.154
Minor Reserves under £0.050m	0.061	0.061
Total	2.672	1.976
Total Earmarked Reserves	16.288	10.887

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 19 January 2016
Report Subject	Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17
Cabinet Member	Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance
Report Authors	Chief Executive and Corporate Finance Manager
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the Council Fund Revenue Budget for the 2016/17 financial year for adoption by Cabinet and recommendation to Council.

Work on the budget is not yet complete. This is due to a combination of (1) the scale of the savings and efficiencies to be found given the challenge this unprecedented savings target poses and (2) the uncertainty over the national budget position and its impacts on the Council. Therefore, the budget is being presented to Cabinet in two stages over January and February prior to presentation, in a full and final form, to Council on 16 February 2016.

This first stage report presents the majority of the budget. The first phase the proposals contained within the first stage report (see Part B) have been examined and reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees throughout December 2015. The proposals are listed in the appendices, and individual fact sheets on each proposal will also be made available within January for reference. The second phase of proposals in this report are newly presented (see Part B).

The Provisional Local Government Settlement was announced by the Welsh Government on 9 December 2015. Whilst there is some uncertainty over a number of specific grants which fund individual services the announcement has sufficient detail for the scale of the funding 'gap' to be recalculated and for our budget proposals to be sized accordingly.

The on-going work to move to closing the budget, to be presented in final form in February, is summarised within this report. These further proposals will be examined by the respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees later in January 2016 prior to being formally presented to Cabinet for adoption.

The report at the end of part C presents a remaining budget gap of £1.598M having taken into account all budget proposals, both those pre-reported in December 2015, and those newly presented within this report. This gap rises to around £3.447M when taking into account new and emergent pressures which are listed and are under ongoing review. Should Cabinet approve the recommendations set out below then the ongoing work on the budget will be restricted to the activity described in Parts C and D of the report.

The report is set out in the following parts for the reader to navigate through the chronology of the budget and a complex set of budget proposals and considerations:-

Part A: Initial Forecasting of the Budget 'Gap' for 2015/16-2017/18 (1.01-1.03)

Part B: The Local Government Settlement, A Revised Forecast and the Budget Strategy for 2016/17 (1.04-1.20)

Part C: Plans for Closing the Budget (1.21-1.25)

Part D: Further Work to be Completed to Close the Budget (1.26-1.31)

Part E: Calculation of the Total Revenue Budget And Budget Requirement (1.32-1.36)

A list of tables within the report is set out below as a guide:-

Table 1: Service Business Plan Efficiency Proposal Targets 2016/17

Table 2: Corporate Financial Stewardship Proposal Targets 2016/17

Table 3: Impacts of the Settlement (as announced on 9 December)

Table 4: First Stage – Second Phase Proposals to Balance the Budget

Table 5: Summary of Proposals to Close the Budget Gap

Table 6: New and Emergent Pressures

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To adopt the first stage – first phase of budget proposals for the Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 for recommendation to Council.
2. To adopt the first stage – second phase proposals for the Council Fund Revenue budget 2016/17 for referral to the respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and secondly to Cabinet and then final consideration by Cabinet in February
3. To endorse the strategy for the ongoing work to seek to close the remaining budget 'gap' and recommend a balanced annual budget to Cabinet in February.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	Presenting the First Stage of the Council Fund Revenue Budget
	Part A: Initial Forecasting of the Budget 'gap' for 2015/16-2017/18
1.01	In mid to late 2015 the Council published the new version of its Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) in two parts: Part 1: <i>Forecasting the Challenge</i> and Part 2: <i>Meeting the Financial Challenge</i> . (attached as Appendices 1 and 2)
1.02	As set out in <i>Forecasting the Challenge</i> , a cumulative real reduction in resources available to the Council of £52.8M was forecast for the three year period 2015/16 to 2017/18. As explained within the MTFS this gap is a consequence of the combined impacts of:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reductions in the Revenue Support Grant from Welsh Government; • reductions in specific grants from Welsh Government; • no provision within the Local Government Settlement for pay and price inflation; • limited or no provision within the Local Government Settlement for nationally recognised demand-led or policy-led cost pressures in services; and • local service and corporate financing cost pressures.
1.03	At the time of publishing the MTFS the predicted funding gap for Flintshire for 2016/17 was £20.8M. The biggest determinant of the actual size of this gap is the level of reduction in the Revenue Support Grant to be allocated to Flintshire by Welsh Government as part of the Local Government Settlement.
	Part B: The Local Government Settlement, a Revised Forecast and the Budget Strategy for 2016/17
1.04	The Provisional Local Government Settlement for 2016/17 was announced by Welsh Government on 9 December 2015. As reported to both Cabinet and the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December the impacts of the Settlement, which was an improved Settlement on the forecast position, would reduce the predicted gap for 2016/17 by £3.770M to £17.030M.
1.05	The initial proposals for the first stage of the draft budget reported to Cabinet in December 2015, and examined by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees throughout the month, presented corporate efficiencies of £5.0M, and service portfolio efficiencies of £7.755M, (Revised figure) together totalling £12.755M. Prior to the announcement of the Provisional Settlement the remaining gap stood at £8.045M. The remaining gap had been reduced by £3.770M, to £4.275M, as a result of the Settlement.
1.06	A separate report is included within the agenda for this Cabinet meeting which proposes a response to the Settlement. A presentational summary of the Settlement and its impacts on Flintshire is included at Appendix 3.

Budget Strategy: Stage One – First Phase															
1.07	The Council's Budget Strategy, as set out in <i>Meeting the Financial Challenge</i> , builds on the work done within 2015/16 to achieve sizeable organisational change to reduce costs with the aim of protecting local public services. Following the implementation of a new corporate operating model in 2014, and the introduction of new style business plans for the services within each of the new Chief Officer portfolios, the organisation has been reformed at some pace with all service portfolios working to a target of 30% reductions in net costs over three years (with the exception of schools and social services).														
1.08	This three year strategy has been underpinned by the principles of:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • planning for the long-term as a whole organisation; • making decisions for local public services which are sustainable; • being ambitious and positive about change to better the organisation; • having a clear philosophy underpinned by social value; and • managing the transition from the current to the future with care. 														
1.09	The twin objectives of this major and sustained programme of change and cost reduction continue to be (1) maximising the financial efficiency of the organisation and better aligning our resources to priorities and (2) modernising the organisation to be lean, productive, efficient, resilient and high performing.														
1.10	For the 2016/17 budget the strategy set out in <i>Meeting the Financial Challenge</i> proposed a three part set of solutions under the headings of:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service Reform 2. Corporate Finance Stewardship 3. Working with Welsh Government 														
1.11	A set of service reform net cost budget reductions drawn from the portfolio business plans with a set of corporate financing cost reductions were drawn together in mid-2015 and then developed throughout the second half of the calendar year as the first contribution to the annual budget for 2016/17. These combined proposals were shared with service management teams, Group Leaders and Chairs and Vice-Chairs then all members of the Council informally, prior to formal presentation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, for examination and review, throughout December 2015.														
1.12	These proposals are summarised in Tables 1 and 2 below. <p>Table 1: Service Business Plan Efficiency Proposal Targets 2016/17</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Portfolio</th> <th>£M</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Planning and Environment</i></td> <td>0.413</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Streetscene and Transportation</i></td> <td>2.158</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Social Care</i></td> <td>0.838</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Education and Youth</i></td> <td>0.710</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Community and Enterprise</i></td> <td>1.509</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>People and Resources</i></td> <td>0.250</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Portfolio	£M	<i>Planning and Environment</i>	0.413	<i>Streetscene and Transportation</i>	2.158	<i>Social Care</i>	0.838	<i>Education and Youth</i>	0.710	<i>Community and Enterprise</i>	1.509	<i>People and Resources</i>	0.250
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	<i>Governance</i>	0.535										
	<i>Organisational Change</i>	1.272										
	<i>Chief Executive's</i>	0.070										
	Total	7.755										
	<p><i>Footnote 1: the detail of individual proposals is set out in Appendix 9</i></p> <p><i>Footnote 2: the above figures are based on the finalised costed proposals. The total figure of £7.755M is a reduction of £0.471M on the figures reported previously.</i></p> <p>Table 2: Corporate Financial Stewardship Proposal Targets 2016/17</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Subject and Proposal</th> <th>£M</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Inflation Management: part absorption of inflation risk</i></td> <td>1.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Corporate Overheads: selective reduction in provisions</i></td> <td>1.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Schools Funding Formula: controlled schools investment</i></td> <td>2.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Local Income: new and increased charging</i></td> <td>0.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Footnote: the above figures are based on the finalised costed proposals</i></p>		Subject and Proposal	£M	<i>Inflation Management: part absorption of inflation risk</i>	1.0	<i>Corporate Overheads: selective reduction in provisions</i>	1.0	<i>Schools Funding Formula: controlled schools investment</i>	2.5	<i>Local Income: new and increased charging</i>	0.5
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1.13	<p>The outcomes of the Overview and Scrutiny examination round of meetings are summarised in the presentation slides given to the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the close of this series of meetings (see Appendix 4). All members were invited to this final meeting. Few of the budget proposals were highlighted by the Committees for either clarification or further consideration. Those proposals which were highlighted were re-explained to the satisfaction of the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee at this closing meeting. Therefore, all proposals remain for recommendation and adoption noting that some carry risks of either complexity or time delay in their deliverability.</p>											
	National Campaigning											
1.14	<p>For the third part of the strategy Flintshire has engaged in intensive activity in making the case for local government prior to the announcement of the Provisional Local Government Settlement by Welsh Government. This was done through collective campaigning through the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), and separately as an individual council exposed to the risks of major reductions in its national funding. The campaigning was based on the coherent arguments made in <i>Meeting the Financial Challenge</i>. This campaigning work has proven to be effective with the Welsh Government announcing a better than expected financial settlement for local government. However, several principal issues on which local government and Flintshire campaigned remain unresolved (see the accompanying report on the Provisional Local Government Settlement).</p>											
	Community Engagement											
1.15	<p>For the 2015/16 budget the Council ran a public engagement exercise called <i>The Big Budget Conversation</i>. This exercise was largely internet and media based. For 2016/17 the Council built on the learning from this exercise and ran a new community engagement exercise under the heading of <i>This is Your Moment</i>. Whilst drawing on internet resources, and making use of the media, the exercise was broadened with seven public meetings being held across the County as the main method of explanation and engagement. A</p>											

	summary report of the community engagement exercise is attached at Appendix 5.												
1.16	The Council also drew in local stakeholders in its national campaigning work. A number of local stakeholders from the public, business and voluntary sectors, and from the schools community and Trade Union community, took an active part in making the case for local government and for Flintshire.												
	Budget Strategy: Stage Two – Second Phase												
1.17	As summarised in 1.03 the initial forecast budget ‘gap’ was £20.8M. If the first phase combined corporate budget proposals and service business plans budget proposals were approved, this gap, prior to taking into account the impacts of the Provisional Local Government Settlement, would be reduced to £8.045M based on the figures reported previously.												
1.18	To achieve a balanced budget for recommendation to Council two actions remain. Firstly, to take into full account the impacts of the Provisional Settlement on the assumption that although in draft form and open to consultation, the Final Settlement, to be announced in March 2016, will not worsen the position for Flintshire. Secondly, to identify and examine further options to close the remaining gap.												
1.19	As Table 3 illustrates the Provisional Settlement has had a positive effect in restoring income of £3.770M. Table 3: Impacts of the Settlement (as announced on 9 December 2015)												
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1.20	The remaining gap (£8.045M) has been reduced by £3.770M, to £4.275M, as a result of the Settlement, before taking into account new and emergent pressures and any revisions to the detailed calculations for the budget proposals reported in December. The original forecast for pressures dates back to mid-2015. The reassessment of pressures, detailed at 1.24 below, will need to be taken into account in resizing the budget gap and in reaching												

	a balanced budget. Additional pressures of a value of £1.849M have been identified and are listed in table 6. Their cost, and the likelihood of the pressures materialising in year, are under review.	
	Part C: Plans for Closing the Budget	
1.21	A commitment has been made by Cabinet, the Chief Executive and the Chief Officers to aim to close the remaining gap through corporate financing solutions, as far as possible, and to avoid introducing new and late service cost reduction options which would be of concern to elected members and the public.	
1.22	Table 4 sets out the second phase of proposals to close the remaining gap.	
	Table 4: First Stage – Second Phase Proposals to Balance the Budget	
	A: Further Impacts of the Provisional Local Government Settlement	
	Subject	Calculation and Risk Mitigation
	<i>Welsh Independent Living Grant (formerly Independent Living Fund)</i>	Late confirmation that the Grant has not been included in the core Settlement and will continue to be funded for a further year as a specific grant. The value of the potential loss of grant to Flintshire is £0.450M and was identified as a national pressure in the MTFS. The net value of this positive confirmation, following deduction of administration costs, is £0.412M. <i>Acceptability Risk: none</i> <i>Workability Risk: none for 2016/17 noting that the grant is not guaranteed for future years</i>
		£M
		0.412
	Sub-Total: £0.412M	
	B: Adjustment of Local Pressures	
	Subject	Calculation and Risk Mitigation
	<i>Recalculation of Schools Based Cost Pressures (Education and Youth)</i>	Recalculation of schools based cost pressures following a detailed reassessment of pressures including pay and pensions based on current employment figures. <i>Acceptability Risk: none</i> <i>Workability Risk: low as based on latest figures and funding is pass-ported to schools through a modernised and transparent schools funding formula.</i>
		£M
		0.350
	<i>Reassessment of cost pressure for care support for transition from childhood to adulthood (Social Care)</i>	The cost pressure for meeting the costs of complex care packages for individuals in the care of the Authority and transitioning from childhood to adulthood, has been reassessed based on (1) the latest information on the individual assessments of need and (2) success in negotiations with Betsi Cadwaladar University Health Board
		0.451

	<p>over their funding contributions as a care partner (a £0.300M gain). The calculated case cost pressures are identified as a local pressure in the MTFs. The total value of the pressure was forecast to be £0.923M for 2016/17. The pressure can now be reduced to £0.472M.</p> <p><i>Acceptability Risk:</i> none <i>Workability Risk:</i> low as based on latest case by case projections and funding agreements between the Council and Betsi Cadwaladar University Health Board.</p>	
<i>Employer Pension Contributions</i>	<p>The obligations upon the Council as an employer to fund the Clwyd Pension Fund are under continuous review. No more so than in a period of organisational change where (1) the workforce is being reduced in number through a combination of organisational re-design and employees choosing to leave through voluntary redundancy or retirement and (2) the impacts of change such as the Single Status Agreement are being worked through. Employer pension contributions are identified as a workforce pressure in the MTFs. The total value of the combined pensions pressures was forecast to be £5.655M for 2016/17. The pressure can now be reduced by £0.460M based on the latest review.</p> <p><i>Acceptability Risk:</i> none <i>Workability Risk:</i> low as based on latest workforce number projections.</p>	0.460
Sub-Total: £1.261M		
C: Corporate Financing Risk Management		
Subject	Calculation and Risk Mitigation	£M
<i>Inflation Provision for 2015/16</i>	<p>The centrally held provision for meeting inflation costs has not been called upon in full, within 2015/16, as the Council has been able to either mitigate or absorb the costs within its base budgets allocated to services. There is also an underspend remaining for Non Standard Inflation (NSI) provided as part of a carry-forward from 2014/15. This is no longer required in the base. The provision can therefore be revised by £0.350 for a recalculation for 2016/17.</p> <p><i>Acceptability Risk:</i> none <i>Workability Risk:</i> low as based on actual trends in inflation in costs as opposed to forecasts.</p>	0.350
<i>Price and Non Standard</i>	The Council holds a central provision for Non Standard Inflation (NSI) to cover	0.654

	<p><i>Inflation (NSI) Provision for 2016/17</i></p>	<p>fluctuations in energy, fuel and food (mainly schools catering) market prices. Full provision was made in the inflation forecasted figure within the MTFS to meet NSI cost pressures. Market intelligence suggests zero inflation or deflation in the fuel market, and reasonable levels of predictability for energy and food prices which may have peaked. Based on current inflation trends, and the organisational ‘appetite’ for absorbing inflation pressures in part, the provision can be removed.</p> <p>The Council has in the past met the forecast costs of specific service inflationary pressures in full. These costed pressures are also included in the forecast for Inflation Pressures included in the MTFS. Based on a similar assessment to that summarised above for NSI, the provision can be reduced by 50%.</p> <p>The combined value of these reductions in provision for inflation is £0.654M.</p> <p><i>Acceptability Risk:</i> low as based on a calculated risk assessment between the Chief Officer Team and the Finance Team <i>Workability Risk:</i> medium as full provision for predicted inflation is no longer provided.</p>																												
		Sub-Total: £1.004M																												
		Total: £2.677M																												
1.23	<p>The combined total of the initial proposals to close the remaining budget gap, as set out in Table 4 above, is £2.677M. Therefore, the remaining gap, before taking into account new and emergent pressures, is £1.598M, as shown in Table 5.</p> <p>Table 5: Summary of Proposals to Close the Budget Gap</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Source</th> <th>Calculation</th> <th>£M</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MTFS</td> <td>Original Forecast Gap</td> <td>- 20.800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Table 1</td> <td>Service Business Plans Proposals</td> <td>+7.755</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Table 2</td> <td>Corporate Financial Stewardship Proposals</td> <td>+5.000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Table 3</td> <td>Impacts of the Settlement</td> <td>+3.770</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Table 4A</td> <td>Further Impacts of the Provisional Local Government Settlement</td> <td>+0.412</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Table 4B</td> <td>Adjustment of Local Pressures</td> <td>+1.261</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Table 4C</td> <td>Corporate Financing Risk Management</td> <td>+1.004</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Remaining Gap Based on the Original Forecast:</td> <td>-£1.598M</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Source	Calculation	£M	MTFS	Original Forecast Gap	- 20.800	Table 1	Service Business Plans Proposals	+7.755	Table 2	Corporate Financial Stewardship Proposals	+5.000	Table 3	Impacts of the Settlement	+3.770	Table 4A	Further Impacts of the Provisional Local Government Settlement	+0.412	Table 4B	Adjustment of Local Pressures	+1.261	Table 4C	Corporate Financing Risk Management	+1.004	Remaining Gap Based on the Original Forecast:		-£1.598M
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1.24	<p>The new and emergent pressures which have been identified over the winter months since the MTFS forecast, and which are currently under examination, are set out below. The cost calculation for each pressure, and the likelihood of each pressure materialising in-year and if so their impacts, are being assessed in detail. A full report will be made to Cabinet in February 2016 on the outcome of this work and the need for budget provision to be set aside to protect the Council from in-year pressures.</p> <p>Table 6: New and Emergent Pressures</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Income Pressures</th> <th>Detail</th> <th>£M</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Recycling Income</i></td> <td>Fall in income from the sale of recyclates (plastic, metals etc) due to an oversupply in the global recycling market.</td> <td>0.419</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Sustainable Recycling Grant</i></td> <td>Reduction in the level of grant funding allocated to local authorities by Welsh Government for 2016/17 within the new Single Environment Grant in 2016/17.</td> <td>0.276</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Animal Health & DEFRA Grant</i></td> <td>Shortfall due to ending of a partnership with Wrexham County Borough Council.</td> <td>0.044</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Leisure Income</i></td> <td>Lower than projected income levels achieved for the customer use of Deeside Ice Rink, Deeside Leisure Centre.</td> <td>0.070</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Housing Benefit Subsidy</i></td> <td>Loss of subsidy claimable from Government for Housing Benefit paid out to claimants (this claim is still under review and the position may improve).</td> <td>0.193</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unachieved Efficiencies Carried Forward from 2015/16</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Workforce Efficiency Proposal</i></td> <td>Unable to achieve proposed annual leave 'buy back' and extended use of pool car schemes due to the workability of the schemes (the reduction of car use costs may be re-included in the 2016/17 draft budget).</td> <td>0.200</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Review Model/Costs contract for Catering</i></td> <td>Efficiency deferred due to ongoing work to move to an Alternative Delivery Model (ADM) for the catering</td> <td>0.050</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Income Pressures	Detail	£M	<i>Recycling Income</i>	Fall in income from the sale of recyclates (plastic, metals etc) due to an oversupply in the global recycling market.	0.419	<i>Sustainable Recycling Grant</i>	Reduction in the level of grant funding allocated to local authorities by Welsh Government for 2016/17 within the new Single Environment Grant in 2016/17.	0.276	<i>Animal Health & DEFRA Grant</i>	Shortfall due to ending of a partnership with Wrexham County Borough Council.	0.044	<i>Leisure Income</i>	Lower than projected income levels achieved for the customer use of Deeside Ice Rink, Deeside Leisure Centre.	0.070	<i>Housing Benefit Subsidy</i>	Loss of subsidy claimable from Government for Housing Benefit paid out to claimants (this claim is still under review and the position may improve).	0.193	Unachieved Efficiencies Carried Forward from 2015/16			<i>Workforce Efficiency Proposal</i>	Unable to achieve proposed annual leave 'buy back' and extended use of pool car schemes due to the workability of the schemes (the reduction of car use costs may be re-included in the 2016/17 draft budget).	0.200	<i>Review Model/Costs contract for Catering</i>	Efficiency deferred due to ongoing work to move to an Alternative Delivery Model (ADM) for the catering	0.050
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		service (final business case to be presented in February 2016).	
	<i>Regional Approach to Advocacy</i>	The regional tendering exercise did not deliver the level of projected financial savings in full.	0.048
	<i>Funding to Voluntary Sector (Social Care)</i>	Adjustment to the forecast efficiency following review of the portfolio of funded provider organisations.	0.138
	<i>Remittance Advice to Landlords</i>	Adjustment to original efficiency based on the workability of the scheme,	0.041
	New Pressures		
	<i>Procurement</i>	Increased cost of the Joint Procurement Service with Denbighshire County Council based on service needs to achieve procurement income targets and apportionment of costs with the partner council.	0.028
	<i>Matrix (Sub-regional contract for procuring agency workers)</i>	Reduction in costs savings per agency worker employed achieved through a more competitive procurement framework due to the lower levels of agency workers being taken on by the Council as an employer.	0.050
	<i>Animal Feed Control</i>	Pressure due to the funding transferring out of the Provisional Settlement for 2015/16.	0.022
	Sub total		1.579
	Transitional Funding Adjustment 2015/16 Budget		
	Funding from Reserves	As part of the 2015/16 budget strategy a temporary amount of £0.270m was utilised to balance the budget. This technical adjustment reverses the impact on the base budget for 2016/17.	0.270
	Total		1.849
1.25	Taking into account the new and emergent pressures the remaining budget gap therefore increases to £3.447M. However, the pressures included at this stage will be subject to review and challenge as part of the finalisation of the budget and any changes included in the final report in February 2016.		

	D: Further Work to be Completed to Close the Budget
1.26	Work is ongoing to identify further budget reduction options in the areas of workforce costs, and the use of reserves and balances. The new and emergent pressures are also being reviewed in detail. The outcomes of this work will similarly be reported to Cabinet in February 2016.
	Council Tax Income
1.27	The MTFS forecast was based on a working assumption that Council Tax would be increased in 2016/17 by 3%. As set out in the MTFS, explained in presentations in meetings within the Council, and tested with the public in the community engagement meetings, the Council can set an annual taxation rise up to a 5% maximum. The final taxation figure will need to be considered by Cabinet and then Council in February 2016.
1.28	Given the remaining budget gap, as set out in Table 5, and the outstanding work on the examination of new and emergent pressures, the level at which Council Tax will need to be set will require serious consideration. For planning purposes a rise of 5% will need to be built in to assumptions. The difference in value between a 3% Council Tax rise, and a 5% Council Tax rise, having deducted a provision to meet the additional benefits contributions to those eligible under the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS), would be £1.131M. A number of Welsh Councils are under a similar budget pressure and are considering a maximum annual Council Tax rise at 5%.
1.29	In setting its budget on 16 February the Council will need to decide the level of Council Tax increase it is going to make for 2016/17. The Council will meet again on 1 March to pass the formal resolution for levying the Council Tax once it has received the notification of the precepts from the town and community councils. Intelligence on the Final Local Government Settlement should become available in between the two meetings. Keeping the option open to set an annual rise of 5% will be important should the Council's financial position be worsened by any change to the Final Settlement which would have the effect of creating an additional financial pressure to be reconciled in setting the budget.
1.30	A full risk assessment of the final budget proposals will be presented to Cabinet and Council in February 2016. Risks that will require detailed consideration include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the impacts of specific grant reductions; • mitigating inflationary impacts; • achieving income targets; • achievement of efficiencies on time and to financial target; • the capacity of the organisation to manage large scale and complex change programmes; • new and emergent pressures; • use and reliance on reserves and balances; and • the availability of limited remaining reserves to meet unforeseen pressures in-year.

1.31	The Chief Finance Officer and Chief Executive will advise Cabinet and Council in February 2016 with their risk assessments in their formal statutory advisory roles.																																				
	Part E: Calculation of the Total Revenue Budget And Budget Requirement																																				
	Proposed Budget																																				
1.32	<p>At this point in the budget planning there is a remaining budget gap on the recurring base budget of 3.447MM as detailed in the table below:</p> <p>Sections 1.33- 1.46 below set out further details and assumptions made:-</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Funding</u></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><u>£M</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Aggregate External Funding (AEF)/RSG NNDR</td> <td style="text-align: right;">184.743</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Council Tax</td> <td style="text-align: right;">66.275</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SSA/Budget Requirement</td> <td style="text-align: right;">251.018</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Specific Grants (Estimated)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">34.159</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Funding</td> <td style="text-align: right;">285.177</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <u>Expenditure</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Base Budget Rolled Forward</td> <td style="text-align: right;">287.605</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prior Yr Budget Decisions Recurring (Appendix 6)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">8.845</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prior Yr Budget Decisions One off dropping out (Appendix 6)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(0.730)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inflation (Appendix 7)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2.193</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pressures & Investments Recurring (Appendix 8)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.964</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Efficiencies - Business Planning (Appendix 9)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(7.755)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Efficiencies - Corporate Finance (Appendix 10)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(2.510)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Less Specific Grants 2015/16</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(35.147)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plus Specific Grants 2016/17 (Estimated Appendix 11)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">34.159</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Expenditure</td> <td style="text-align: right;">288.624</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shortfall</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3.447</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>£M</u>	Aggregate External Funding (AEF)/RSG NNDR	184.743	Council Tax	66.275	SSA/Budget Requirement	251.018	Specific Grants (Estimated)	34.159	Total Funding	285.177	 <u>Expenditure</u>		Base Budget Rolled Forward	287.605	Prior Yr Budget Decisions Recurring (Appendix 6)	8.845	Prior Yr Budget Decisions One off dropping out (Appendix 6)	(0.730)	Inflation (Appendix 7)	2.193	Pressures & Investments Recurring (Appendix 8)	1.964	Efficiencies - Business Planning (Appendix 9)	(7.755)	Efficiencies - Corporate Finance (Appendix 10)	(2.510)	Less Specific Grants 2015/16	(35.147)	Plus Specific Grants 2016/17 (Estimated Appendix 11)	34.159	Total Expenditure	288.624	Shortfall	3.447
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	Resources
1.33	Total resources of £285.177M include funding from Revenue Support Grant (RSG), National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR), Council Tax and Specific Grants. The provisional settlement confirmed that the former unhypothecated Outcome Agreement Grant would cease in 2016/17, although there is no financial impact on the overall budget as it has transferred into the Settlement at the same value (£1.479m).
1.34	Currently, the amount to be raised from Council Tax is assumed as an increase in the Band D Council Rate of 3.0% (excluding Police and Town/Community Council precepts) and a 99% collection rate. This equates to an increase of £30.76 on 2015/16 and a Band D rate of £1,056.03. At 3%, this assumption is at the lower end based on the Council's local taxation policy set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy and, as such, will need to be one of the factors to be reviewed in closing the remaining budget gap (see part D)
1.35	A 3.0% increase in the Band D Rate results in a Budget Requirement of £251.018m.
1.36	As the Council's proposed increase in the Band D rate differs from that assumed by Welsh Government when calculating Flintshire's Standard Spending Assessment (SSA), the budget requirement is £2.713M below its calculated SSA of £253.731m as notified in the Provisional Settlement. The specific grants figure of £34.159M is provisional, with the Welsh Government yet to advise of the 2016/17 level for a number of grants. However, in line with the Council's MTFs, expenditure levels need to be managed within the final figures announced by the Welsh Government. Appendix 11 details the information received from Welsh Government to date.
	Expenditure
1.37	<i>Previous Year Growth / Items Dropping Out</i> Each year indicative amounts for previous year's pressures and investments and efficiencies are included in the budget for the following two years. In the current budget the net effects of the changes agreed in 2014/15 and 2015/16 equate to a net increase of £8.845m for recurring items and a reduction of £0.730m in relation to one-off items of expenditure as detailed in Appendix 6. These amounts have been reviewed as part of the 2016/17 budget and where appropriate an adjustment made to reflect the current position.
1.38	<i>Pay and Price Inflation</i> Inflation of £2.193m is shown in detail in Appendix 7
1.39	The proposals at this stage assume a 1% increase on pay from April 2016, although the outcome of national negotiations has yet to be agreed.
1.40	Price inflation of £0.573m has been included in the draft proposals for some targeted service areas following a detailed assessment.

1.41	Based on market intelligence and recent spend history there is no above standard inflation allocation required for 2016/17.
1.42	Income inflation amounting to £0.185M has been assumed on the yield from existing fees and charges.
1.43	The inflation figures referred to above exclude inflation on specific grant income and related expenditure as the specific grant figures are indicative only at this stage. Adjustments will be applied when the figures are confirmed by the Welsh Government but this will be cost neutral to the Council.
1.44	There were no transfers in to the Settlement in relation to former Specific Grants.
1.45	Appendix 8 sets out the recurring pressures and investment of £1.964M included in the 2016/17 budget over and above the impact of previous year decisions and includes the new and emergent pressures that will be subject to further review.
1.46	Information on the efficiency proposals are detailed in Appendix 9 with an amount of £7.755M arising from the portfolio Business Plans and £2.510M arising from the Corporate Financing options.
	Schools Budget
1.47	Under the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010, local authorities are required to notify Welsh Government of the proposed budget for schools for the forthcoming year by 14th February each year. The First Minister has indicated his commitment to protect schools funding in 2015/16 by 1% above the change in the overall Welsh Government budget. For 2016/17 this equates to 1.85%. It should be noted that the protection expectation is relative to Welsh Government's funding from the UK Treasury and not the level of Individual Council settlements from Welsh Government.
1.48	The current budget proposals meet the First Minister's expectation of protecting schools, although the Council will continue to review investment in schools, particularly for inflationary pressures. The Council is also committed to increasing the amount of the school budget delegated to schools progressively. This is within the strategic framework which embraces the school modernisation programme, numbers of children in school (demographic change) and investment through the 21st Century Schools Programme.
1.49	The Welsh Government has indicated that in line with ongoing plans to streamline the education grants regime the Education Improvement Grant (EIG) will transfer into RSG in 2016/17, the formula basis of distribution of this grant through RSG has yet to be announced. Welsh Government have indicated that it is likely that the funding for EIG will be reduced but the amount of this reduction is not known at this time.
1.50	Based on recent intelligence on Post 16 funding levels we are anticipating a flat line budget in 2016/17. However, it should be noted that as post 16 provision in certain schools will cease in September 2016 when the new

	post 16 hub opens at Coleg Cambria the total funding Flintshire receives will be reduced.
1.51	Welsh Government have announced an increase of £100 per pupil eligible for Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG). Based on the number of pupils eligible for Free School Meals this equates to an increase in funding of £0.275M in 2016/17. The total increase in funding for schools in Flintshire for PDG in 2016/17 arising from the per pupil increase and due to the overall increase in pupils eligible for Free School Meals is £0.477M (18%).
	Equality Impact Assessment
1.52	The Council has an obligation to assess the potential equalities impact of its budget proposals to ensure that there is no discrimination or disadvantage to either service users or employees. The Council has included consideration of any equalities impacts within its risk assessment process for the budget proposals. Reference to the risk assessments is made in the factsheets which provide detail behind each budget proposal.
	EARMARKED AND UNEARMARKED RESERVES
	Base Level of Unearmarked Reserves
1.53	The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy confirms the Council's commitment to maintaining a base level of reserves of 2% of turnover. The current base level of reserves is £5.769m as reported in the monthly budget monitoring reports. Despite the fact that funding has reduced in 2016/17 over 2015/16 it is proposed that un-earmarked reserves are maintained at the same level for 2016/17 which will provide an additional safeguard in the current uncertain financial climate.
	Contingency Reserve
1.54	When the 2015/16 budget was set the Contingency Reserve was estimated to be £3.955M at 31 March 2015. As a result of the net underspend reported in the final outturn for 2014/15 the actual amount in the Contingency Reserve at the year-end was £4.746mm.
1.55	The 2015/16 Month 7 Budget Monitoring report which is also on this agenda, shows an estimated balance of £4.923mm in the contingency reserve as at 31 March 2016, although there are two specific recommendations in the report which if approved will reduce the amount to £4.023M.
1.56	Whilst the base level of reserves is a known sum which is set aside, the level of contingency reserve is based on the current estimate and is subject to change at the end of the financial year.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The resource implications of the budget position are significant. These are explained within this report, previous reports, and the MTFS.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Consultations have been undertaken internally with elected members, senior officers and their service teams, and Trade Unions. Consultations have been undertaken externally via the publication and distribution of the MTFS, and with the public as set out in the report and in the appendices.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The national reductions in funding for local government pose the greatest risk to the governance, performance and sustainability of the Council since the previous reorganisation in the mid-1990s. This risk is being mitigated through a twofold approach. Firstly, the Council continuing to streamline and innovate. Secondly, by working with Welsh Government to seek some support and relief from budget reductions based on a reasoned case. This twofold approach is set out in the Part 2 of the MTFS <i>Meeting the Challenge</i> .
4.02	The risks posed to the plans to change and innovate within specific services are managed through assessing the risks and impacts of change as part of framing options and making decisions. Effective programme management arrangements are in place to oversee the implementation of the Chief Officer portfolio business plans and to manage these risks in close detail, with reports being made to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny at key stages of decision-taking and, later, performance reporting and evaluation.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	<p>Set One: General Background</p> <p>Appendix 1: Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-2018 Part 2: <i>Meeting the Challenge</i></p> <p>Appendix 2: Published Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-2018 Part 1: <i>Forecasting the Challenge</i></p> <p>Appendix 3: Summary of the Provisional Local Government Settlement 2016/17 as presented to Cabinet in December 2015</p> <p>Appendix 4: The presentation materials for the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee which met at the close of the examination round of the first stage budget proposals in late December</p> <p>Appendix 5: Report of the Community Engagement Activity November-December 2015</p>
5.02	<p>Set Two: Detailed Budget Financial Appendices</p> <p>Appendix 6: Prior Year Budget Decisions</p> <p>Appendix 7: Inflation</p> <p>Appendix 8: Pressures and Investments</p> <p>Appendix 9: Business Plan Efficiency Proposal Spreadsheets (in support of Table 1 of the report)</p> <p>Appendix 10: Efficiencies Corporate Financing</p> <p>Appendix 11: Specific Grants</p>

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The agendas, minutes and presentation materials from previous Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings from mid-2015 onwards (all available on www.flintshire.gov.uk) 2. The separate report on the Provisional Local Government Settlement also on the Cabinet agenda for 19.01.16 (available on www.flintshire.gov.uk) 3. The Provisional Local Government Settlement 2016/17 http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2015/lqsettlement1617/?lang=en

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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 (see below) 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.</p> <p>Aggregate External Finance (AEF): the total amount of support the Welsh Government provides to councils each year. The total is made up of Revenue Support Grant (see below), a share of the national ‘pool’ of National Non-Domestic Rates (see below) and a number specific grant where funds are provided for councils to spend on specified services to achieve pre-set outcomes for example in education or waste collection.</p> <p>Local Government Funding Formula: the system through which the annual funding needs of each council is assessed at a national level, and from which each council’s annual AEF (see above) is derived. The formula is very complex. In summary, using information such as statistics on local population change and deprivation, the formula sets a guide for each council’s funding needs called the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA).</p> <p>Revenue Support Grant: the annual amount of money the Council receives from Welsh Government to fund what it does alongside the Council Tax and</p>

other income the Council raises locally. Councils can decide how to use this grant across services although their freedom to allocate according to local choice can be limited by guidelines set by Government.

National Non-Domestic Rates: the business equivalent of the Council Tax where companies pay a property based tax for local services. Each council as the local collection authority collects the tax from companies, pays it into a national 'pool', and then receives a share back as part of its Annual Settlement (see above).

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 16 th February 2016
Report Subject	Council Fund Capital Programme 2016/17 and indicative programme to 2019/20
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Report Author	Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Organisational Change), Corporate Finance Manager
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report proposes the 2016/17 Council Fund Capital Programme and indicative programme for 2017/18 - 2019/20.

The report is linked with the 'draft Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan 2016 – 2020' agenda item, where it is proposed to split the Council Fund Capital Programme into 3 sections; Statutory / Regulatory, Retained Assets and Investment sections.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	<p>Cabinet is invited to recommend to Council on 16th February 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of the allocations in Table 2 (paragraph 1.07) for Statutory/Regulatory and Retained Assets sections of the Council Fund Capital Programme 2016/17 - 2019/20 • Approval of the schemes included in Table 3 (paragraph 1.11) for the Investment section of the Council Fund Capital Programme 2016/17 - 2019/20 • Continued support for the existing process of allocating capital receipts to fund capital schemes generally only when the receipts have been actually received (paragraphs 1.03 and 1.04)
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17 - 2019/20																																																
	Projected Funding Available 2016/17 - 2019/20																																																
1.01	<p>Table 1 below shows the general capital funding currently projected to be available to fund the capital programme over the next 4 years.</p> <p>Table 1</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6" style="text-align: center;">ESTIMATED AVAILABLE FUNDING 2016/17 - 2019/20</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">2016/17</th> <th style="text-align: center;">2017/18</th> <th style="text-align: center;">2018/19</th> <th style="text-align: center;">2019/20</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">£m</th> <th style="text-align: center;">£m</th> <th style="text-align: center;">£m</th> <th style="text-align: center;">£m</th> <th style="text-align: center;">£m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="6">Funding (Excluding Specific Funding)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB) ¹</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4.181</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4.181</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4.181</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4.181</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16.724</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Capital Grant (GCG) ¹</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.544</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.544</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.544</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.544</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10.176</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Receipts Available (As at M6 2015/16)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.629</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.629</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9.354</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6.725</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6.725</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6.725</td> <td style="text-align: center;">29.529</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>¹ As per 16/17 Provisional Settlement.</p>	ESTIMATED AVAILABLE FUNDING 2016/17 - 2019/20							2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Total		£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	Funding (Excluding Specific Funding)						Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB) ¹	4.181	4.181	4.181	4.181	16.724	General Capital Grant (GCG) ¹	2.544	2.544	2.544	2.544	10.176	Capital Receipts Available (As at M6 2015/16)	2.629	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.629	Total	9.354	6.725	6.725	6.725	29.529
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1.02	<p>Table 1 above assumes that the Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing allocation and the General Capital Grant received from Welsh Government (WG) in the years 2016/17 to 2019/20 remains the same as the information provided in the 2016/17 provisional financial settlement for Welsh local government. Welsh Government will not publish the final settlement until March 2016.</p> <p>Compared with 2015/16 final financial settlement the Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing allocation has reduced by £0.089m and General Capital Grant by £0.054m, a total reduction of £0.143m.</p>																																																
1.03	<p>The only capital receipts included in the total funding available in Table 1 are those that have been received to date (£2.629m). That is 2014/15 receipts - unspent in 2015/16, and 2015/16 receipts (to date, as at the month 6 capital monitoring report 2015/16) - unspent in 2015/16.</p> <p>This strategy continues and builds upon the prudent policy of allocating capital receipts to fund capital projects; (which are predominately investment schemes, larger and more complex to deliver), when these receipts are actually received rather than when we anticipate the receipt.</p> <p>Further receipts received in 2015/16 will be retained for allocation to investment schemes or urgent capital requirements in year or in future years. The current estimate is for a further £2.1m to be received by the end of 2015/16.</p>																																																

1.04	Future capital receipts over the period 2016/17 – 2019/20 are estimated to be in the region of £10.067m, which will be retained and allocated to investment schemes or urgent capital requirements when received.
1.05	The figures in Table 1 relate to the Council Fund only with the HRA Capital Programme being reported separately on this agenda.
	Capital Programme 2016/17 – 2019/20
1.06	<p>The draft Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan has been developed during the latter part of 2015 and proposes to split the Capital Programme into 3 sections; Statutory / Regulatory, Retained Assets and Investment Programmes (as detailed below). As the document is still in draft when setting the Capital Programme it is important to note that 2016/17 is a transitional year to enable services to prepare business cases to draw from the investment fund.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Statutory / Regulatory section – annual allocation to cover regulatory and statutory works. Examples include; providing support to improve and adapt private sector homes (Disabled Facilities Grants), adaptations to schools for children with disabilities, any works required to keep buildings open by Health and Safety requirements etc. Funded generally by General Capital Grant and Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing allocation. 2. Retained Assets section – annual allocation to fund schemes that maintain, enhance and improve retained assets to deliver services. Significant needs identified by service plans / condition surveys etc. Service areas are Schools, Highways, and Corporate Offices. Funded generally by General Capital Grant and Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing allocation. 3. Investment section – new schemes arising from Portfolio business plans, the Improvement Plan, other relevant and emerging plans, and other strategies or emerging Council priorities approved through a selection process based on the provision of a sound business case. Funded generally by Capital Receipts and Debt / Alternative source of funding. <p>Items 1.06.01 and 1.06.2 above are similar to the current core capital programme but are much reduced compared with current expenditure levels to create appropriate capacity to fund the Investment section of future larger and/or more complex capital projects.</p>
	Statutory / Regulatory and Retained Asset Allocations – 2016/17 – 2019/20
1.07	Table 2 shows the proposed allocations for the period 2016/17 - 2019/20 for the Statutory / Regulatory and Retained Asset sections of the Capital Programme.

Table 2

PROPOSED ALLOCATIONS 2016/17 - 2019/20					
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Statutory / Regulatory Section					
DD Act - Individual Pupils	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	1.000
Private Sector Renewals & Improvements	1.465	1.000	1.000	1.000	4.465
Housing Renewal Area Support	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.190
School Building Works	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.400
Corporate Property Works	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	1.200
Total Statutory / Regulatory	2.305	1.650	1.650	1.650	7.255
Retained Assets Section					
School Building Works	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	3.600
Corporate Property Works	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	1.200
Highways Asset Management Plan	0.600	0.600	0.600	0.600	2.400
Headroom	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	1.000
Total Retained Assets Section	2.050	2.050	2.050	2.050	8.200

1.08 Chief Officers are developing detailed programmes of work and reports will be provided to Cabinet as part of regular capital monitoring.

1.09 Headroom has been built in to enable the programme to be more flexible; either to allocate funding to small schemes as they present in year as a result of opportunities, or to fund urgent unforeseen activity.

1.10 The draft Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan provides for Capital Programmes that will be set on a four year rolling programmes reflecting schemes of a larger and more complex nature which span more than one financial year, and which may not match with financial year boundaries. Schemes starting in year one will be approved along with costs and funding in the subsequent three years. Schemes starting in year two onwards will be given indicative approval to enable the service to commence planning, but will ultimately be approved in the subsequent years' Capital Programme.

Allocations in Table 2 above are therefore approved for 2016/17, and given indicative approval for 2017/18 through to 2019/20 to enable services to plan more efficiently. Final approval for 2017/18 through to 2019/20 will be given in future Capital Programmes.

Investment Section of the Capital Programme 2016/17 – 2019/20

1.11 Table 3 shows the proposed schemes for the period 2016/17 - 2019/20 for the Investment section of the Capital Programme. This programme will grow through 2016/17 as business plans are developed.

Table 3

PROPOSED INVESTMENT SCHEMES 2016/17 - 2019/20					
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Investment Section					
Community Asset Transfers	0.500				0.500
Solar PV Farms*	1.450				1.450
Town Centre Regeneration	0.100				0.100
Townscape Heritage Initiative	0.075				0.075
Total Investment Section	2.125	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.125

* Subject to approval of business case & confirmation of amount

1.12 Portfolios through their business plans and the Improvement Plan have identified significant capital investment needed to improve services and achieve revenue efficiencies. Detailed business cases are being prepared with the intention that additional capital schemes are brought to Cabinet for approval in the current and/or future financial years.

The schemes included in the Investment section will therefore increase from what is included in Table 3 above as business cases are completed.

Decisions made that commit the Council to capital schemes have long term financial implications, especially for revenue budgets, that cannot be easily undone. It is therefore important that enough time is taken to develop robust business cases that; consider all available options, are fully costed and tested for longer term sensitivities. These business cases then need to be assessed corporately to ensure they fit absolutely with the Council's strategic priorities.

1.13 The schemes identified in Table 3 above are explained below in more detail.

- The granting of capital funding to community groups to 'pump prime' Community Asset Transfers (CATs) was approved by Cabinet at its meeting of 15 June 2015, funding of £0.500m in 2015/16 and £0.500m in 2016/17 was allocated.
- A report requesting support for the installation of photovoltaic (PV) arrays at ex landfill sites in Buckley was approved by Cabinet at its meeting of 15 June 2015. The provisional costs are included in table 3 above and a further report will come to Cabinet for final approval once all the details are finalised.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing programme of Town Centre Regeneration one of the sub priorities in the Council's current Improvement Plan. • The Council's match funding required to secure capital grant received for the Townscape Heritage Initiative.
1.14	Other Portfolios are in the process of considering options for future capital investment schemes before submitting business cases for approval. Examples of such schemes are listed below.
1.15	The WG has indicated that they intend to roll out Band B of the 21 st Century Schools building programme from 2019 onwards. It is expected that WG will provide further information in the next twelve months on securing the next phase of the investment. The Council will develop its strategies to ensure that we are maximising the potential investment opportunities that may be available via Welsh Government funding.
1.16	The WG funding criteria for 21 st Century schools will only potentially fund modernisation projects; refurbishment projects are not eligible for grant via this programme. The Education and Youth Portfolio are developing a rolling programme of implementation plans, that the Council will need to fund, which will; ensure continuation of the rise in educational standards, create conditions for school leaders to succeed, ensure that school buildings are suitable and in good condition to provide attractive learning and working environments, reduce the number of surplus places and the inequity of variation in cost per pupil, and provide resilience against falling revenue funding.
1.17	Glanrafon Day Centre Deeside. The current building is not suitable to deliver a service of quality efficiently and effectively. To retain the existing building would require significant capital and revenue investment. Options are currently being developed for consideration.
1.17	New approaches for delivering community and social sector schemes through Alternative Delivery Models (ADMs) and to sustain important services to meet future needs need to be considered within the Councils future capital programmes. In addition Community Asset Transfers also have potential for capital funding to be made available to support their transition to Community organisations.
1.18	The Governance Portfolio are at present critically reviewing the ICT strategy with the refreshed plan being finalised over the summer 2016. The new ICT strategy will form the backdrop to business cases that will be put forward requiring investment in our ICT infrastructure to generate savings and efficiencies.
1.19	As well as the above there are a number of projects which are being considered by officers linked to Coastal Protection and flood protection, highway and road safety initiatives.
1.20	Table 4 below summarises the proposals for the 2016/17 - 2019/20 Council Fund Capital Programme financed from general funding.

Table 4**SUMMARY (GENERALLY FUNDED) CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17 - 2019/20**

	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m	Total £m
Statutory / Regulatory Section	2.305	1.650	1.650	1.650	7.255
Retained Assets Section	2.050	2.050	2.050	2.050	8.200
Investment Section	2.125	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.125
Total Programme (All Sections)	6.480	3.700	3.700	3.700	17.580

* As per 16/17 Provisional Settlement.

Specific Grants and Borrowing

1.21 In addition to those schemes funded from general resources, as summarised in Table 4 above, there are also schemes funded from specific grants and unsupported (prudential) borrowing. A summary of known funding and borrowing commitments is shown in Table 5.

Table 5**ESTIMATED AVAILABLE SPECIFIC FUNDING 2016/17 - 2019/20**

	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m	Total £m
Specific Funding					
Specific Capital Grants	5.361	3.907	4.606	0.148	14.022
Unsupported (Prudential) Borrowing	7.686	4.694	4.606	0.148	17.134
Local Govt Borrowing Initiative - 21st C Schools	1.616				1.616
Total	14.663	8.601	9.212	0.296	32.772

1.22 At the time of setting the budget the details of many capital grants have not been released by WG and so are not included in the Table above. As details become available they will be reported to Members via the quarterly 2016/17 Capital Programme monitoring reports.

1.23 Details of the schemes funded by the above are shown in Table 6 below.

Table 6

SPECIFICALLY FUNDED SCHEMES 2016/17 - 2019/20

	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m	Total £m
Specifically Funded Schemes					
Arbed Programme Grant	0.048				0.048
Housing Renewal Area Support	0.278				0.278
Vibrant & Viable Places	1.600				1.600
21C Schools	12.637	8.601	9.212	0.296	30.746
Domestic Energy Grants	0.100				0.100
Total	14.663	8.601	9.212	0.296	32.772

Summary Total Council Fund Capital Programme 2016/17 - 2019/20

1.24

Table 7 summarises the total proposals for the 2016/17 - 2019/20 Capital Programme.

Table 7

SUMMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17 - 2019/20

	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m	Total £m
Expenditure					
Statutory/ Regulatory Section	2.305	1.650	1.650	1.650	7.255
Retained Assets Section	2.050	2.050	2.050	2.050	8.200
Investment Section	2.125	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.125
Specific Grants & Borrowing	14.663	8.601	9.212	0.296	32.772
Total Programme (All Sections)	21.143	12.301	12.912	3.996	50.352
Funding					
General Funding*	6.480	3.700	3.700	3.700	17.580
Specific Funding	14.663	8.601	9.212	0.296	32.772
Total Projected Funding	21.143	12.301	12.912	3.996	50.352

* As per 16/17 Provisional Settlement.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Implications for assets and financial implications as set out within the report. Other resource implications include Officer time in delivering the capital programme which is not considered to be a significant change from previous years.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Consultation is required with all Members via Overview and Scrutiny. The initial proposals were taken to Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 th December, 2015 with no specific comments or issues being highlighted.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Decisions made which involve the Council's assets and its Capital Programme often have very large and long term financial implications. A separate report assessing the affordability, prudence and sustainability of the capital plans called the Prudential Indicator report is included elsewhere on the agenda.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Various working papers Contact Officer: Liz Thomas – Technical Finance Manager Telephone: 01352 702289 E-mail: liz.thomas@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Asset Management Plan - A plan maintained by an authority of the condition and suitability of its assets, updated regularly and utilised to assess future capital needs Capital Expenditure - Expenditure on the acquisition of Non-current Assets or expenditure that extends the life or value of an existing asset Capital Programme - The Council's financial plan covering capital schemes

and expenditure proposals for the current year and a number of future years. It also includes estimates of the capital resources available to finance the programme.

Capital Receipt - Receipts (in excess of £10,000) from the disposal of an asset

Capital Scheme - An individual capital project which is monitored and managed in isolation. The aggregate of all schemes comprises the **Capital Programme**

Capital Strategy - A corporate document providing clear strategic guidance about an authority's objectives, priorities and spending plans, demonstrating the link to key corporate and service objectives. May be combined with the **Asset Management Plan (AMP)** to form a single document

Council Fund - The fund to which all the Council's revenue and capital expenditure is charged

Disposal - The decommissioning or transfer of an asset to another party

Financing - The process of allocating resources to meet the cost of capital expenditure, which can be done on a project, asset or whole programme basis. This contrasts with making the invoice payments relating to capital expenditure, which should be managed within the authority's overall treasury management policy

General Capital Grant - Annual capital grant from Welsh Government; the Council decides how to use the funding.

Housing Revenue Account - The fund to which all the Council's revenue and capital expenditure relating to its housing stock is charged.

Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) - Similar to **supported borrowing**. In recent years as Welsh Government funding has been under pressure, schemes that would have been funded by capital grant have been funded by LGBI. Welsh Government provides the revenue support for borrowing costs incurred by the Council in borrowing to fund capital schemes (the difference with supported borrowing being that it's for a specific purpose aligned to Welsh Government priorities). LGBI has recently been used for highways maintenance and is now being used to part fund the Welsh Government element of the 21st century schools programme.

Non-current Asset - A resource controlled (but not necessarily owned) by an authority, from which economic benefits or service potential are expected to flow to the authority for more than 12 months

Prudential Code - The code of practice drawn up by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to underpin the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003 in respect of an authority's duty to determine the affordability, prudence and sustainability of its capital investment needs

Prudential Indicators - Required by the **Prudential Code**, these take the form of limits, estimates or actual figures used to support the local decision

making process for capital investment

Revenue Expenditure - All expenditure incurred by an authority that cannot be classified as capital expenditure

Revenue Financing - Charges made to the revenue account to finance capital expenditure. May also be referred to as Capital Expenditure charged to Revenue Account (CERA).

Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB), commonly referred to as Supported Borrowing - Each year Welsh Government provide Council's with a Supported Borrowing allocation. Council's borrow to fund capital expenditure equivalent to that annual allocation, Welsh Government then include funding to cover the revenue costs associated with the borrowing for future years within the Revenue Support Grant. The Council decides how this funding is spent.

Unsupported Prudential Borrowing - Borrowing administered under the **Prudential Code**, whereby authorities can set their own policies on acceptable levels and types of borrowing. The Prudential Framework allows authorities to take out loans in response to overall cash flow forecasts and other factors provided they can show that the borrowing is to meet planned capital expenditure in the current year or the next three years.

Whole Life Costs - The costs of acquiring or creating an asset, operating it, maintaining it over its useful life and finally any costs of disposal (i.e. the total cost of ownership).

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 16 th February 2016
Report Subject	Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan 2016 – 2020
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Report Author	Chief Officer (Organisational Change)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report introduces the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan 2016 - 2020, which is a new Strategy for Flintshire County Council combining medium term plans for managing the Council's assets and its Capital Programme.

The report explains the need for the Strategy, its purpose, key aims, principles and content.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Members approve the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan 2016 – 2020 so that it can be adopted as the principal document for managing the Council's Capital property and Land resource assets.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	CAPITAL STRATEGY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016 - 2020
	Introduction
1.01	The Councils assets, primarily land and property, are a significant and valued resource with a value of circa £750m (2014/15 Statement of Accounts). Over the last five years in excess of £12m of capital receipts have been generated through the sale and disposal of surplus land and property.
1.02	There is a need for a comprehensive and structured strategy which merges together capital resource planning and development, with asset management planning. Even more so in this current period of austerity where prudent use of capital resources in programmes of work can be used for strategic investment projects contributing positively to reduce the revenue budget gap that the Council faces.
1.03	In developing the Strategy officers researched what other Councils had produced and were doing. In a number of cases the Capital Strategy was a stand-alone document as was the Asset Management Plan, in others they were merged. Officers, after much deliberation, choose to merge both documents as the links between the two are obvious and complementary.
1.04	In preparing the Strategy it became apparent that there was a need to set out both the Councils strategic position for dealing with its capital resources whilst at the same time providing a degree of guidance in the capital planning process. This more structured approach should lead to greater awareness of the process as well as increased consistency, ownership and transparency of work programmes.
1.05	<p>The key aims of the Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a clear context within which proposals for capital expenditure are evaluated to ensure all capital investment is targeted to deliver the Council's priorities as set out in the Improvement Plan. • Sets out how the Council identifies and prioritises capital requirements and proposals arising from various strategies including Improvement Plan, Portfolio Business Plans, and other corporate strategies and how these will be managed within the limited capital resources available. • Critically challenge our current estate, continue with the programme of asset rationalisation, ensuring that assets retained are effective, efficient and sustainable to deliver services now and into the future. • Identify and consider options available to fund capital expenditure that minimises the ongoing revenue implications of historic capital expenditure and of any new investments. • Use partnerships, both public and private, more effectively to support our overall strategy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish effective arrangements for managing capital projects including the assessment of outcomes and achievement of value for money.
1.06	The document, which is in final draft for Members approval is structured into a number of sections which are briefly explained below.
1.06.1	The Here and Now – Explains the size, shape and value of the estate, spend by portfolio, progress in relation to estate rationalisation, vision, and the role of the Asset Programme Board.
1.06.2	Needs and Priorities – The section seeks to identify what we want our capital resources to deliver over the next five years and how these may link into our corporate priorities and plans.
1.06.3	Resourcing – Seeks to explain the sources of capital funding available and which capital schemes these resources would be applied to.
1.06.4	Capital Programme – explains how capital schemes will be prioritised for inclusion in the capital programme.
1.06.5	Governance of the capital programme including how the programme is managed and monitored.
1.06.6	Finally a number of appendices, more operational in nature, to assist officers in getting a scheme approved and managing the project including the Business Case approach to future capital allocations, and Capital Project Handbook/User Guide. There is also a glossary of capital terms.
1.07	<p>The Strategy's principles are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set a capital programme for the medium term split into 3 sections; a reduced core programme of schemes that are regulatory / statutory in nature, a retained asset programme to improve or enhance the life of existing assets, and a larger investment programme for schemes linked to the Council's strategic priorities. Schemes included in our investment programme will be subject to completion of a business case to include a thorough appraisal of options and sensitivity analysis, with the schemes that generate efficiencies for the MTFs being favoured. Whole life analysis and the use of Net Present Value (NPV) calculations will be applied to schemes in the investment programme linked through to the MTFs. With Capital and Revenue resources under pressure innovative and creative solutions to procuring capital assets will be sought. Assets surplus to requirements will be disposed of when appropriate in order to generate the maximum capital receipt and benefit for the Council.

	Summary of what is included in the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan
	Summary of Asset Management Plan
1.08	Corporate Office Accommodation – the main locations will continue to be at Flint and Mold, with a main depot at Alltami. The policy of consolidating occupation into phases 1 and 2 at County Hall with phases 3 and 4 being mothballed to save revenue running costs will continue.
1.09	Industrial Commercial Estate will be reviewed in the first quarter of 2016 with a strategy to be developed which will carefully consider this estates contribution to the local economy whilst at the same time reflecting on which assets are or are not considered to be ‘core business’. The long term option of the offices at Ewloe also needs to be fully considered; proposed local government reorganisation will be a factor in any future strategy.
1.10	Agricultural Estate. Continuation of current policy of selling to existing tenants or on the open market when vacant. Careful consideration given to any holding which may be more valuable in future due to changes in local planning guidance, in such cases medium term retention may be more favourable.
1.11	Clwyd Theatre Cymru. The building has a medium term plan for refurbishing and upgrading key areas. Both Welsh Government and the Arts Council for Wales have indicated that funding may be available nationally to support this work.
1.12	Plans for other assets included within the strategy have been drawn from the Improvement Plan, Portfolio Business Plans and other strategies. The information is already available in the public domain and includes reference to the Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP), School Modernisation Strategy and the Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP).

	Summary of the Capital Programme
1.13	<p>The programme has been split into 3 sections; Statutory/Regulatory, Retained Assets and Investment Programmes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Statutory / Regulatory section – An annual allocation to cover regulatory and statutory works. Examples include; providing support to improve and adapt private sector homes (Disabled Facilities Grants), adaptations to schools for children with disabilities, any works required to keep buildings open by Health and Safety requirements etc. Portfolios will submit plans for review to the Assets Programme Board before the start of each financial year, and agree the basis of the programme with their respective Portfolio Cabinet Members. Funded generally by General Capital Grant and Supported Borrowing allocations. 2. Retained Assets section – An annual allocation to fund schemes that maintain, enhance and improve retained assets to deliver services. Significant needs identified within business plans / service plans / condition surveys etc. Covering service areas such as Schools, Highways, and Corporate Offices. Portfolios will submit plans for review to the Assets Programme Board before the start of each financial year, and agree the basis of the programme with their respective Portfolio Cabinet Members. Funded generally by General Capital Grant and Supported Borrowing allocations. 3. Investment section – These are new schemes arising from Portfolio business plans, the Improvement Plan and other strategies approved through selection process based on the provision of a sound business case. Funded by Capital Receipts and Debt / Alternative source of funding. <p>Sections 1 and 2 above are similar to the current core capital programme but will be much reduced compared with current expenditure levels to create room to fund the Investment section.</p>
1.14	<p>Future Capital Programmes will be set on a four year rolling basis reflecting the fact that schemes span more than one year and don't necessarily correspond financial year boundaries. Schemes starting in year one will be approved along with costs and funding in the subsequent three years. Schemes starting in years two onwards will be given indicative approval to enable services to plan more efficiently, but will ultimately be approved in the subsequent years' Capital Programme.</p>
1.15	<p>Headroom will be built in to the Capital Programme to enable the Programme to be more flexible so as to be able to allocate funding to small schemes as they present in year either as a result of opportunities or unforeseen circumstances.</p>

1.16	<p>The annual timetable for creating and approving the Capital Programme will be as follows:</p> <p>Investment Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressions of interest put forward by Portfolios – Reviewed by Asset Programme Board in July. • Following the success of the ‘Expression of Interest’ Portfolios will submit a full Business Case – Considered by Asset Programme Board in October. • All schemes put forward for Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny approval in December. <p>Statutory / Regulatory and Retained Assets Sections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lump sum allocations considered by Asset Programme Board in November, and put forward for Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny approval in December. • Portfolios detailed plans for the use of lump sum allocations to be reviewed by the Assets Programme Board in January and agreed with their respective Portfolio Cabinet Members. <p>The full rolling Capital Programme including schemes funded by capital grants will be put forward for Cabinet and Council approval in February.</p> <p>Please note that the 2016/17 – 2019/20 Capital Programme is slightly different due to time constraints in introducing the Strategy and the need to explain the changes to Members and Officers.</p>
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Implications for assets and financial implications as set out within the report. Other resource implications include Officer time in delivering the Strategy and associated capital programme which is not considered to be a significant change.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	None required. Consultations undertaken include the Assets Programme Board and the Chief Officer Team, both supported the proposals and principles.
3.02	The strategy and covering report was shared with Corporate Resource Overview and Scrutiny Committee for comment, observations and general support.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Decisions made which involve the Council's assets and its Capital Programme often have very large and long term financial implications. The purpose of the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan is to set a clear framework within which such decisions can be made mitigating the risks involved.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Draft Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan 2016 – 2020. Draft Capital Strategy's appendices; Appendix A – Investment Section approval process Appendix B – Capital Project Handbook / User Guide

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Various working papers Contact Officer: Neal Cockerton – Chief Officer, Organisational Change Telephone: 01352 703169 E-mail: neal.cockerton@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Asset Management Plan - A plan maintained by an authority of the condition and suitability of its assets, updated regularly and utilised to assess future capital needs</p> <p>Capital Expenditure - Expenditure on the acquisition of Non-current Assets or expenditure that extends the life or value of an existing asset</p> <p>Capital Programme - The Council's financial plan covering capital schemes and expenditure proposals for the current year and a number of future years. It also includes estimates of the capital resources available to finance the programme</p> <p>Capital Receipt - Receipts (in excess of £10,000) from the disposal of an asset</p> <p>Capital Scheme - An individual capital project which is monitored and managed in isolation. The aggregate of all schemes comprises the Capital Programme</p> <p>Capital Strategy - A corporate document providing clear strategic guidance about an authority's objectives, priorities and spending plans, demonstrating the link to key corporate and service objectives. May be combined with the Asset Management Plan (AMP) to form a single</p>

document

Disposal - The decommissioning or transfer of an asset to another party

Financing - The process of allocating resources to meet the cost of capital expenditure, which can be done on a project, asset or whole programme basis. This contrasts with making the invoice payments relating to capital expenditure, which should be managed within the authority's overall treasury management policy

Non-current Asset - A resource controlled (but not necessarily owned) by an authority, from which economic benefits or service potential are expected to flow to the authority for more than 12 months

Whole Life Costs - The costs of acquiring or creating an asset, operating it, maintaining it over its useful life and finally any costs of disposal (i.e. the total cost of ownership)

CAPITAL STRATEGY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

2016 TO 2020

INTRODUCTION

The Council's capital strategy and assets are fundamental to the effective delivery of our priorities. The provision of the right asset in the right place at the right time will ensure the effective and efficient delivery of a comprehensive range of quality services.

The unprecedented financial constraints, which all Local Authorities and other public sector partners are experiencing means that we have to be ever more efficient in the use of our resources. This involves developing a culture of innovation and co-operation. We have made significant progress already and the benefits of sharing assets and working in partnership are clear to see. We have demonstrated that a reduction in the running costs of our assets and the provision of enhanced customer service is achievable and we will continue to develop this approach. Ultimately our aim is to use fewer buildings but use these far more efficiently.

This document sets out an integrated plan for the future management of the Council's assets and its capital programme. It facilitates a seamless interface between business planning within the Council and the management of our assets and capital resources. This will ensure that the provision of resources and future investment are prioritised. It is a key document running alongside the Council's Improvement Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and will provide the framework for ensuring the effective and affordable management of our assets.

Key Aims

- Provide a clear context within which proposals for capital expenditure are evaluated to ensure all capital investment is targeted to deliver the Council's priorities as set out in the Improvement Plan.
- Sets out how the Council identifies and prioritises capital requirements and proposals arising from various strategies including Improvement Plan, Portfolio Business Plans, and other corporate strategies and how they will be managed within the limited capital resources available.
- Critically challenge our current estate, continue with the programme of asset rationalisation, ensuring that assets retained are effective, efficient and sustainable to deliver services.
- Identify and consider options available to fund capital expenditure that minimises the ongoing revenue implications of historic capital expenditure and of any new investments.
- Use partnerships, both public and private, more effectively to support our overall strategy.
- Establish effective arrangements for managing capital projects including assessment of outcomes and achievement of value for money.

Principles

- Set a capital programme for the medium term split into 3 sections; a reduced core programme of schemes that are regulatory / statutory in nature, a retained asset programme to improve or enhance the life of existing assets, and a larger investment programme in schemes linked to the Council's strategic priorities.
- Schemes included in our investment programme will be subject to completion of a business case to include a thorough appraisal of options and sensitivity analysis, with the schemes that generate efficiencies for the MTFS being favoured.
- Whole life analysis and using Net Present Value (NPV) calculations will be applied to schemes in the investment programme linked through to the MTFS.
- With Capital and Revenue resources under pressure innovative and creative solutions to procuring capital assets will be sought.
- Assets surplus to requirements will be disposed of when appropriate in order to generate the maximum capital receipt for the Council.

Contents

1. The Here and Now: our asset profile and achievements so far
2. A Vision for our Assets: what we want our assets to deliver
3. Key Priorities: the next five years
4. Capital Funding: sources and implications
5. Capital Programme: how we will invest
6. Performance Monitoring
7. Appendices

The Here and Now

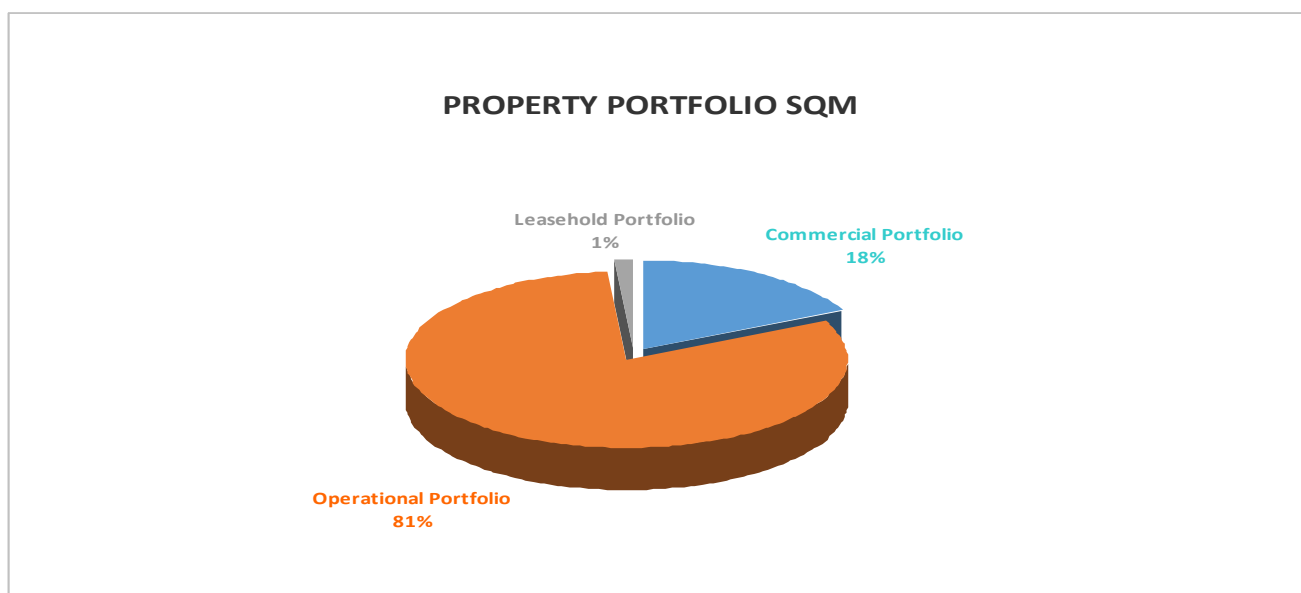
Local Authority property and land assets are a significant resource for Flintshire County Council the current book value is circa £750m. Our current estate comprises over 1,500 property assets and parcels of land throughout the County, we are therefore a significant landowner on this basis alone. The majority of our freehold assets are used directly in the delivery of Council services, these operational assets form 81% our estate. In addition to this the Council currently owns 169 commercial industrial units and shops, also 29 farms and smallholdings which are leased.

Many of our significant assets are broadly in the same locations delivering different but often complimentary services. This is not logical nor is it cost effective, we have to change this model of delivery.

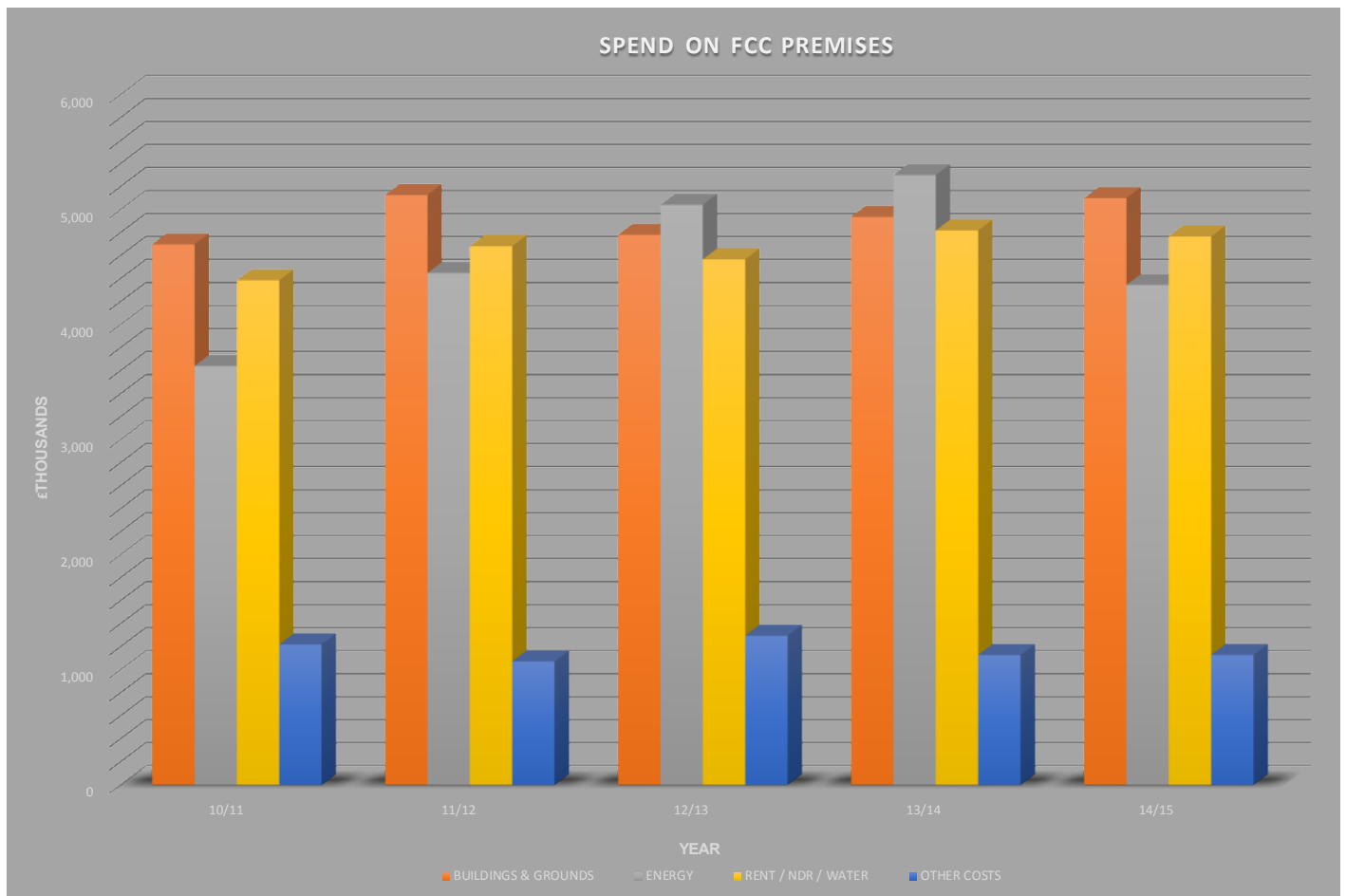
The Council's assets can be broadly classified as Operational or Non-Operational. Operational assets are those which are used either indirectly or directly to provide Council services such as schools, offices, libraries, leisure centres etc.

Non-Operational properties are those which the Council own and don't occupy but lease out in order to derive an income such as County Farms, Industrial Unit and shops.

The Council owns the freehold of the majority of its assets but, in very limited cases, has had to lease in some properties to maintain service delivery. The number of these leasehold properties has been significantly reduced in recent years.



Many of our assets are tired with ever increasing maintenance liabilities and are energy hungry. They are putting significant strain on our resources. The graph below shows the running costs of our assets over the past 5 years. The ongoing nature of these costs is unsustainable, the diversion of revenue and capital resources into these, often poorly performing assets creates an additional burden and limits opportunities to invest this resource in front line service delivery.



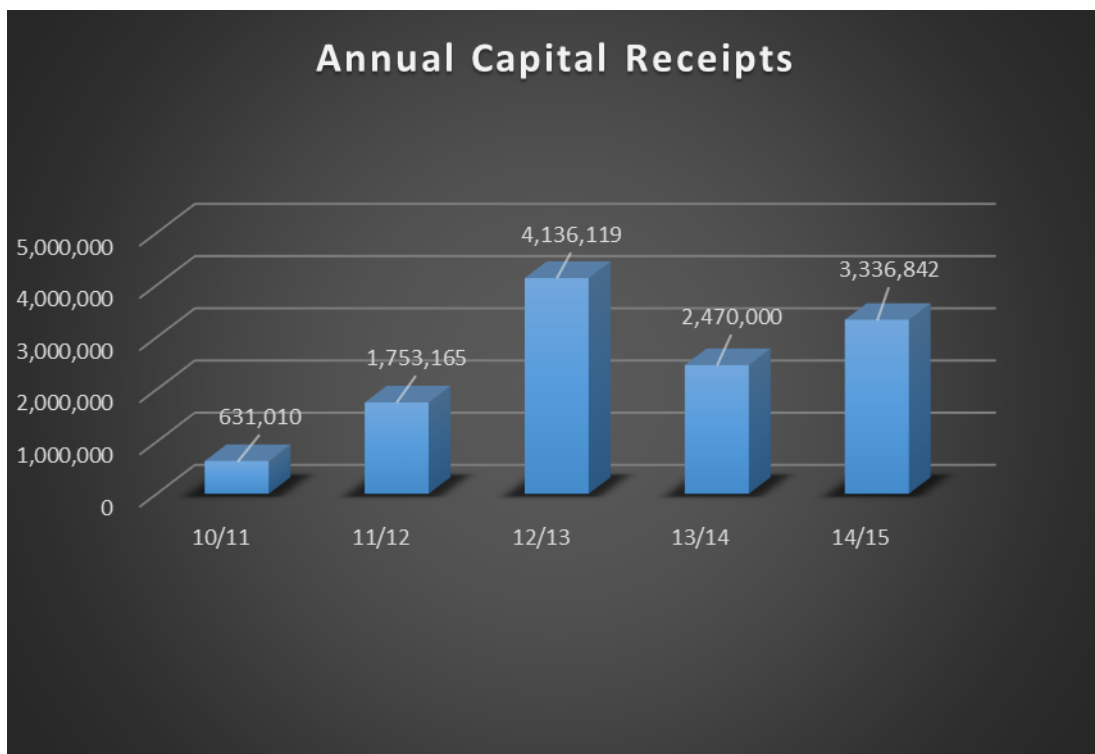
Estate Rationalisation – what we have done so far:

- Agricultural estate review, disposing of farms and land in line with the Councils agricultural disposal policy.
- Reduction in the number of properties let by 80% saving the council over £200,000 per year.
- Reduction in occupation of other operational assets (excluding schools) by 5% (based on floor area).
- In our Flint office we have developed a Connects facility where we have shared 16% of our office space with partner organisations. This has resulted in efficiencies for all. Despite this reduction in office space the Council has increased the number of staff based there by 80%. This has been achieved by increasing the number of workstations together with the adoption of agile working. This has resulted in a reduction in the running cost per member of staff by 58% (from £1122 to £469 per head)
- Energy use from non-domestic buildings such as schools, leisure centres and offices has fallen by 3,824,876 kWh / 1,134 tonnes of carbon from 2011 to 2015, achieved through a variety of energy efficiency measures including the installation of new and more efficient lighting, upgrading heating and hot water controls, loft and cavity wall insulation, pipework and valve insulation and pool covers.

These reductions have been achieved through careful planning and have had no detrimental impact on the delivery of our services.

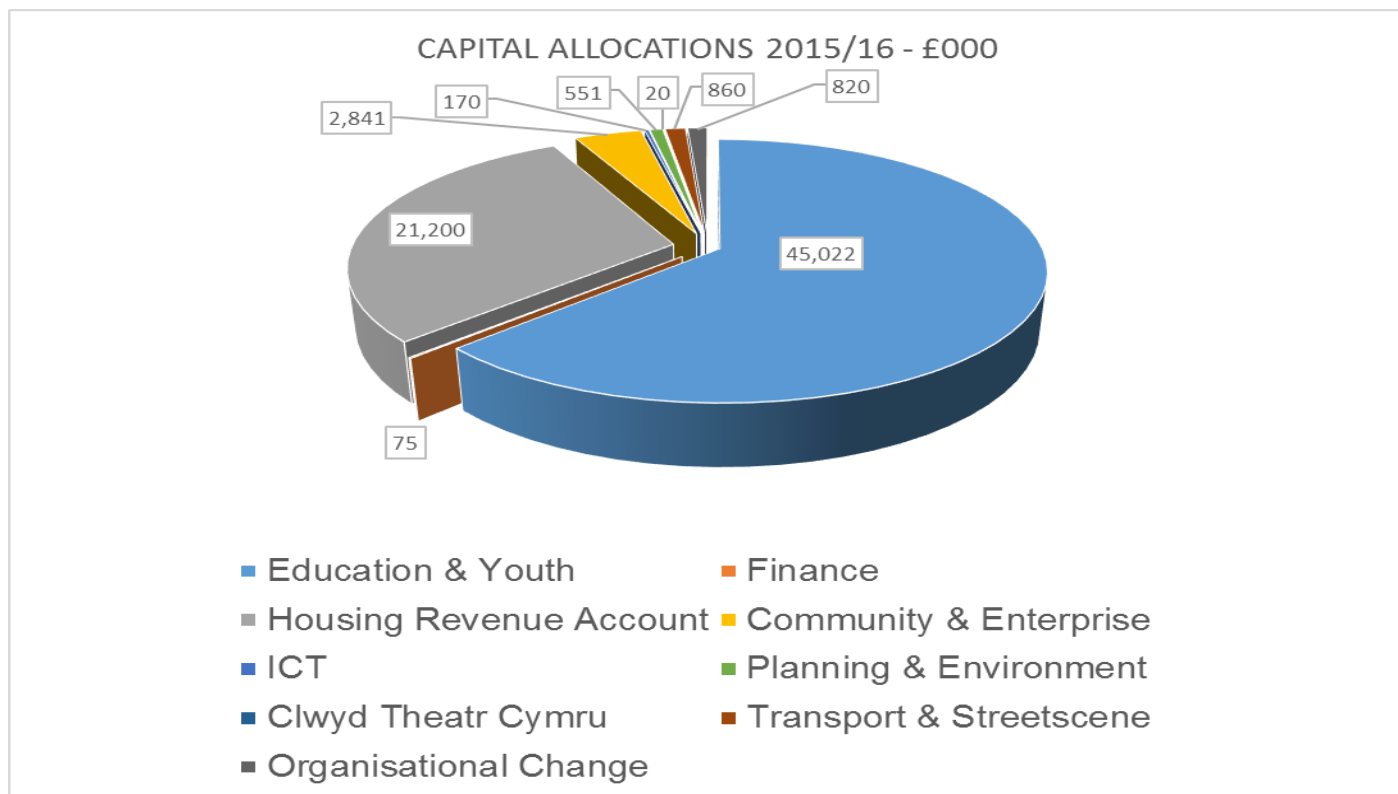
Capital Receipts:

Our assets provide a valuable source of income to our capital programme via the sale of surplus land and property which has resulted in capital receipts of £12.32m over the last five years. Our disposal programme will continue to contribute toward this income in the future.



Current capital programme:

The Council's 2015/16 capital programme in total is £50,359m Council Fund and £21,200m HRA. The graph below shows the projects funded.

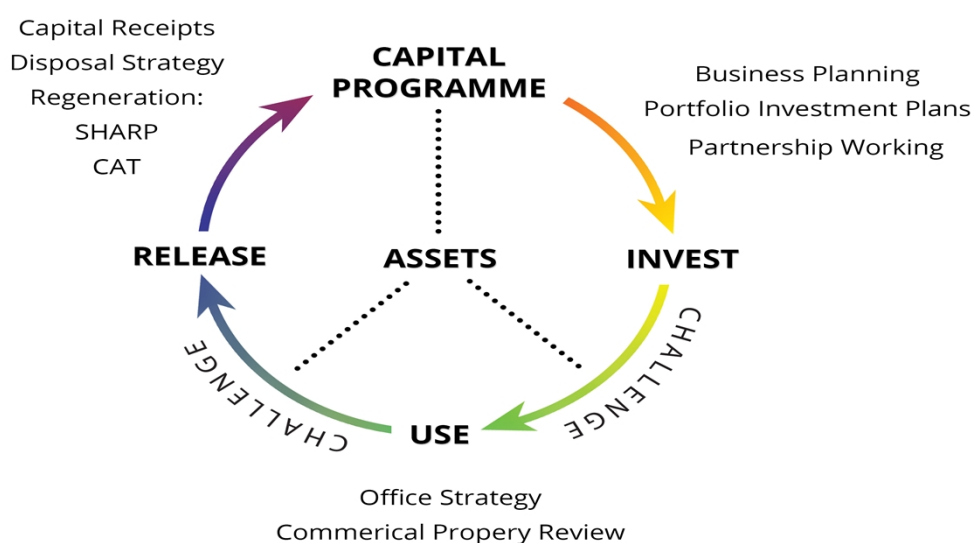


The Future – A Vision for our Assets

‘To ensure that the property and land assets we retain are efficient, sustainable and in the right locations to support the delivery of our services and the achievement of key priorities.’

To facilitate this we will adopt a joined up, responsive and consistent approach in terms of the planning and delivery of sound property management throughout the life cycle of the portfolio.

Portfolio Life Cycle



Business Planning: a dynamic approach

In relation to budget challenges and the achievement of our asset vision we will ensure that the Council’s land and property assets play a pivotal role in the delivery of change and adopt a more dynamic approach to supporting organisational change.

We know that our buildings can be a catalyst for change. We have demonstrated what we can achieve in our offices at Flint and how major improvements can be delivered by re-inventing how we use our assets and workspace, sharing with partners and implementing different ways of working. Over the next five years there will be further significant changes required within the organisation. These changes will need to happen in a short time frame and we need to be able to respond to these changing needs and must be able to respond to this changing landscape quickly using innovative approaches that we have already developed.

Robust links with Portfolio business planning needs to be further developed. We need to identify as early as possible within the business planning process any capital and/or asset implications so that we can be more responsive.

Chief Officers as part of business planning at Portfolio level will include medium term capital and asset requirements – this will provide a clear link mapping out and supporting strategic thinking and identifying specific areas where there will be capital requirements or asset related issues to consider. The process for consideration of capital allocation is detailed below, including capital and asset implications in Portfolio business plans will involve services giving much earlier

consideration to their requirements which can then be considered on a Council wide priority basis, clearly linked to portfolio business plans, the improvement plan and other strategic plans over a medium term time frame.

Links to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

The MTFS forecasts funding levels and resource requirements over the medium term, identifies the gap between the two, and enables specific actions to be identified to balance the budget and manage resources.

Any asset investment plan that results in a capital project will have consequences for the revenue budget, both positive and negative. These may be savings to running costs, schemes that generate income or resultant revenue costs of servicing any borrowing associated with the scheme. It is therefore essential that the capital and revenue budget cycles are aligned to ensure that these revenue implications are properly costed and fed into our MTFS.

Asset Programme Board

The Asset Programme Board comprises a group of senior officers from each Chief Officer portfolio who have an interest, proactive approach and enthusiasm around the development and management of work streams relating to the councils capital programme and wider asset base. The Board will manage and oversee the following activities:-

- Capital Receipt Planning (manage the delivery of capital receipts to maximise resources for the capital programme);
- Capital programme forward planning (to provide a forward look and anticipate likely work items for future capital programmes and to understand the potential revenue implications)
- Principal capital programme management (to ensure key principal programme items run to plan and deliver the Councils Core Programme and other agreed programmes of work – Portfolio Business Planning and Investment Plans);
- Consider reports to Cabinet, Council, or Scrutiny Committees regarding capital programme delivery;
- Capital and Asset Management Strategies (to develop and maintain the strategy ensuring strategic linkage into the MTFS);
- Public sector shared asset planning (develop partnership solutions to strategic asset delivery through shared resources);
- Estate depreciation planning and management (effective management of assets, retention, disposal strategies and plans)
- Section 106 planning agreement strategy and management and any other contributions to capital schemes

- Regeneration and market stimulation (consider proposals for wider regeneration, linkages to SHARP and the contribution the Councils land and property makes to this activity by acting as a catalyst or lever);
- Creative capital funding solutions (regularly explore opportunities for innovative funding solutions which reduce the burden of interest charges and revenue impact);
- Prepare reports for consideration relating to land disposals, acquisitions and lettings;
- Contribute proactively to the delivery of the Councils Community Asset Transfer strategy and where applicable Alternative Delivery Model strategies

NEEDS AND PRIORITIES: What we want our capital resources and assets to deliver in the next five years

Underlying our needs and priorities is the recognition that financial resources are constrained in the current economic and political climate. Capital grants from Welsh Government have been reducing, and increasingly capital grants are being replaced with repayable loans or Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI), where the Council borrows the capital funding, and the Welsh Government provides the revenue funding associated with the borrowing.

Furthermore it is recognised that the Council needs to rely more on its internal resources and look to invest in schemes that are self-sustaining or generate positive returns in terms of meeting corporate priorities and producing revenue savings.

We have a significant backlog of maintenance work across the property portfolio, and to bring assets up to current standards would require investment at levels which are simply unaffordable so any investment needs to be strategically targeted reflecting the need to consider future investment plans, property rationalisation outcomes and investment linked to delivering the Councils improvement priorities. Limited capital resources need to be prioritised to maximise outcomes with minimal ongoing future revenue costs.

➤ Housing: Appropriate and Affordable Homes that are Modern, Efficient and Adapted (as necessary to maintain independence)

The local population of Flintshire has diverse housing and accommodation needs. The Welsh Government has set a target for all social housing to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard. Our priorities are to provide good quality housing for residents, reduce the number of empty properties, and maximise funding opportunities to improve homes. Demand for extra care schemes which provide self-contained homes for people with varying levels of care and support needs are increasing following the success of existing schemes.

The Council aims to improve the choice and quality of local housing by:-

- Increasing the supply of new Council and affordable homes through the Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP) to build 500 new homes over the next 5 years
- Delivering the six year asset management strategy to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard across all Flintshire Council Homes.
- Using Section 106 planning agreements to increase the supply of affordable homes in the County.

- Contribute to the provision of extra care facilities in Flint and Holywell (in association with partners).
- Providing financial support to repair, improve and adapt private sector homes (in conjunction with grant funding from Welsh Government)
- Bringing empty homes back into use for residential living using the Houses into Homes Scheme – a Welsh Government backed scheme to provide loans to bring back empty houses or commercial buildings back into use as homes for sale or rent.

➤ **Economy and Enterprise: Town and Rural Regeneration**

Our towns and rural areas present great opportunities to develop the local economy, encourage enterprise, and support employment. Flintshire has worked hard in the past to develop a more joined up set of initiatives, ranging from, an improved and more developed understanding of our towns through a number of town centre development plans, to considering the key drivers for growth in our rural communities being tourism employment and community led initiatives.

The provision of sustainable infrastructure supports the local and regional economy driving demand and supporting delivery of key services, initiatives and business growth opportunities. The commercial viability of our town centres and rural areas must be protected, along with the vitality of town centres as centres for economic activity and social contact.

Flintshire has a challenging agenda for regeneration which is being undertaken in a number of towns and areas assisted by the Vibrant and Viable Places initiative and the Regeneration Zone area allocations. The unemployment rate in Flintshire is currently low at 2.6% and the Council remains committed to ensuring that the County remains a preferred location to invest, live and work. Our key house building initiatives to create 500 additional homes over the next five years is both challenging and innovative, requiring us to seek new funding models, challenge how we work and develop relationships with strategic partners to deliver on these initiatives. Linked to this is our commitment to increase employment opportunities in the construction industry and others through sustainable and effective apprentice schemes.

An Enterprise Zone has been established by Welsh Government in Deeside which will be an increasingly important centre of additional commercial focus in the area.

The Council aims to create jobs and grow the local economy by;

- Developing and implementing long-term regeneration plans for town centres through projects including streetscape improvements and the Flint regeneration programme.
- Using our property portfolio creatively to encourage private sector investment that supports the regeneration of Flintshire.
- Making full use of the Council's capital programme to secure community benefits from procurement - developing new local employment, training and work experience opportunities.
- Supporting the development of sustainable community enterprises through the Community Asset Transfer and Alternative Delivery Model programmes.
- Investment in energy efficiency programmes to reduce fuel poverty and grow the local supply chain.
- Implementing the Vibrant and Viable Places programme to deliver an integrated programme of regeneration for Deeside, which will include improvements to the housing stock, redevelopment of vacant sites and properties and the provision of grant assistance to high street businesses.
- Supporting the development of visitor infrastructure in town centres and along the Dee coastline.

➤ **Skills and Learning: Modernised and High Performing Education**

The Schools Modernisation Strategy was updated and approved by Cabinet January 2015.

The Council has a responsibility to review and modernise all school provision, to make sure that we are providing the best possible opportunities for learners, so that they can achieve their full potential.

Estyn (the education inspectorate in Wales) note that “improvements in the quality of buildings have a very beneficial effect on the quality of teaching and morale of staff which has a positive effect on pupil performance”. The Council needs to ensure there are a sufficient number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations. The need to maintain a large number of ageing school buildings and the supporting infrastructure is unsustainable.

The Council will review and modernise the way education is delivered through a rolling programme of area reviews. This will be programmed on an area by area basis. When the Council carry out an area review, we will consult with children, young people, parents and carers connected with schools in that area.

The Council is committed to ensuring that school buildings will meet 21st century expectations, are fit for purpose and are a community resource.

There are serious shortcomings in the current suitability of a number of buildings, including pressing health and safety issues that question the long term viability of some of our existing schools. In terms of the condition of our school stock, the current backlog of repairs and maintenance remains high at £25.6m (2015). School organisational change remains the key tool available to Council to address such deficits.

The percentage of surplus places in Flintshire schools continues to remain above the Welsh Government target of 10%. Since funding for schools is largely driven by pupil numbers, surplus capacity means a disproportionate amount of funding is spent on infrastructure (such as buildings) and the “fixed costs” of running a school (such as leadership and administration). This funding could be better used to ensure that pupil teacher ratios are minimised to make a direct difference to learners. As public service funding reduces over forthcoming years the case for reprioritisation and change becomes even more compelling.

School modernisation options will drive an investment strategy that will address the needs of the schools. This is evident in the Councils Band A modernisation programme with a £64m school investment programme planned between 2014 and 2017. The Welsh Government has indicated that they intend to roll out Band B of the programme from 2019 onwards. It is expected that Welsh Government will provide further information in the next twelve months on securing the next phase of the investment.

The Council will develop its strategies to ensure that we are maximising the potential investment opportunities that may be available via Welsh Government funding. The Welsh Government funding criteria for 21st Century schools will only potentially fund modernisation projects; refurbishment or maintenance projects are not eligible for grant via this programme.

The Council aims to improve learning provision and opportunities to achieve better learner outcomes through its modernisation programme by:

- Delivering the current Band A programme (2014-2017) jointly funded with Welsh Government

- Positioning ourselves to access external funding via WG 21st Century Schools Programme Band B (2019)
- Present a rolling programme of implementation plans to Cabinet to; ensure continuation of the rise in educational standards, create conditions for school leaders to succeed, ensure that school buildings suitable and in good condition to provide attractive learning and working environments, reduce the number of surplus places and the inequity of variation in cost per pupil, and provide resilience against falling revenue funding.

➤ **Environment: Transport Infrastructure and Services**

The Council has a statutory duty to maintain the adopted highway, maintained at public expense in a safe condition for the passage of the user. A strategic approach has been used to develop the Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP) in identifying and allocating resources for the management, operation, preservation and enhancement of the highway infrastructure to meet the needs of current and future customers. Current gross replacement cost of these assets are £1.6bn.

An Annual Status and Options Report is produced that summarises the status of the main asset groups in terms of condition, compliance with meeting repair standards, level of public complaint/contact etc. The report describes the result of the previous year's investment in terms of meeting the target service standards, enabling the Council to determine if the standards in the HAMP are being met or not. This report also sets out future options available, including long term (20 year) predictions of defect levels, condition and other relevant data in sufficient detail to enable future investment plans and any necessary revisions to service standards contained in the HAMP.

Accessibility to and from employment, homes, leisure, health and social activity must be maintained. Economic growth needs to be facilitated. Congestion and delays on our highway network should be minimised. The Council aim to deliver safe access to employment, local services and facilities by;

- Using available funding to support Council priorities for accessing employment, health, leisure and education, and improve road safety on the county's highway network.
- Prioritising the Council's road infrastructure for repairs and maintenance and implement network improvement programmes.

➤ **Environment: Sustainable Development & Environmental Management**

Our carbon emissions need to continue to reduce to meet Welsh Government targets and play a part in helping to address the consequences of climate change. Reducing the Council's energy costs will assist in addressing the deficit in the MTFs. The Council aims to establish environmental development which maximises social and economic benefits by:

- Identifying and developing large scale renewable energy schemes through the creation of solar farms on Council land and reducing the Council's carbon emissions.

➤ **Modern and Efficient Council: Developing Communities**

New approaches need to be developed in community and social sectors to the design and ways services are delivered, known as Alternative Delivery Models (ADMs), to sustain important services and meet future needs.

Our assets are helping community organisations to develop and become more sustainable by putting them on a firmer footing for the future. We have developed a Community Asset Transfer programme (CATs) where we have actively sought interest from community groups with a social purpose in having assets transferred to them on a long term lease basis for the benefit of local communities.

We have had a number of successes already and will continue to develop this programme and provide help and support to organisations which want to move in this direction.

The Council aims to support local communities to become more resilient by:

- Designing and implementing alternative delivery models to sustain important services to meet future need.
- Empowering communities to run and manage facilities in their locality through Community Asset Transfers.

➤ **Modern and Efficient Council: Improving Resource Management**

Despite the reductions to public sector resources and funding, the Council continues to be ambitious and has prioritised making the best use of our capability and capacity in these challenging times. Smarter purchasing needs to be used to make our money go further, we need to have the right buildings in the right places for the right use, and we aim to achieve the highest possible standards of customer services.

Reviewing our estate: rationalisation and reduction of running costs

We will reduce the number of assets we have. We have already achieved our target of a reduction of 5% of operational assets (excluding schools and offices) by 2016/17. We will seek to reduce this by a further 5%. This will be achieved by constantly challenging the retention of assets. We will target poorly performing assets and those where service delivery can be maintained by sharing and/or using remaining assets more efficiently. We will seek to eliminate any duplication in the function of our assets.

Corporate Office Accommodation

Our corporate offices are located in Flint and Mold with our depot and associated offices in Alltami. Our current office strategy sees the retention and increased use of Flint offices, together with our Connects facility this will form a hub for Housing and some Social Care services providing improved accessibility to key services.

The re-development of our depot in Alltami facilitated the co-location of the majority of Streetscene and Transportation teams. This modernisation work has resulted in both enhanced facilities for staff and operational efficiencies in the delivery of these services. We will ensure that by the end of 2015 all remaining Streetscene and Transportation staff will be relocated to Alltami.

We shall retain County Hall in Mold in the short to medium term as our main headquarter building. This property is coming to the end of its economic life with repair works estimated at £26m. With the increasing implementation of agile working together with workforce reduction, it is and will increasingly be far too large for our needs. Initially we will consolidate our occupation into Phases 1 and 2, mothballing the rear section of the building (phases 3 and 4) and therefore making savings on running costs.

We will continue to modernise the way we work and develop agile working throughout our offices. We will build on the success in our Flint office where a modern and flexible approach to working patterns has facilitated an 80% increase in staff located there. We will continue to engage with

teams to progress agility and understand the further investment required including ICT systems and hardware to deliver a contemporary and efficient office accommodation model.

Overall we will reduce the floor space we occupy in our offices by a minimum of 30% by 2017.

Industrial Commercial Estate

The Council owns a large number of industrial commercial units dispersed along the coastal strip and our larger towns including Mold and Buckley. The units vary in size from large warehouses to much smaller business incubator units. They are of varying quality but some will inevitably, given their age, require significant investment if they are to remain in the Council's ownership.

The origin of our commercial estate stems from the decline of the steel industry, since this time the industrial economics of the area has shifted and Deeside Industrial Park now accommodates a large proportion of demand from both local and national interest. There are also legislative changes in connection with energy efficiency measures which will add further costs and disproportionate financial pressure on this portfolio. Bearing all these factors in mind our rationale for continuing to hold such assets must be reviewed.

Opportunities may present themselves in terms of potential redevelopment of some of the core sites which predominantly border England, however this strategy needs developing in more detail. Some sites may be suitable for meeting housing needs and could possibly feed into our Social Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP), alternatively we may seek to transfer liability altogether and receive a much reduced income from a managing organisation.

The imperative is that a root and branch review be undertaken which robustly challenges the reasons for continuing to hold this estate in the future. This review is to be completed in early 2016 and from this a detailed plan will be developed which will determine the outcome for each asset.

Longer term, further options will be explored relating to the future use of offices at Ewloe which will be returned to the Council in July 2016. The proposed reorganisation of local government in Wales will be a further factor to consider in any future strategy.

Agricultural Estate

The County Council has a smallholding estate we have been gradually reducing through a variety of disposals. A small number of piecemeal disposals were undertaken previously. However in 2011 following a fundamental review looking at the liabilities for the estate against income it became clear major changes and disposals were essential. Two fundamental issues drove this approach. Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) which affect a number of our holdings meaning the Council would have to make major investment and expenditure on a peripheral activity. Secondly the authority had no manageable cluster of farms enabling a coherent farmer tenant enabled asset strategy.

As a result we have sold vacant holdings on the market and other holdings to the sitting tenants. These negotiations can be quite protracted but help receipt planning. We have also sold vacant land quite successfully through careful disposal. The ongoing sale of the holdings continues and in each of the last few years we have generated capital receipts of several million pounds by this route alone. For the longer term we are looking at planning opportunities which will see the value of some of our purposely retained assets substantially increase.

Clwyd Theatr Cymru

Theatr Clwyd has a medium term plan for refurbishing and upgrading key areas of the building. Both Welsh Government and the Arts Council for Wales have indicated that funding maybe available nationally. During 2016 the refurbishment plans will be reviewed and developed further. The Council will need to consider these plans along with the capital requirements (if any).

Working with Partners

In recent years we have developed a progressive approach to sharing accommodation and integrating services with other public sector organisations. We have contributed to efficiencies within the public estate by sharing accommodation with partners such as North Wales Police, Jobcentre Plus and Communities First at our Flintshire Connects centres in Holywell and Flint.

With our partners, we will continue to identify opportunities to optimise the use of the public sector estate in terms of service benefits, overall costs and financial return. In doing so, there will be an opportunity to explore innovative ways of using our land and property assets and how they can be used to aid service development and integration.

ICT

The Information Technology Strategy will be reviewed in June 2016 following the completion of recent IT Service Reviews. Its focus will remain in terms of how we can apply and develop Information Technology (IT) in Flintshire to support the delivery of Corporate and Service objectives and priorities, enable change, drive forward improvement and support services in delivering efficiencies.

The Council has developed a secure, resilient, reliable and high performing IT infrastructure which provides us with the foundations to deliver real benefits for our services and our customers, the citizens of Flintshire. Maintaining these technologies and the associated levels of service will require ongoing investment.

The service has been engaged with the corporate change programme since its inception and as such have been able to target investments and resources to best meet the priorities identified through the various work streams within it. The Assets programme, in particular, has influenced this prioritisation with major investments in technologies to support agile working such as; Business Systems and Desktop Solutions delivered through Citrix, Telephony and Contact Centre technologies, Mobile Device provisioning and management, Electronic Document Management (EDM), Wireless technologies etc.

The direction of travel across the public sector is to increase the delivery of digital services which brings with it significant challenges around how we manage digital information. Electronic storage has traditionally been seen as a relatively inexpensive commodity but the growth has been exponential over recent years and will continue over coming years. A failure to manage this information effectively can lead to unstructured, duplicated and unreliable information which can make compliance with information legislation such as Data Protection and Freedom of Information difficult and costly to achieve and as such will pose a financial risk to the organisation. The significant increase also places a management overhead on the IT service from a storage, retrieval and security perspective. This will be a key area for improvement in the new IT Strategy and has been reflected in the recent IT Service Review.

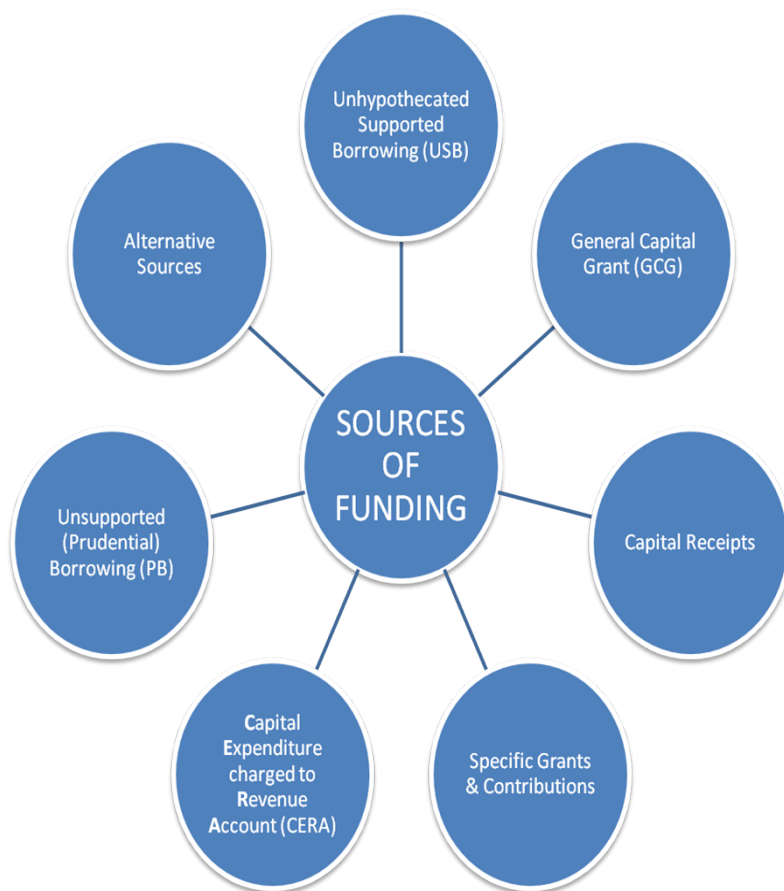
The extremely rapid pace of change and development in terms of IT means we have to constantly identify opportunities for further improvements which in turn will require further investment based on how they will deliver efficiencies moving forward.

Social Services

The Council has a number of assets within the social service portfolio, including three Residential Care Homes for older people, six small business premises and a day service for people with learning disabilities. The Council has a duty under the Care Social Service Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW) legislation to ensure these premises are well maintained and in safe condition.

- The three care homes are currently in a reasonable good condition and do not require significant capital investment at present. However such environments can deteriorate through continued 24 hours usage by individual with high level care and support needs and need to be suitably maintained.
- The six small business premises - all form part of the Council's Alternative Delivery Model programme (ADM), and it is anticipated that the premises will transfer to a Social Enterprise during 2016/17
- Glanrafon Day Centre Deeside. The current building isn't suitable to deliver a service of quality efficiently, and to keep the existing building would require significant capital investment. Options are being developed for consideration.

RESOURCING: What are our sources of capital funding and what types of capital schemes will the sources be applied to



Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB), commonly referred to as Supported Borrowing

Each year Welsh Government provide Council's with a Supported Borrowing capital allocation. Councils can then borrow to fund capital expenditure up to that annual allocation, and Welsh Government will include funding to cover the revenue costs associated with that level of borrowing in future years within the Revenue Support Grant. The Council decides how this funding is spent.

General Capital Grant

Annual capital grant from Welsh Government which the Council decides how to use the funding.

Supported borrowing and general capital grant will be used to fund capital schemes which;

- invest in, or maintain the life of, existing assets that will be retained for future service delivery
- are statutory / regulatory in nature

Specific Grants

Grant allocations received from a range of sponsoring bodies including Welsh Government, Wales European Funding Office (commonly referred to as WEFO), Lottery, etc for associated specific programmes and projects with limited local discretion how the funding is spent. Often the terms and conditions of such funding will require unused funding to be returned, and can require the Council to match fund. In times where capital resources are declining the Council will seek to maximise such funding streams, subject to the initiative/scheme reflecting both the 3rd party's agenda and the Council's priorities.

Specific Contributions

Represent contributions from developers towards the provision of public assets or facilities. Sometimes these are to mitigate the impact of their development on communities and often referred to as section 106 contributions. Contributions are earmarked for specific purposes in planning agreements and often relate to infrastructure projects including; play areas, open spaces, and schools, but also includes affordable housing. Developers also contribute to highways infrastructure developments through section 38 and 278 agreements.

Specific Capital Loans

Increasingly as Welsh Government's funding comes under pressure, capital funding that was previously issued as a specific capital grant is converted into a repayable loan, examples include Home Improvement Loans fund, and Vibrant and Viable Places funding. Grant funding will always be preferable to loan funding as it does not require repayment, however loan funding does have benefits. Its use to date has been to provide recyclable loan funding for regeneration purposes; the benefit being rather than grant funding a single project, the funding as it's a loan can be recycled and used to fund a number of projects over the term. As with grants the Council will seek to maximise such developments that are in line with its priorities, however will carefully consider the additional administrative burden in issuing and collecting loans, and the risk it carries from loan defaults.

Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI)

Similar to supported borrowing. In recent years as Welsh Government funding has been under pressure, schemes that would have been funded by capital grant have been funded by LGBI. Welsh Government provides the revenue support for borrowing costs incurred by the Council in borrowing to fund capital schemes (the difference with supported borrowing being that it's for a specific purpose aligned to Welsh Government priorities). LGBI has recently been used for highways maintenance and is now being used to part fund the Welsh Government element of the 21st century schools programme.

Capital Expenditure charged to Revenue Account (CERA)

Capital expenditure can be funded via a direct contribution from revenue funding (note capital financing regulations mean it is not possible to use capital funding to fund revenue expenditure). This method of funding is extensively used by the HRA and will continue to be in the future. Its use for Council Fund activity is generally quite limited as this would add to forecast budget deficit on the MTFS.

Capital Receipts

Funds raised from the sale of council assets, usually, but not restricted to, land and buildings. Other examples include repayments of loans for capital purposes and release of restrictive covenants.

Capital finance regulations dictate that capital receipts can only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt. In the past regulations required a proportion of all receipts be set aside to repay debt, this was removed some time ago for the Council Fund and was removed for the HRA with the introduction of self-financing. The Council's policy is to use capital receipts to fund capital expenditure rather than voluntarily set aside to repay debt; the Council sets a Minimum Revenue Provision policy each year which sets out our prudent methods for repayment of debt.

The current policy of pooling all capital receipts to allocate to capital schemes in accordance with the Council's strategic aims and priorities will continue. Receipts will not be ring-fenced to fund schemes in the same service or geographical areas (with the exception of the HRA). Capital receipts represent a finite funding source based on a planned structured manner of asset disposals created to support Council's priorities. Receipts will be used to fund new capital investment schemes.

Generation of capital receipts depends on our ability to identify assets that are surplus to requirements, and to sell them at an appropriate time which will be subject to local economic factors. In recent years this has been challenging. Careful and prudent planning around the timing of capital receipts is needed to ensure schemes funded by capital receipts don't begin until we have received the receipt.

Capital receipts will be generated by continuing with our agricultural disposal policy, our policy to reduce the number of assets that we have and the forthcoming review of the commercial estate.

Our assets are also supporting the Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP) in innovative ways; we have identified surplus Council owned sites which will be used to develop new housing. This input will need to continue throughout the life of the programme. The impact of which, on the generation of capital receipts, will need to be carefully mapped and reflected within the wider Capital Programme.

Unsupported Prudential Borrowing (commonly referred to as Prudential Borrowing)

The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities supports local authorities in determining their programmes for capital investment in assets (we are required by regulation to follow its requirements). The Prudential Code gives Council's discretion to undertake borrowing to fund capital projects with the full cost of borrowing funded from future council revenue resources subject to the Council demonstrating, within a clear framework, that the capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable. A range of prudential indicators must be produced and approved demonstrating the impact of the programme.

The option for funding additional capital developments is one which is funded from within existing revenue budgets or from generating additional and ongoing income streams, there is no support from any external funding and is a major constraint on its use as any scheme funded by prudential borrowing will add to the forecast budget deficit in the MTFS.

To date limited use has been made of the option following cautious and prudent consideration of long term impacts. This approach will continue to be used with schemes that have a clear financial benefit such as 'invest to save', 'spend to earn', and those that generate returns over and above the costs of debt. The focus will be to fund schemes that are the Council's priorities, attract 3rd party funding and that generate revenue benefits in future financial years in the form of revenue savings, income generation or increasing Council Tax yield.

Alternative Sources

There are a number of other alternative sources of capital funding which the Council could make use of, depending on circumstances and cost:-

- Finance Leases - Leases that transfers substantially (to the lessee) all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset, even though ownership may not be transferred. This method was used for the equipment at Deeside Leisure Centre and the Jade Jones Pavilion, Flint.
- Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) - This is a broad term for various arrangements in which the Council has a longer and more intensive relationship with a private sector supplier than it does under a traditional contract. It includes:-
 - PFI contracts;
 - Local Asset Backed Vehicles (LABVs);
 - Strategic partnering;
 - Sale and Lease back;
 - Joint Ventures; and
 - Deferred Purchase

To date the Council has made very limited use of alternative funding options listed above. In future all options along with any new initiatives will be explored and used carefully.

Capital schemes funded from alternative sources are likely to increase the Council's debt liability therefore use will be restricted and considered in the same way as prudential borrowing.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME: How will capital schemes be prioritised for inclusion in the capital programme

The purpose of the Capital Programme is to optimise the Council's use of capital resources by allocation to those areas identified as representing the strategic priorities of the Council. The Programme will be split into 3 sections;

- Statutory / Regulatory Programme consisting of an annual allocation to fund schemes of a statutory / regulatory nature. Examples include; providing financial support to repair, improve and adapt private sector homes, and adapting schools for disabled children. Service areas will be required to submit plans for approval before the start of each financial year.

- Retained Asset Programme consisting of an annual allocation to fund schemes that maintain, improve or lengthen the economic life of the assets that we retain to use in delivering services where there is already a significant amount of capital work needed, identified by service plans / condition surveys etc. Service areas identified are; schools, highways, and corporate office accommodation. Service areas will be required to submit plans for approval before the start of each financial year.

The above sections of the capital programme are similar to the current core programme but will be much reduced compared with the current expenditure levels.

- Investment Programme consisting of allocations to fund new schemes arising from Portfolio Business Plans. Such schemes will be necessary to achieve revenue efficiencies included within Portfolio Business Plans and the MTFs and our strategic priorities as included in the Improvement Plan. Approval of such schemes will be through the submission of a full business case identifying the source of capital funding and the assets lifetime costs going forward. See Appendix C – Business Case process.

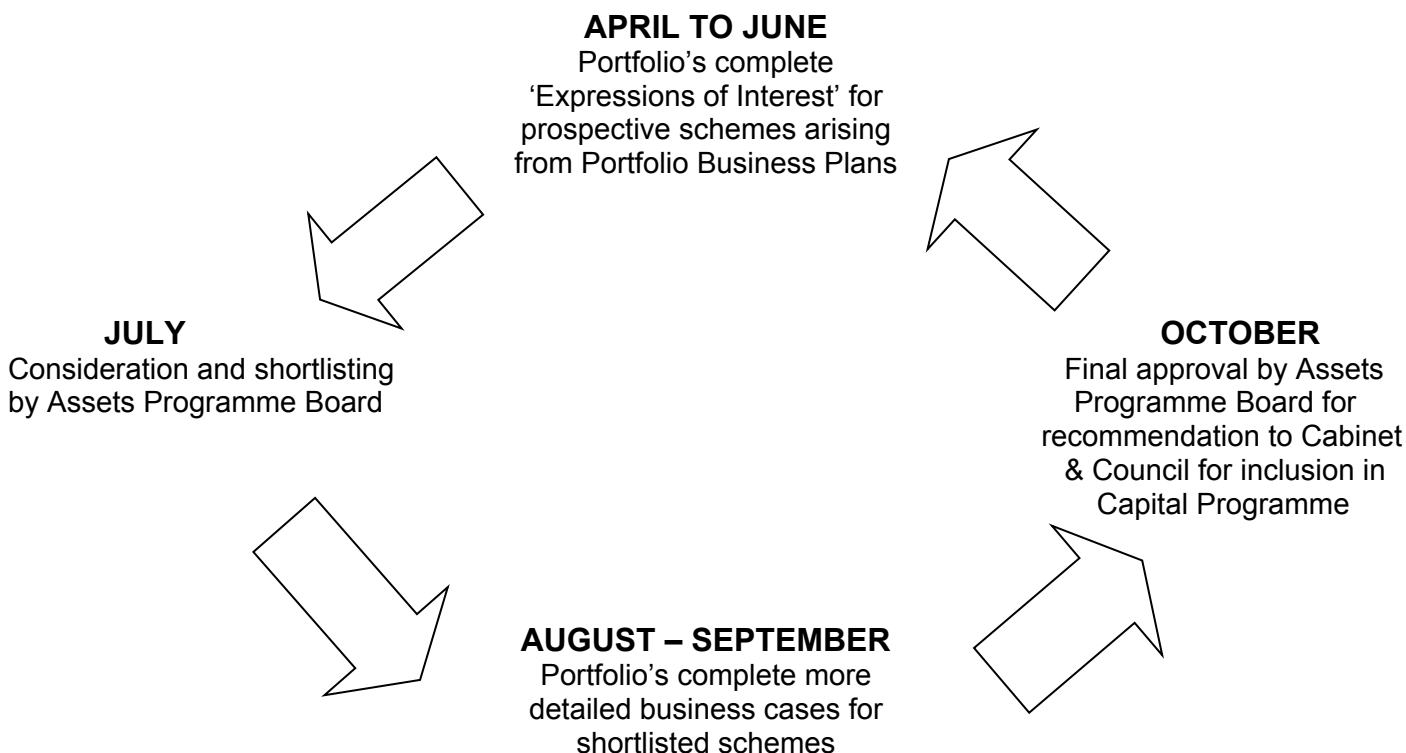
Funding of schemes will be allocated as shown below:

Statutory / Regulatory Programme	Retained Asset Programme		Investment Programme
General Capital Grant	Supported Borrowing	Capital Receipts	Debt and Alternative Sources of Funding

Capital Programmes will be set every year covering a timeframe of the next 4 financial years on a rolling basis, reflecting that capital schemes don't match financial years and span more than 1 financial year. Schemes starting in that first financial year will be approved along with any costs and funding required in the subsequent 3 financial years. Schemes starting later than the first financial year will be given indicative support to enable services to plan, but will ultimately require formal approval through the process of approving the subsequent years' capital programme.

Sufficient headroom will be built into the Capital Programme to facilitate more flexibility thus allowing smaller schemes to be presented, considered and approved by Cabinet in year. Such schemes arise in year due to; opportunities presenting such grants that require an element of match funding or unforeseen events such as regulatory works etc.

The annual timetable for setting the capital programme is as shown below:



GOVERNANCE of the Capital Programme

Planning for the Capital Programme is determined in parallel with service and revenue budget planning process within the framework of the MTFS.

New investment capital schemes will be rigorously appraised through submission of full business case which will include schemes funded by grants or contributions from 3rd parties. Large schemes that are programmes in their own right will be subject to gateway reviews at stages during the programme. For example: 21st century schools, SHARP. Ensuring that the evidence and the case for change when the scheme was initially approved is still valid, and that lessons learned from early stages can be applied to future stages.

Those portfolios with Core allocations will submit annual plans for assessment and challenge by the Assets Programme Board to ensure compliance with Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan.

The Capital Programme will be set for each coming financial year at the same time as the annual budget, and will include indicative figures spanning the same time frame as the MTFS.

Monitoring of the annual Capital Programme will be undertaken at a Portfolio level with progress updates given to the Assets Programme Board. Reporting to Members will take place quarterly to Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee including:

- New schemes or additions to existing schemes
- Removal of or reductions to schemes
- Slippage on schemes, and impact on future years capital programme
- Funding virements between schemes
- Other necessary revisions to the scheme

The Assets Programme Board will develop processes for monitoring the outcomes of capital schemes and measures to monitor the performance of assets.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Capital allocation process via Business Case

Appendix B – Capital Project Handbook/User guide

Appendix C: Glossary of Capital Terms

APPLICATION FOR CAPITAL RESOURCES

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

SERVICE: _____

NAME OF PROJECT: _____

CHIEF OFFICER : _____

PROJECT OFFICER: _____

Ext. _____

SCHEME DETAILS:-

EXAMPLE

REVENUE CONSEQUENCES

ESTIMATED COST OF THE SCHEME

	Year 1 £000	Year 2 £000	Year 3 £000	Year 4 £000	TOTAL £000
Project					
Works (Detail)					0
Works (Detail)					0
Works (Detail)					0
Works (Detail)					0
Funding (If applicable)					
Revenue					0
Grant/Contrib					0
	0	0	0	0	0

CERTIFICATION

Important - All pressures requiring resources **MUST** now be identified in Business Plans
Please certify that this is the case.

Service Manager	<input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>		
Chief Officer	<input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>		
Cabinet Member	<input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>		
Portfolio Finance Manager	<input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Ext.	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Contact for queries	<input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Ext.	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - GUIDANCE NOTES

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FORMS ARE TO BE COMPLETED FOR EVERY POTENTIAL CAPITAL SCHEME REGARDLESS OF FUNDING SOURCE

The guidance notes below give more detail on what should be included in each Section and / or how it is to be completed.

REFERENCE

This will be provided by Finance

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Please note that all applications for capital resources **MUST** arise from issues raised in the relevant Portfolio Business Plan, Improvement Plan, or other relevant Corporate Strategy

DETAILS OF THE SCHEME

Please provide brief but meaningful details of the scheme, to include:-

Summary of work(s)

Location

Reasons for the scheme including any standards / statutory / regulatory justification

Links between proposed scheme and Portfolio business plan / Improvement plan / other corporate strategy and an explanation of how the scheme achieves strategic aims / objectives

Consequences of not completing the scheme

Timescales

Any other relevant information

ESTIMATED COST OF THE SCHEME

Please use the box to detail the estimated cost of the scheme, including any funding available.

The figures should be in £000's and includes formulas to produce the totals.

If the scheme includes a number of elements, please provide summary details of each eg:-

Refurb of Primary School - Total £300k

	Year 1 £000	Year 2 £000	Year 3 £000	Year 4 £000	TOTAL £000
Project					
Refurb Kitchen	50				50
Replace Windows	100	100			200
DDA Access		100			100
Car Park		50			50
Funding (If applicable)					
Revenue					0
Grant/Contrib		(100)			(100)
	150	150	0	0	300

Funding

If any funding has been identified for the scheme, whether externally via grant/contribution or via a revenue contribution, please enter the amount on the appropriate line as a minus figure (See above).

REVENUE CONSEQUENCES

Please provide details of the associated revenue consequences and an estimate of the annual amount.

Some schemes will have negative revenue consequences, e.g. increased running costs from a higher spec building, NNDR etc

If the revenue costs can be met from existing budgets, please indicate clearly and identify the relevant budget.

If the revenue costs cannot be met from existing budgets, please indicate clearly. Any revenue pressures as a result of capital schemes need to be flagged for early consideration

Some schemes will have positive revenue consequences, perhaps as a result of income generation, energy efficiency measures or service efficiencies.

Some schemes which may be wholly funded from Grant or other sources may have significant ongoing revenue implications, hence the need to include them as part of the process.

CERTIFICATION

All pressures requiring resources **MUST** be identified in Business Plans. Please certify that this is the case.

The Portfolio Finance Manager also signs to certify that they are happy with the figures quoted.

Once the form is completed please have it signed by the relevant persons and forwarded as a PDF document.

EXAMPLE

GENERIC BUSINESS CASE

Project Details	
Brief Description:	
Portfolio:	
Project Officer:	

Business Need

Strategic Context of the Project

Outcomes of the Project

Current Position

Impact on Stakeholders

Partnerships	

Timescales & Exit Strategy	

Description of Alternatives Considered	
Option A – Do Nothing (Base Case):	
Option B:	
Option C:	

Anticipated Benefits of the Project - Cash Releasing	
Option A:	
Option B:	
Option C:	

Anticipated Benefits of the Project - Other	
Option A:	
Option B:	
Option C:	

Anticipated Risks of the Project	
Option A:	
Option B:	
Option C:	

Risk Mitigation	
Option A:	
Option B:	
Option C:	

Implementation Implications	
Option A:	
Option B:	
Option C:	

Operational Implications	
Option A:	
Option B:	
Option C:	

Personnel Implications	
Option A:	
Option B:	
Option C:	

Cost Summary (Whole Life Basis – Use attached Spreadsheet)	
Option A:	
Option B:	
Option C:	

External Funding	
Option A:	
Option B:	
Option C:	

Sustainability / Long Term Viability	
Option A:	
Option B:	
Option C:	

Option Appraisal Evaluation	

Preferred Option	

Sensitivity Analysis	

Supporting Information	

Business Case Sign-Off - Author	
Name:	
Date:	
Signature:	

Business Case Sign-Off - Line / Business Manager	
Name:	
Date:	
Signature:	

Business Case Sign-Off - Accountant	
Name:	
Date:	
Signature:	

Business Case Sign-Off – Chief Officer	
Comments:	
Name:	
Date:	
Signature:	

Business Case Sign-Off - Cabinet Member	
Comments:	
Name:	
Date:	
Signature:	

EXAMPLE

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR COMPLETION

Whilst some of the boxes may be self-explanatory, the following provides brief guidance as to what is expected within each.

Business Need: What is the business/service need that is driving this request?

Strategic Context of the Project: How does the proposed project fit in with the Council's strategies/priorities?

Outcomes of the Project: What are the desired outcomes at the completion of the project?

Current Position: A brief description of how the service/asset currently operates.

Impact on Stakeholders: What impact will the project have on clients/service users?

Partnerships: Will there be any opportunity for partnership working, will existing arrangements be strengthened/undermined?

Timescales/Exit Strategy: What is the expected duration of the project, if time limited, is a robust exit strategy in place?

Description of Alternatives Considered: What options (if appropriate), were considered for the project (add more lines if necessary). Give a brief description.

Anticipated Benefits of the Project - Cash Releasing: If approved, what will be the revenue benefit arising from the project?

Anticipated Benefits of the Project - Other: Will the project produce other benefits e.g. streamlined processes/time saving?

Anticipated Risks of the Project: What factors could affect the outcome of the project - timescales/external funding/planning etc.

Risk Mitigation: Can anything be done to mitigate the above, if so is there a cost involved?

Implementation Implications: Are there any factors which need to be taken into account in implementing this project - planning permission/procurement/consultation?

Operational Implications: Are there any operational factors which need to be taken into account in implementing this project - client transport/moving location?

Personnel Implications: Are there any factors which need to be taken into account which affect FCC staff – outsourcing/working patterns/moving location?

Cost Summary: Please use the attached spreadsheet to detail all costs relating to this project, both capital and revenue. At this stage ignore the costs of borrowing associated with funding the project.

External Funding: Is any external funding available for some/all of the project. Is the project dependant on this funding?

Sustainability/Long Term Viability: Is this a short term project, are there factors which may limit its long term viability?

Option Appraisal Evaluation: Include a brief summary of the above points for each option.

Preferred Option: Indicate from the above evaluation which is the preferred option.

Sensitivity Analysis: Are there any areas which could cause concern if they deviate from the assumed levels – legislation/higher costs/lower revenues?

Supporting Information: Use this section to provide any further information which may not be covered by any of the above.

EXAMPLE

Discount Rate	4.5%	Yr 0	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13	Yr 14	Yr 15	Yr 16	Yr 17	Yr 18	Yr 19	Yr 20	Yr 21	Yr 22	Yr 23	Yr 24	Yr 25	Totals	
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000

CAPITAL COSTS		Yr 0	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13	Yr 14	Yr 15	Yr 16	Yr 17	Yr 18	Yr 19	Yr 20	Yr 21	Yr 22	Yr 23	Yr 24	Yr 25	Totals	
Acquisition	Land																												0
Building Works	Buildings																												0
ICT																													0
Furniture																													0
Fees etc																													0
Other (Specify)																													0
TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

WHOLE LIFE COSTS - COSTS OF THIS SCHEME		Yr 0	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13	Yr 14	Yr 15	Yr 16	Yr 17	Yr 18	Yr 19	Yr 20	Yr 21	Yr 22	Yr 23	Yr 24	Yr 25	Totals	
Employees	Sals / Wages																												0
Energy	Electricity																												0
	Gas																												0
Water																													0
Repair & Maint	Planned																												0
	Ad Hoc																												0
NNDR																													0
Other Premises																													0
Transport																													0
Equipment																													0
Comms & Computing																													0
Other Costs (Specify)																													0
TOTAL - COSTS OF THIS SCHEME		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

WHOLE LIFE COSTS - SAVINGS FROM THIS SCHEME		Yr 0	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13	Yr 14	Yr 15	Yr 16	Yr 17	Yr 18	Yr 19	Yr 20	Yr 21	Yr 22	Yr 23	Yr 24	Yr 25	Totals	
Employees	Sals / Wages																												0
Energy	Electricity																												0
	Gas																												0
Water																													0
Repair & Maint	Planned																												0
	Ad Hoc																												0
NNDR																													0
Other Premises																													0
Transport																													0
Equipment																													0
Comms & Computing																													0
Other Costs (Specify)																													0
ROC																													0
TOTAL - SAVINGS FROM THIS SCHEME		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TOTAL COST		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL COST - NPV		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TOTAL COST - IRR %		#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!	#NUM!
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Assumptions

EXAMPLE

Flintshire County Council

Capital Project Management Handbook

Capital Handbook

The purpose of this document is to set out general guidance covering procedures for the management of capital projects or schemes.

The process builds upon established County Council procedures and regulations and, where appropriate, reference is made to these to provide additional information. Changes in Legislation or County Council Financial Procedure Rules (FPR) or Contract Procedure Rules (CPR) may require procedures to be reviewed from time to time.

AN OUTLINE OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Capital Accounting Team (within Corporate Finance)

- Overall management, including reporting progress of, the Councils capital programme
- Securing sources of capital funding
- Supporting the programme of capital receipt generation.

Service Portfolios

- identifying projects / schemes of work through surveys and other analysis,
- preparing expressions of interest / business cases for projects / schemes for approval,
- programming, planning and project managing the delivery of capital projects
- Reporting regularly to Capital Accounting and the Assets Programme Board on progress of projects / schemes

Assets Programme Board

- Reviewing the Council's overall programme of capital activity
- Reviewing capital receipts and supporting the Council's asset disposal programme.

BACKGROUND

The County Council operates an ongoing forward programme of Capital Schemes which is normally planning on a four-year cycle. The programme brings together portfolio proposals for capital expenditure.

Each year, in setting the County Council's budget, a comprehensive list of all capital expenditure proposals will be collated (inclusive of projects included in all 3 sections; Statutory & Regulatory, Retained Assets and Investment). This list, "The Capital Programme", will include all proposals to be implemented that year, and also those named projects for the subsequent year, which can proceed to the design stage.

The lead-in period, up to commencement of works will be agreed with the respective Portfolio Chief Officer with overall responsibility for the capital programme falling to the the Chief Officer (Organisational Change) As a guide this could be about six months for a project up to £150,000 contract value to twelve months for projects of £500,000 and over. This will enable adequate resources to be made available for implementation, and allow suitable timescales for design, approvals, invitation of tenders, forming of contracts etc.

All projects which form part of The Capital Programme, will have been subject to the County Council's Capital Appraisal Process to determine its viability, justification and (positive) effect on revenue budgets. This process is designed to allow proper consideration of project timetabling for effective implementation. All blocks of expenditure, and all individual projects exceeding the capital appraisal threshold (currently £150,000 gross cost) are subject to this process

The minor capital works block will be managed by Portfolio Service Managers. Projects costing less than the deminimus of £20,000 are normally dealt with as revenue expenditure.

Capital Receipts

The Council determined a number of years ago that it would not 'ring fence' capital receipts for project specific purposes and this position remains.

Joint Schemes

These compromise projects jointly funded by two or more Service areas, or partly funded by other agencies and for the purposes of this document are dealt with in the same way as other capital schemes. Normally these projects would be instigated, and finance arranged by a "lead" service.

This category of scheme may include Fire Damage, Grant Aided Projects.

PROCESS

This part of the document sets out the main sequence of events in developing and implementing a capital project.

In essence the prime responsibility for managing the project from inception to completion rests with the portfolio service area. Once a capital project is identified as the agreed solution the service manager and Chief Officer will work develop the scheme and deliver it to a pre-defined programme.

It is important to ensure that regular monthly capital monitoring is undertaken for all projects so that officers in Corporate Finance can provide accurate, regular and timely reports to Cabinet, Scrutiny and Council.

The process can more clearly be explained in the four main stages as follows:-

- Stage 1 - Inception/evaluation
- Stage 2 - Feasibility
- Stage 3 - Implementation
- Stage 4 - Project Review

STAGE 1 – INCEPTION / EVALUATION STAGE

This stage will link with the County Council's capital appraisal process and includes assessing a projects requirements, gathering together of relevant information and establishing timetables and financial limits, as well as considering which may be the best way to proceed with a project. Early discussions on the appropriate procurement route and funding are important. Having identified a piece of work or project the task at this stage is to define and present the matter and consider possible approaches.

All projects will generally follow this route even where there is little input required at this stage.

The above will therefore take into account:

- a) Justification
- b) Budget
- c) Source of funding, (capital receipts, external funding, grants etc).
- d) Timescales

Suggested checklist

- What is issue or requirement?
- Has problem been discussed with the Chief Officer, Service Manager?
- Have alternative approaches been considered?
- Do others need to be consulted? Cabinet Member, Local Members? Staff? Public?
- What is timescale involved?
- What are financial implications? Has account been taken of ongoing revenue costs which will ensue and more importantly what revenue savings may this project create?
- Where is the funding coming from?
- Does the Assets Programme Board or Informal cabinet need to approve in principle at this stage? (e.g. politically sensitive proposals, rationalisations etc.)
- Has a capital appraisal been submitted?
- Does there need to be any formal publicity to proposals at this stage or other communication plan?
- Does an equality impact assessment need to be undertaken and if so at what stage?

STAGE 2 – FEASIBILITY

Stage 2 will include such studies as are necessary to determine the feasibility of the overall requirement and to assess possible solutions and cost implications.

This more detailed study will enable the development of the project brief (if necessary ie instructing consultants), refine budget costs and identify technical problems. The project will now be established as a named project in a future Capital Building Programme or form part of a larger block (core programme) for which approval has already been obtained. The source of funding will have been identified.

This stage in the process will also need to establish those key personnel who will be involved in the project through to completion.

This stage will need to ensure, where these are applicable that the following have been fully considered:-

- (a) the application of specific standards (construction, highway etc)
- (b) integration of future maintenance works with new construction
- (c) energy management, where applicable
- (d) health and safety
- (e) Constraints which may need to be placed upon the project ie specific spend conditions in the case of some grants

In relation to the feasibility stage it may also be helpful to consider the following when undertaking this stage of work:-

1. Background / philosophy indicating broad purpose of the proposal, with reference to the Capital Appraisal where appropriate.
2. Project Description
3. Scheme details (as applicable).
4. Cost limit information and accompanied by budget cost/limit presented in standard format with basis of costing, expenditure profile over implementation period, source of funding and any fee implications if commissioning a Consultancy Services.
5. Timescale for implementation of the project with key dates. Where a number of projects are involved the aim should be to provide a balanced workload throughout the year without detriment to the specific needs of individual projects.
6. Procurement strategy clear and any evaluation panel needed or proposed?
7. Any Corporate Standards and constraints, including reference to Health and Safety Legislation, and Energy Conservation, where applicable.
8. Project related information based upon research/feasibility work undertaken to date.

In effect this is likely to be the last opportunity for fundamental changes to be made to the content of a scheme as any alterations beyond this stage are likely to incur additional costs

The ongoing capital appraisal process will confirm all elements at this stage are either in place or on schedule prior to start year. Before progressing to the next stage. It is also important to confirm that the site or building will be available for the Contractors possession at the agreed date.

Suggested Checklist

- Has project found a place in the capital programme?
- Are there any changes to timescale?
- If new site or change of use will outline planning permission be required before proceeding further?
- Does site/scheme/property/land need to be acquired before proceeding further?
- Have proposals been examined in sufficient detail to establish actual content of project and to assess a more accurate budget costs, including ongoing revenue implications?
- Has a revised capital appraisal been submitted reflecting refined proposals?
- If joint funded or externally funded. Has funding been secured?
- Consider the procurement strategy, discuss with the Councils procurement team and consider the need for any evaluation panel

- Have any proposed maintenance works been included?
- Will site/property be available for works to take place?
- Should the opportunity be taken to consider the timing of publicity proposals at this stage? Press release? Exhibition?

STAGE 3 - IMPLEMENTATION

This stage involves the development of the scheme through a number of workstages from outline proposals to finalised design, followed by implementation on the site.

OUTLINE PROPOSALS

This stage can involve, depending on the degree and complexity of the scheme, the following activities. It generally involves a more detailed analysis of the issues and requirements for the project and can often involve the production of a number of outline proposals for group consideration.

Suggested Checklist

- Have a series of meetings been arranged with key stakeholders to develop the scheme?
- Is any additional information required to progress the scheme at this stage?
- Does the cost information show proposals to be within budget?
- Where applicable does the pre-contract programme highlighted any difficulties?
- Has sufficient time been allowed for tender analysis and contract preparation prior to commencement of work?
- Do others need to be consulted over the proposals?

SCHEME DESIGN

On the basis that the outline proposals are acceptable scheme designs of sufficient detail should be developed. Where required, this will enable an application to be made for planning permission.

Input at this stage may also be required from specialists, development of this stage will enable programmes and costs to be refined and these should again be confirmed to be within acceptable limits.

Suggested Checklist

- Are regular stakeholder review meetings in place and being undertaken?
- Is any additional information required to progress the scheme at this stage?
- Have the project specialist, where engaged, highlighted any difficulties?
- Has Contractor's access to site/scheme been discussed?
- Have running costs, energy efficiency, been discussed?
- Is the project still achievable within programmes? If not what action is required?
- Is the project still achievable within cost? If not what action is required?
- Do others need to be consulted over the proposals before approval is given?
- Has a Planning Application (if required) been made?
- Should the opportunity be taken to publicise proposals at this stage?

- ☐ Are there any specialist services or equipment required as part of this work and are all clear what this is and who is responsible for its installation?

DETAILED DESIGN

During this stage the scheme design will be developed further. At the completion of this stage the detailed content of the scheme including materials, construction, fittings, workmanship and any installations to be incorporated should now be fully approved and applications for any further statutory approvals eg Building Regulations, notices

Cost and programme will need to be reviewed and these, together with the scheme design will be presented to the Assets Programme Board for final approval where required.

Suggested Checklist

- ☐ Have the detailed proposals been presented to any specific stakeholder groups for approval
- ☐ Do the proposals now incorporate all aspects required to deliver the scheme successfully?
- ☐ Have all statutory consents been applied for?
- ☐ Are any Government approvals required?
- ☐ Is project still achievable within cost of programme?
- ☐ Is the project cleared with the respective Cabinet Member and local Ward Member where considered necessary. Has single tender action been applied for, if required, and been approved in accordance with the Councils Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs)

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Following completion of the detail design, working drawings working drawings, specifications, bills of quantities etc., in sufficient detail for contractors to prepare tenders and for the scheme to be constructed on site will be prepared.

Suggested Checklist

- ☐ Has all information been incorporated so that this stage can be successfully completed?
- ☐ Are statutory approvals in place and has allowance been made for any requirements made a condition of the approvals?
- ☐ Standard Forms and cost plans where applicable
- ☐ Pre- Contract information and clarification

TENDER ACTION

During this stage tenders are invited appraise and advise upon those received is considered.

This is an important stage and throughout the other stages there should have been active dialogue with the Councils Procurement Officers in relation to development of the tender pack, implications on European legislation, where applicable, and the use of electronic tendering.

Suggested Checklist

- ☐ Where necessary have evaluation panels been set up and are attendees aware?
- ☐ Once received, have the favourable tenders been analysed all who need to know been advised of the outcome?

PROJECT PLANNING

During this stage the contract documentation will be prepared for the contractor and arrangements for commencement of work on site will be progressed.

A completed contract must be available before works commence on site.

The issue of 'letters of intent' will only be considered in very exceptional circumstances

Suggested checklist

- Confirmation that tender details are in order and that contracts can be entered into?
- Authority to proceed given and cost codes for charging purposes?
- Have contract documents been forwarded to Legal and Member Services for processing?
- Has a pre-start meeting been arranged?
- Prior to Contractor commencing work has the contract been formed?
- Does any special ceremony/publicity need to be arranged to mark commencement of the work? Check with Press office and Portfolio Cabinet Member and Chief Officer.
- Has the wording of the contract sign board (Flintshire County Council format) been agreed for erection on site? Refer to the Councils Communications Team for further information.

OPERATIONS ON SITE

From this point on the Contractor takes possession of the site (or those parts under his control) and carries out the work in accordance with the contract conditions

Suggested checklist

- Are progress meeting minutes being taken? (where requested)
- Is scheme progressing according to programme?
- If not, why? What action is required to remedy situation?
- Is anticipated expenditure within contract sum? If not, why?
- What action is required to remedy situation?
- Is the Contractor ensuring that proper precautions are being taken on site with regard to safety, noise, disruption?

COMPLETION

At 'practical' completion of the works on site the project will be handed over to the service/lead Portfolio for use/occupation. The contractor's responsibility for the site will cease at this point other to attend to any minor items outstanding or defects which might arise during the defects liability period

Suggested Checklist

- Has adequate notice been given of handover and who will attend the handover meeting?
- Is the building or scheme in an acceptable condition for handover?
- Has the contractor provided the relevant certification to show project complies with required standards?
- Has adequate advice been given on maintenance procedures?
- Have copies of drawings and user manuals and health and safety files (where applicable) been provided?
- Are outstanding items / defects being attended to promptly?
- What publicity is proposed? Press Release? Official Opening photo opportunity?

STAGE 4 – PROJECT REVIEW

For all projects over £150,00 in value the service area sponsor will undertake a review of the project. This review will be undertaken within 3 months of the handover of the project/scheme. This is intended to ensure that the project/scheme meets its original objectives of cost, quality and timing.

It is proposed that future capital reports to Cabinet will include a 'summary of learning' so that the Council can understand better how its projects are delivered and reflect on any positive and negative outcomes which will be used to inform future projects/schemes.

Proposed Checklist and suggested areas to explore

Project information

Did the information clearly establish:-

- Background/purpose of proposals?
- Descriptions of requirements?
- Site/scheme details?
- Budget?
- Timescale?
- Any corporate standards and constraints
- Were changes made to the project information during the course of the project?
- If so, why, and what impact did these changes have?

Site or scheme

Were there any difficulties encountered with regard to:

- Availability?
- Contractors access?
- Planning Permission?
- Ground conditions?
- Mains Services?
- Neighbours?
- Health and Safety Issues?
- Other?

Project Team

- Was a Design Team Leader nominated?
- Did the Design Team leader change during the course of the project?
- Is so, why and with what effect?
- Did the Design Team leader perform effectively?
- Did the Client Service appoint a Project Officer to implement the project and liaise with the Consultant?
- Were communications between the Client and Consultant satisfactory and did they work together effectively?

Design Process

- Was adequate information provided to enable any designs to develop effectively?
- Where consultants were engaged did the customer feel they had been adequately consulted over their requirements and been sufficiently involved in the design process?

Project Programme

- Was a pre-contract programme prepared at the outset
- Did the project adhere to the programme?
 - a) Pre-contract
 - b) The construction period?
- If not, why not?
- Were adequate steps taken to keep all those informed of progress, and were adequate steps taken to attempt to rectify the situation?

Cost

- Was the project adequately cost-planned and 'tailored' to the budget set?
- Were tenders received within budget?
- If not, were reductions made or was additional funding sought?
- Was adequate cost analysis information prepared or provided?
- Were financial statements provided as necessary?
- Was the project completed within budget?
- (With additions where appropriate)

- If not, why?
 - a) Unforeseen items, e.g. foundation problems on site?
 - b) Changes to the brief?
 - c) Contractual claims (with reasons)?
 - d) Items outside the Contractors control e.g legislation charges, work by statutory undertakers, specialist Client sub-contractors?
 - e) Liquidation of Contractor or Sub Contractor?

Works on Site

- Did the Contractor and his Sub-Contractors perform satisfactorily?
- Is there any reason to recommend that the contractor, or any of his Sub Contractors be deleted from the County Council's approved list?

Contract Completion

- Was adequate notice given of the handover?
- If applicable, were there any overriding reasons why the scheme should be accepted with incomplete work or defects?

- Was adequate advice on the operation and maintenance of plant and equipment provided?
- Where applicable was certification provided show that any services installed were in accordance with required standards?
- Were drawings and services information provided?
- Were any defects or outstanding items satisfactorily completed?

Early Impressions

- Where applicable was the building user made aware of design brief philosophy?
- Are there different perceptions of the success of the project e.g by Service Manager, or users/customers?
- What are the projects good points?
- Are there any bad points?

Has the project:

- a) Complied with the brief
 - b) Satisfied the real building needs?
- Is there any need for a further Review to be undertaken at a later date?

County Council Procedures

Did the project/scheme comply with the County Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Procedure Rules?

Feedback

What key issues raised by this Review should be fed back for the benefit of future projects?

Cabinet Report - capital

- Should report that the Review has taken place, indicate whether quality and timescales were satisfactory and indicate out-turn cost compared to budget provision.
- What points, if any arising from the Review should be particularly drawn to the attention of Cabinet?
- Is any consequent action recommended?



CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 16 th February 2016
Report Subject	Draft Housing Revenue Account Budget 2016/17 & Capital Programme 2016/17
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Housing
Report Author	Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise) Corporate Finance Manager
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present for approval the draft HRA Budget for 2016/17, and HRA Business Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet approve and recommend to the Council, the HRA budget for 2016/17 as set out in the Business plan.
2	That Cabinet approve a rent increase of 1.4% (plus up to or minus £2) as set out in the business plan with target rents applied for new tenancies, and with the introduction of service charges for communal area cleaning, digital services and aerial maintenance for existing tenancies.
3	That Cabinet approve a garage rent increase of 1.4%.
4	That Cabinet approve the proposed HRA Capital programme for 2016/17 as set out in Appendix C.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND TO THE DRAFT HRA BUDGET AND HRA BUSINESS PLAN
1.01	<p><u>Self Financing</u></p> <p>Self financing was introduced in April 2015 and is contained within the Housing Wales Act 2014. This policy change brings more self determination for local councils longer term. As part of introducing self financing the Act contained a duty for the 11 councils affected to make a one-off settlement payment of £920m, and it set the all wales limit of indebtedness for those individual local authorities. Flintshire's maximum level of borrowing is £144m.</p>
1.02	<p>In summary, Flintshire's borrowing requirements and/or limits for borrowing are (approximately) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing HRA borrowing £25m • Borrowing to achieve settlement £79.2m • Borrowing for WHQS £25m • Borrowing for new build £14.5m
1.03	<p>The initial borrowing of c£79.2m for buy-out resulted in a basket of loans of varying lengths in accordance with the Councils Treasury Management Strategy. External advice was sought and the recommendation was for the council to continue to operate a single debt pool approach, providing maximum flexibility.</p>
1.04	<p>The Social Housing rents policy was introduced by Welsh Government in April 2015 for local authorities. This policy is aimed at achieving rent convergence between council and housing association rents over time.</p>
1.05	<p>Welsh social rent policy is devolved from the U.K government. There is pressure however to follow the UK Government requirement for social landlords in England to reduce social rents by 1% for each of the next four years. Welsh Government sought evidence from social landlords across Wales on the impact this change would make to business plans and has decided to retain the current rent policy for 2015.</p>
1.06	<p>In the Chancellors Autumn statement an announcement was made that social rents would be capped to LHA rent levels for any new tenancy from April 2016 (but taking effect from April 2018). Should this proposal be implemented rents for many 1 bedroom properties in Flintshire would reach the cap quite quickly. This could have negative impacts on the HRA business plan and the viability of some new housing developments.</p>
1.07	<p>The WG rent policy requires all service charges to be disaggregated from rents from April 2016.</p>

1.08	<p><u>Considerations</u></p> <p>The HRA has to have both short and long term financial planning in place. The short term (more detailed) planning shows how the WHQS standard will be achieved, Choices document promises kept, and 200 new council homes built. The longer term plan shows a viable account with surplus income over expenditure needs. This presents opportunities to do more to improve service delivery; provides reassurance that once achieved, the WHQS standard can be maintained, and could provide further capital funding for new build.</p>
1.09	<p>The strategic context for this year's HRA budget setting includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to ensure the treasury management strategy continues to meet the councils new and ongoing borrowing requirements; • Delivering a prudent plan for income - ensuring that rents are affordable in a local context, and phasing in service charging for new and existing tenants; • Setting a balanced budget with 3.25% surplus revenue over expenditure; • Continued drive to ensure all service costs are efficient and that value for money can be achieved; • Maximisation of revenue efficiencies to minimise the borrowing required to meet WHQS by 2020; • Review of WHQS investment strategy to meet tenant and elected member expectation and the new achievable deadline of 2020; • Planning for the delivery of new build council housing in 2016.
1.10	<p><u>Rent increase</u></p> <p>The rent policy framework was implemented in April 2015. There is flexibility for each landlord to set the rent band at either target rent, 5% below or 5% above. Cabinet decided to set Flintshire rents at target to support tenant affordability.</p>
1.11	<p>Where a landlord's weekly rent is lower than the rent band, rents are set at the September CPI (-0.1%) plus 1.5% a combined increase of 1.4% plus up to £2 per week, to work towards rent convergence. Where rents are above target (this applies to circa 64 Flintshire homes), then the rent will reduce by £2 until the weekly rent falls within the target rent band. This means an average Flintshire rent increase of 1.4% plus or minus up to £2 for 2016/17. Approximately 64% tenants are in receipt of full or partial Housing Benefit.</p>
1.12	<p>The business plan shows that the draft average transitional rent is £81.38 and the draft average target rent is £87.84. Some tenancies could take 7 years to achieve the target rent.</p>
1.13	<p><u>Capital programme</u></p> <p>The WHQS and Asset investment programme for 2016/17 has been</p>

	estimated at a total of £21m. This includes provision for internal work streams, external enveloping works, environmental programmes, fire risk works, DDA, Asbestos, off gas and energy efficiency works. Cabinet has approved the Asset investment plan to achieve the WHQS by 2020 and this budget will ensure that the council meets the commitments in that plan to achieve the standard by 2020.
1.14	In addition £4.763m of prudential borrowing has been budgeted in 2016/17 for the first two council housing building schemes, Custom House School site, Connah's Quay and the Walks, Flint.
1.15	Attached to this report for Cabinet approval: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 3 year HRA business efficiency proposals – Appendix A • Draft 30 year HRA business plan summary - Appendix B • WHQS programme for 2016/17 - Appendix C

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The HRA is a ring fenced budget. This HRA budget and business plan demonstrates that the council can achieve the WHQS by 2020, can meet service improvement plans and commitments and with prudential borrowing can commence a council house building programme in 2016.
2.02	Additional staff will be required to deliver an accelerated WHQS programme. The funding for these posts is provided for in the WHQS programme.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	The draft budget has discussed with the Tenants Federation at their January meeting and they support the proposals contained in this paper.
3.02	Detailed consultation has been undertaken with tenants and elected members to inform the preparation of the revised WHQS investment programme.
3.03	A Scrutiny meeting was held on 15 th January when the committee fully endorsed the proposals in this paper.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Self-financing in the HRA should continue to provide additional revenue to improve property standards and to meet service improvement objectives. The council has agreed a Rent Policy which will see rents at benchmark levels, rather than taking the opportunity to set at 5% per cent above the benchmark. This decision was taken to safeguard affordability for tenants.
4.02	Stock investment delivery plans will enhance the appearance of the environment and will contribute toward the council's CO2 reduction

	targets.
4.03	All households will benefit from the Councils WHQS programme. The impact of the investment planning and efficiencies is being modelled for various customer groups to ensure that there is no disproportionate impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix A - Draft HRA Business Plan Appendix B - Draft 30 year HRA Revenue and Capital Account Appendix C - Draft WHQS programme

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Contact Officer: Clare Budden, Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise) Telephone: 01352 703800 E-mail: clare.budden@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Financial Year: the period of 12 months commencing on 1 April 2016.</p> <p>Revenue: 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.</p> <p>Capital expenditure: money spent by the organisation on acquiring or maintaining fixed assets, such as land, buildings, and equipment.</p> <p>Budget: 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.</p> <p>Treasury Management: The Council has adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants (CIPFA) Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice. Treasury Management is conducted in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement and Treasury Management Practices which are both reviewed annually. All borrowing and long term financing is made in accordance with CIPFA's Prudential Code.</p>

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HRA Business Planning

Efficiencies

No		Savings Options Model 1 and 2	Type	2016/17 PROPOSALS £m	2016/17 MANDATORY duties	2016/17 RISK status of ACCEPTABILITY and DELIVERABILITY	Categorisation of financial robustness
1	Housing Asset Mgmt	Maximise material efficiencies via product mix and pricing 3%	Service Efficiency	(90,000)	NM	Amber	2
2	Housing Asset Mgmt	Job Scheduling	Service Efficiency	(84,941)	NM	Amber	2
3	Housing Asset Mgmt	Reduce Inspection Team	Structural Review	(52,459)	NM	Green	1
4	Support	Undertake corporate buildings review	Service Efficiency	(18,000)	NM	Green	1
5	Various	Reduce postage costs / increase electronic communications	Service Efficiency	(3,500)	NM	Green	1
6	Support	Telephone Recharges	Service Efficiency	(9,000)	NM	Green	1
		Total HRA		(257,900)			

Pressures

No			Type	2016/17 PROPOSALS £m	2016/17 MANDATORY duties	2016/17 RISK status of ACCEPTABILITY and DELIVERABILITY	Categorisation of financial robustness
1	Income	Reduction in income arising from phased implementation of gardens and service charges	Income Pressure	70,562	M	Green	1
2	Tenancy Mgmnt	Health and Safety Officer	Service Improvement	47,871	M	Green	1
3	Tenancy Mgmnt	Community Centres	Service Pressure	96,000	NM	Green	1
4	Tenancy Mgmnt	Wardens	Service Pressure	153,000	NM	Green	1
5	Estate Services	Aerials	Service Pressure	14,000	NM	Green	1
6	Housing Asset Mgmnt	Communications/FOI Officer	Service Improvement	15,403	NM	Green	1
		Total HRA		396,836			
		Grand Total HRA		138,936			

		Income			Expenditure						Net Operating Balance				Available Capital Funding					Capital Programme		
Year	Year	Net Rent Income £'000	Other Income £'000	Total Income £'000	Tenancy Mgmt £'000	Estate Services £'000	Housing Asset Mgmt £'000	Support Costs £'000	Debt Charges £'000	Total Expenses £'000	Net Operating Expenditure £'000	Balance B/F £'000	CERA £'000	Balance C/F £'000	CERA £'000	MRA	Prudential Borrowing	Capital Receipts	Total Capital Funds	WHQS Capital Programme	SHARP programme	Shortfall / (Surplus)
1	2016.17	(29,348)	(1,178)	(30,526)	1,809	1,051	8,433	2,309	7,208	20,810	(9,716)	(1,513)	10,500	(728)	10,500	5,000	10,463		25,963	21,170	4,763	(30)
2	2017.18	(30,093)	(1,875)	(31,968)	1,827	1,061	8,245	2,253	7,850	21,236	(10,732)	(728)	10,717	(743)	10,717	5,000	13,700		29,417	24,159	5,200	(58)
3	2018.19	(30,916)	(2,086)	(33,002)	1,851	1,072	8,327	2,275	8,522	22,047	(10,955)	(743)	10,927	(772)	10,927	5,100	7,650		23,677	18,394	5,200	(82)
4	2019.20	(32,731)	(2,108)	(34,839)	1,870	1,083	8,410	2,298	8,769	22,429	(12,410)	(772)	12,396	(785)	12,396	5,100	-		17,496	17,473	0	(23)
5	2020.21	(33,286)	(2,113)	(35,399)	1,888	1,093	8,495	2,321	8,643	22,440	(12,958)	(785)	12,958	(785)	12,958	5,100	-		18,058	16,803	0	(1,255)
6	2021.22	(35,018)	(2,125)	(37,143)	1,907	1,104	8,579	2,344	8,572	22,507	(14,636)	(785)	14,634	(788)	14,634	5,100	-		19,734	19,611	0	(122)
7	2022.23	(36,244)	(2,139)	(38,382)	1,926	1,115	8,665	2,367	8,429	22,503	(15,879)	(788)	15,879	(788)	15,879	5,100	-		20,979	15,668	0	(5,311)
8	2023.24	(37,399)	(2,152)	(39,552)	1,946	1,126	8,752	2,391	8,262	22,477	(17,074)	(788)	17,075	(787)	17,075	5,100	-		22,175	15,243	0	(6,932)
9	2024.25	(38,521)	(2,167)	(40,688)	1,965	1,138	8,839	2,415	8,068	22,426	(18,262)	(787)	18,264	(785)	18,264	5,100	-		23,364	15,395	0	(7,969)
10	2025.26	(40,440)	(2,191)	(42,631)	1,985	1,149	8,928	2,439	7,895	22,395	(20,235)	(785)	20,236	(784)	20,236	5,100	-		25,336	15,549	0	(9,787)
11	2026.27	(40,867)	(2,196)	(43,063)	2,004	1,161	9,017	2,464	7,733	22,378	(20,685)	(784)	20,686	(783)	20,686	5,100	-		25,786	15,705	0	(10,081)
12	2027.28	(42,093)	(2,211)	(44,305)	2,025	1,172	9,107	2,488	7,528	22,320	(21,984)	(783)	21,986	(781)	21,986	5,100	-		27,086	15,862	0	(11,224)
13	2028.29	(43,356)	(2,227)	(45,583)	2,045	1,184	9,198	2,513	7,327	22,267	(23,316)	(781)	23,318	(779)	23,318	5,100	-		28,418	16,021	0	(12,398)
14	2029.30	(44,657)	(2,244)	(46,900)	2,065	1,196	9,290	2,538	7,132	22,222	(24,678)	(779)	24,680	(778)	24,680	5,100	-		29,780	16,181	0	(13,599)
15	2030.31	(45,996)	(2,260)	(48,257)	2,086	1,208	9,383	2,564	6,940	22,180	(26,076)	(778)	26,078	(776)	26,078	5,100	-		31,178	16,343	0	(14,835)
16	2031.32	(48,287)	(2,289)	(50,577)	2,107	1,220	9,477	2,589	6,751	22,144	(28,433)	(776)	28,434	(775)	28,434	5,100	-		33,534	16,506	0	(17,028)
17	2032.33	(48,798)	(2,296)	(51,093)	2,128	1,232	9,572	2,615	6,524	22,071	(29,023)	(775)	29,025	(772)	29,025	5,100	-		34,125	16,671	0	(17,454)
18	2033.34	(50,262)	(2,314)	(52,575)	2,149	1,244	9,668	2,641	6,307	22,009	(30,567)	(772)	30,569	(770)	30,569	5,100	-		35,669	16,838	0	(18,831)
19	2034.35	(51,769)	(2,333)	(54,102)	2,171	1,257	9,764	2,668	5,943	21,803	(32,300)	(770)	32,307	(763)	32,307	5,100	-		37,407	17,006	0	(20,401)
20	2035.36	(53,323)	(2,352)	(55,675)	2,192	1,269	9,862	2,694	5,549	21,567	(34,108)	(763)	34,116	(755)	34,116	5,100	-		39,216	17,176	0	(22,040)
21	2036.37	(54,922)	(2,372)	(57,295)	2,214	1,282	9,961	2,721	5,212	21,390	(35,905)	(755)	35,911	(749)	35,911	5,100	-		41,011	17,348	0	(23,663)
22	2037.38	(57,658)	(2,407)	(60,064)	2,236	1,295	10,060	2,749	4,926	21,266	(38,798)	(749)	38,803	(744)	38,803	5,100	-		43,903	17,521	0	(26,381)
23	2038.39	(58,267)	(2,414)	(60,681)	2,259	1,308	10,161	2,776	4,643	21,147	(39,535)	(744)	39,539	(740)	39,539	5,100	-		44,639	17,697	0	(26,942)
24	2039.40	(60,015)	(2,436)	(62,451)	2,281	1,321	10,262	2,804	4,390	21,059	(41,393)	(740)	41,396	(737)	41,396	5,100	-		46,496	17,874	0	(28,622)
25	2040.41	(61,815)	(2,459)	(64,274)	2,304	1,334	10,365	2,832	4,228	21,063	(43,211)	(737)	43,211	(737)	43,211	5,100	-		48,311	18,052	0	(30,258)
26	2041.42	(63,670)	(2,482)	(66,152)	2,327	1,347	10,469	2,860	4,070	21,073	(45,079)	(737)	45,079	(738)	45,079	5,100	-		50,179	18,233	0	(31,946)
27	2042.43	(65,580)	(2,506)	(68,086)	2,350	1,361	10,573	2,889	4,019	21,193	(46,893)	(738)	46,889	(742)	46,889	5,100	-		51,989	18,415	0	(33,574)
28	2043.44	(68,846)	(2,547)	(71,394)	2,374	1,375	10,679	2,918	3,970	21,315	(50,079)	(742)	50,074	(746)	50,074	5,100	-		55,174	18,599	0	(36,575)
29	2044.45	(69,574)	(2,590)	(72,164)	2,398	1,388	10,786	2,947	3,921	21,440	(50,724)	(746)	50,720	(750)	50,720	5,100	-		55,820	18,785	0	(37,034)

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Appendix C
Draft HRA Capital Programme 2016/17

HRA Capital Programme	2016/17
WHQS	£'m
CATCH UP REPAIRS / MAJOR WORKS	
Urgent Capital Works 3% on £95m	0.521
IMPROVEMENTS / COMMUNAL WORKS	
Fire Risk Assessments Work	0.150
General DDA Work	0.050
IMPROVEMENTS / ACCELERATED WORKS	
Asbestos Survey and Removal (Ongoing Programme)	0.350
Off Gas Programme	0.750
ECO Projects	0.550
Welfare Reform / Adaptations	0.100
PROGRAMMED WORK STREAMS	
Internal Works	11.953
Envelope Works	2.581
External Works, Paths, Fences	0.475
Environmental Works - General	0.950
Capitalised Salaries 6% on £90m	0.781
Vacant Properties	0.750
Total WHQS	19.961
Non WHQS	
Disabled Facility Grants (DFG) - Mandatory/ Minor Adaps	1.000
Total Non - WHQS	1.000
Total Spend (Excluding Inflation)	20.961
Inflation	0.209
Total Spend (Including Inflation)	21.170

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 16 th February 2016
Report Subject	Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17 Treasury Management Policy Statement 2016-19 Treasury Management Practices 2016-19 Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2015/16
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report presents the draft Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17 for approval and recommendation to Council, in conjunction with:-

- Draft Treasury Management Policy Statement 2016 – 2019,
- Draft Treasury Management Practices 2016 – 2019.

In addition the report presents the draft Treasury Management Mid-Year review 2015/16 for approval and recommendation to Council.

This report is supplemented by training available to all Members of the Council on treasury management on 26th January 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	<p>Members approve and recommend to Council the draft documents listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17 • Draft Treasury Management Policy Statement 2016-2019 • Draft Treasury Management Practices and Schedules 2016-2019 • Draft Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2015/16
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORTS
1.01	<u>BACKGROUND</u>
1.02	The Local Government Act 2003 requires all local authorities to have due regard to both the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in Public Services: Code of Practice (The CIPFA Code of Practice) and Welsh Government guidance on Local Authority Investments.
1.03	<p>The Council has adopted The CIPFA Code of Practice which requires:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council to create and maintain a Treasury Management Policy Statement which states the Council's policies, objectives and approach to risk management of its treasury management activities. • The Council to create and maintain suitable Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) and accompanying schedules, stating how those policies and objectives will be achieved and prescribing how those activities will be managed and controlled. • The Council to receive reports on its treasury management policies, practices and activities, including, as a minimum, an annual strategy and plan in advance of the year, a mid-year review and an annual report after its close, in the form prescribed in its TMPs. • Responsibility for Treasury Management to be clearly defined. The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to the Cabinet, and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Corporate Finance Manager, who will act in accordance with the organisation's policy statement and TMPs and, CIPFA's <i>Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management</i>. • A body to be responsible for the scrutiny of Treasury Management Policy, Strategy and Practices. The Council has nominated the Audit Committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management function. The Audit Committee has previously agreed to include treasury management as a standing item on each quarterly agenda to receive an update.
1.03	The Welsh Government guidance on Local Authority investments requires that the Council prepares an Investment strategy before the start of each financial year which sets out the Council's policies for the prudent management of its investments, giving priority, firstly to the security of those investments (protecting the capital sum from loss), and secondly liquidity (keeping money readily available for expenditure). The generation of investment income is distinct from these prudential objectives, however provided that proper levels of security and liquidity are achieved, it may (but

	only then) be reasonable to seek the highest yield consistent with those priorities.
1.04	<p>The guidance stipulates that the investment strategy must also include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specified Investments • Non-specified Investments • Credit Risk Assessment • Investment Consultants • Investment Training • Investment of money borrowed in advance of need.
1.05	<u>CONSIDERATIONS</u>
1.06	<u>2016/17 Treasury Management Policy, Strategy and Practices</u> <u>Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17</u>
1.07	The 2016/17 Treasury Management Strategy is attached as Appendix 1 for review and discussion. The Strategy is updated and reported annually to Members in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice and Welsh Government guidance.
1.08	The Treasury Management Strategy details the approach that the Council will take for investing and borrowing over the next year, including the budgetary implications of the planned investment and borrowing strategy and a number of treasury management indicators that the CIPFA Code requires.
1.09	<p>The contents and layout of the 2016/17 Strategy have not materially changed from that of the 2015/16 Strategy. Matters that merit the attention of Members along with any changes made are summarised below:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2 – Economic context, provided by Arlingclose the Council's treasury management advisor, estimates that the first rise in bank interest rates to be in quarter 3 of 2016 at 0.25%. The Strategy assumes that the average rate for investments in 2016/17 will be around 0.65%, and that the average rate for any new borrowing will be around 3.35%. • Section 4 – Local context. This section summarises the anticipated treasury position in 2016/17. Activity in 2016/17 will focus more on borrowing and less on investing than in recent years; as the Council's requirement to borrow is forecast to grow due to a planned increase in capital expenditure, whilst there less surplus cash to invest as services plan to spend reserves. • Section 5 – Investment Strategy. Members will be aware from previous update reports that the consequences of the legislation introduced to reform procedures should financial institutions fail in the future (commonly referred to as 'bail-in'), have led to an increase in risk associated with unsecured bank investments. The Council

	<p>therefore aims to further diversify into more secure asset classes during 2016/17.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 6 - Borrowing Strategy, a new paragraph has been added explaining that the Council may arrange forward starting loans in 2016/17, if conditions are suitable. That is a future loan and associated interest rate may be agreed during 2016/17, but the cash would not be paid until it is required at some future date, which is pre agreed as part of the loan agreement. This would enable certainty of cost to be achieved, by fixing the interest rate, without suffering a cost of carry in the intervening period.
1.10	A training session open to all Members on treasury management was run by Arlingclose, the Council's Treasury Management advisors, on the morning of 26 th January. The aim of the workshop was to aid Members' understanding of the Treasury Management Strategy.
1.11	<u>Treasury Management Policy Statement 2016-19</u>
1.12	Attached at Appendix 2 for review and discussion is the Treasury Management Policy Statement to cover the 3 year period from 2016/17 to 2018/19. This document defines the Council's treasury management activities, sets out the Council's criteria to measure the effectiveness of treasury management activities and includes the Council's high level policies for borrowing and investments. Once approved, the document will only be reported to Members during its lifetime in the event of any significant changes. The Policy Statement remains unchanged from the version approved 1 st March 2013, which covered the 3 year period from 2013/14 to 2015/16.
1.13	<u>Treasury Management Practices and Schedules 2016-19</u>
1.14	The Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) and accompanying schedules to cover the 3 year period from 2016/17 to 2018/19 are attached in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 for review and discussion. As with the Policy Statement, once approved, this document will only be reported to Members during its lifetime in the event of any significant changes.
1.15	The TMPs and schedules state how treasury management policies and objectives will be achieved and give specific details of the systems and routines employed and the records to be maintained.
1.16	At a meeting of the Audit Committee on 27 th January 2016 Members reviewed the draft Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17, along with the draft Treasury Management Policy Statement 2016 – 2019 and the draft Treasury Management Practices and Schedules 2016-19 with minor adjustments being made to the Practices and Schedules as a result.
1.17	<u>Treasury Management 2015/16 Update</u>
1.18	The draft Treasury Management Mid-Year Report for 2015/16 is attached as Appendix 5 for review. The Mid-Year Report reviews the activities and performance of the treasury management operations during the period 1 st

	April to 30 th September 2015.
1.19	<p>In summary, the key points of the Mid-Year Report are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK economy remained resilient over the six month period. Although the rate of economic growth slowed, GDP has now increased for ten consecutive quarters. Inflation remains low, and briefly turned negative in April. There have been further improvements in the labour market, with unemployment decreasing and average earnings excluding bonuses rising in the three months to July. (Section 3) • Arlingclose at the time of writing (September) expected the first rise in UK interest rates in the second quarter of 2016 (Section 3). This has subsequently been revised (see paragraph 1.06 above). • Local authorities in Wales reached a voluntary agreement to change the financing arrangements for council housing in Wales in April as reported previously. For Flintshire this resulted in a settlement payment to Welsh Government of £79.2m on 2nd April 2015. This was financed with new long term borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB), resulting in an increase in long term borrowing from £172.1m on 2nd April to £251.3m. There was no further borrowing activity during the period. (Section 4) • Investments have been made with UK banks and building societies up to periods of 12 months, as well as utilising investment opportunities afforded by money market funds, instant access accounts, Debt Management Office, other Local Authorities and other financial instruments such as Certificates of Deposit (CD's). The average investment balance for the period was £55.6m and the average rate of return was 0.48%. (Section 5) <p>The treasury function operated within the limits detailed in the Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16</p>
1.20	At a meeting of the Audit Committee on 27 th January 2016 Members reviewed the draft Treasury Management Mid-Year Review for 2015/16.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Financial implications are addressed in the report; no other resource implications directly as a result of this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Arlingclose Ltd, being the Council's treasury management advisors.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
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4.01	Risk Management directly addressed within appendices including identification of risks and measures to mitigate likelihood and impact of risks identified.
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5.00	APPENDICES
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5.01	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17 2. Draft Treasury Management Policy Statement 2016-2019 3. Draft Treasury Management Practices 2016-2019 Part 1: Principles 4. Draft Treasury Management Practices 2016-2019 Part 2: Schedules 5. Draft Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2015/16
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6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
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6.01	<p>Contact Officer: Liz Thomas – Technical Finance Manager Telephone: 01352 702289 E-mail: liz.thomas@flintshire.gov.uk</p>
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7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
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7.01	<p>Authorised Limit: A statutory limit that sets the maximum level of external debt for the Council.</p> <p>Balances and Reserves: Accumulated sums that are held, either for specific future costs or commitments (known as earmarked) or generally held to meet unforeseen or emergency expenditure.</p> <p>Bank Rate: The official interest rate set by the Bank of England’s Monetary Policy Committee and what is generally termed at the “base rate”.</p> <p>Basis Point: A unit of measure used in finance to describe the percentage change in the value or rate of a financial instrument. One basis point is equivalent to 0.01% (1/100th of a percent). In most cases, it refers to changes in interest rates and bond yields. For example, if interest rates rise by 25 basis points, it means that rates have risen by 0.25% percentage points.</p> <p>Bond: A certificate of debt issued by a company, government, or other institution. The bond holder receives interest at a rate stated at the time of issue of the bond. The price of a bond may vary during its life.</p> <p>Capital Expenditure: Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of capital assets.</p> <p>Capital Financing Requirement (CFR): The Council’s underlying need to borrow for capital purposes representing the cumulative capital expenditure of the local authority that has not been financed.</p> <p>Certificates of Deposits (CD’s): A savings certificate entitling the bearer to receive interest. A CD bears a maturity date, a specified fixed interest rate and can be issued in any denomination. CDs are generally issued by</p>
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commercial banks. The term of a CD generally ranges from one month to five years.

Cost of Carry: The “cost of carry” is the difference between what is paid to borrow compared to the interest which could be earned. For example, if one takes out borrowing at 5% and invests the money at 1.5%, there is a cost of carry of 3.5%.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): The UK’s main measure of inflation (along with Retail Price Index or ‘RPI’) The Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England set the Bank Rate in order to try and keep CPI at or close to the target set by the Government. The calculation of CPI includes many items of normal household expenditure but excludes some items such as mortgage interest payments and Council Tax.

Credit Rating: Formal opinion by a registered rating agency of a counterparty’s future ability to meet its financial liabilities; these are opinions only and not guarantees.

Corporate Bonds: Corporate bonds are bonds issued by companies. The term is often used to cover all bonds other than those issued by governments in their own currencies and includes issues by companies, supranational organisations and government agencies.

Counterparty List: List of approved financial institutions with which the Council can place investments.

Debt Management Office (DMO): The DMO is an Executive Agency of Her Majesty's Treasury and provides direct access for local authorities into a government deposit facility known as the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF). All deposits are guaranteed by HM Government and therefore have the equivalent of a sovereign credit rating.

Federal Reserve: The US central bank, the equivalent of the Bank of England. (Often referred to as “the Fed”).

Financial Instruments: Financial instruments are tradable assets of any kind. They can be cash, evidence of an ownership interest in an entity, or a contractual right to receive or deliver cash or another financial instrument

Gilts: Gilts are bonds issued by the UK Government. They take their name from ‘gilt-edged’. They are deemed to be very secure as the investor expects to receive the full face value of the bond to be repaid on maturity.

LIBID: The London Interbank Bid Rate (LIBID) is the rate bid by banks on Eurocurrency deposits (i.e. the rate at which a bank is willing to borrow from other banks).

LIBOR: The London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) is the rate of interest that banks charge to lend money to each other. The British Bankers' Association (BBA) work with a small group of large banks to set the LIBOR rate each day. The wholesale markets allow banks who need money to borrow from those with surplus amounts. The banks with surplus amounts of money are keen to lend so that they can generate interest which it would

not otherwise receive.

LOBO: Stands for Lender Option Borrower Option. The underlying loan facility is typically very long-term - for example 40 to 60 years - and the interest rate is fixed. However, in the LOBO facility the lender has the option to call on the facilities at pre-determined future dates. On these call dates, the lender can propose or impose a new fixed rate for the remaining term of the facility and the borrower has the 'option' to either accept the new imposed fixed rate or repay the loan facility.

IFRS: International Financial Reporting Standards.

Maturity: The date when an investment or borrowing is repaid.

Maturity Structure / Profile: A table or graph showing the amount (or percentage) of debt or investments maturing over a time period.

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC): Government Body that sets the Bank Rate. Its primary target is to keep inflation within 1% of a central target of 2%. Its secondary target is to support the Government in maintaining high and stable levels of growth and employment.

Money Market Funds (MMF): Pooled funds which invest in a range of short term assets providing high credit quality and high liquidity.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP): An annual provision that the Council is statutorily required to set aside and charge to the Revenue Account for the repayment of debt associated with expenditure incurred on capital assets.

Non Specified Investment: Investments which fall outside the WG Guidance for Specified investments (below).

Operational Boundary: This linked directly to the Council's estimates of the CFR and estimates of other day to day cash flow requirements. This indicator is based on the same estimates as the Authorised Limit reflecting the most likely prudent but not worst case scenario but without the additional headroom included within the Authorised Limit.

Premiums and Discounts: In the context of local authority borrowing,
(a) the premium is the penalty arising when a loan is redeemed prior to its maturity date and
(b) the discount is the gain arising when a loan is redeemed prior to its maturity date.

Prudential Code: Developed by CIPFA and introduced in April 2004 as a professional code of practice to support local authority capital investment planning within a clear, affordable, prudent and sustainable framework and in accordance with good professional practice.

Prudential Indicators: Indicators determined by the local authority to define its capital expenditure and asset management framework. They are designed to support and record local decision making in a manner that is publicly accountable; they are not intended to be comparative performance

indicators

Public Works Loans Board (PWLB): The PWLB is a statutory body operating within the United Kingdom Debt Management Office, an Executive Agency of HM Treasury. The PWLB's function is to lend money from the National Loans Fund to local authorities and other prescribed bodies, and to collect the repayments.

Quantitative Easing (QE): In relation to the UK, it is the process used by the Bank of England to directly increase the quantity of money in the economy. It does not involve printing more banknotes. Instead, the Bank buys assets from private sector institutions – that could be insurance companies, pension funds, banks or non-financial firms – and credits the seller's bank account. So the seller has more money in their bank account, while their bank holds a corresponding claim against the Bank of England (known as reserves). The end result is more money out in the wider economy.

Revenue Expenditure: Expenditure to meet the continuing cost of delivery of services including salaries and wages, the purchase of materials and capital financing charges.

Retail Price Index (RPI): A monthly index demonstrating the movement in the cost of living as it tracks the prices of goods and services including mortgage interest and rent.

Term Deposits: Deposits of cash with terms attached relating to maturity and rate of return (Interest).

Specified Investments: Term used in the Welsh Assembly Guidance for Local Authority Investments. Investments that offer high security and high liquidity, in sterling and for no more than one year. UK government, local authorities and bodies that have a high credit rating.

Supported Borrowing: Borrowing for which the costs are supported by the government or third party.

Supranational Bonds: Instruments issued by supranational organisations created by governments through international treaties (often called multilateral development banks). The bonds carry an AAA rating in their own right. Examples of supranational organisations are the European Investment Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Treasury Bills (T-Bills): Treasury Bills are short term Government debt instruments and, just like temporary loans used by local authorities, are a means to manage cash flow. They are issued by the Debt Management Office and are an eligible sovereign instrument, meaning that they have an AAA-rating.

Treasury Management Code: CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services, initially brought in 2003, subsequently updated in 2009 and 2011.

Treasury Management Practices (TMP): Treasury Management

Practices set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve its policies and objectives and prescribe how it will manage and control these activities.

Temporary Borrowing: Borrowing to cover peaks and troughs of cash flow, not to fund capital spending.

Unsupported Borrowing: Borrowing which is self-financed by the local authority. This is also sometimes referred to as Prudential Borrowing.

Yield: The measure of the return on an investment instrument.



FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**DRAFT
TREASURY MANAGEMENT
STRATEGY**

2016/17

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Treasury Management Strategy Report 2016/17

The Council is recommended to:

- approve the Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17
- approve the Treasury Management Indicators for 2016/17

1.0 Introduction

In April 2012 the Council adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2011 Edition* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year.

In addition, the Welsh Government (WG) issued revised guidance on local authority investments in March 2010 that requires the Council to approve an investment strategy before the start of each financial year.

This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the WG Guidance.

The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk are central to the Council's treasury management strategy as the Council has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates.

2.0 Economic Context(including Interest Rate Forecast – as provided by Arlingclose Ltd, November 2015).

Economic background: Domestic demand has grown robustly, supported by sustained real income growth and a gradual decline in private sector savings. Low oil and commodity prices were a notable feature of 2015, and contributed to annual CPI inflation falling to 0.1% in November. Wages are growing at 2.4% a year, and the unemployment rate has dropped to 5.2%. Mortgage approvals have risen to over 70,000 a month and annual house price growth is around 4.5%. These factors have boosted consumer confidence, helping to underpin retail spending and hence GDP growth, which was 2.1% a year in the third quarter of 2015. Although speeches by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) members sent signals that some were willing to countenance higher interest rates, the MPC held policy rates at 0.5% for the 82nd consecutive month at its meeting in December 2015. Quantitative easing (QE) has been maintained at £375bn since July 2012.

The outcome of the UK general election, which was largely fought over the parties' approach to dealing with the deficit in the public finances, saw some big shifts in the political landscape and put the key issue of the UK's relationship with the EU at the heart of future politics. Uncertainty over the outcome of the forthcoming referendum could put downward pressure on UK GDP growth and interest rates.

China's growth has slowed and its economy is performing below expectations, reducing global demand for commodities and contributing to emerging market weakness. Financial markets have reacted extremely negatively on concerns that the Chinese slowdown will present a significant drag on global growth. US domestic growth has accelerated but the globally sensitive sectors of the US economy have slowed. Strong US labour market data and other economic indicators suggested recent global turbulence has not knocked the American recovery off course, although activity has weakened a little. The Federal Reserve raised policy rates at its meeting in December as expected, but accompanying statements suggested that the tightening cycle will be gradual and very much data dependent. In contrast, the European Central Bank finally embarked on QE in 2015 to counter the perils of deflation and undertook further monetary easing late in the year.

Credit outlook: The varying fortunes of different parts of the global economy are reflected in market indicators of credit risk. UK Banks operating in the Far East and parts of mainland Europe have seen their perceived risk increase, while those with a more domestic focus continue to show improvement. The sale of most of the government's stake in Lloyds and the first sale of its shares in RBS have generally been seen as credit positive.

Bail-in legislation, which ensures that large investors including local authorities will rescue failing banks instead of taxpayers in the future, has now been fully implemented in the UK, USA and Germany. The rest of the European Union will follow suit in January 2016, while Australia, Canada and Switzerland are well advanced with their own plans. Meanwhile, changes to the UK Financial Services Compensation Scheme and similar European schemes in July 2015 mean that most private sector investors are now partially or fully exempt from contributing to a bail-in. The credit risk associated with making unsecured bank deposits has therefore increased relative to the risk of other investment options available to the Authority; returns from cash deposits however remain stubbornly low.

Interest rate forecast: The Authority's treasury advisor Arlingclose projects the first 0.25% increase in UK Bank Rate in the third quarter of 2016, rising by 0.5% a year thereafter, finally settling between 2% and 3% in several years' time. Persistently low inflation, subdued global growth and potential concerns over the UK's position in Europe mean that the risks to this forecast are weighted towards the downside.

A shallow upward path for medium term gilt yields is forecast, as continuing concerns about the Eurozone, emerging markets and other geo-political events weigh on risk appetite, while inflation expectations remain subdued. Arlingclose projects the 10 year gilt yield to rise from its current 1.8% level by around 0.3% a year. The uncertainties surrounding the timing of UK and US interest rate rises are likely to prompt short-term volatility in gilt yields.

Table 1: Interest rate forecast

	Bank Rate	3 month LIBID	12 month LIBID	20 year Gilt rate	50 year Gilt rate
Q1 2016	0.50	0.60	1.20	2.50	2.50
Q2 2016	0.50	0.70	1.35	2.55	2.55
Q3 2016	0.75	0.80	1.45	2.55	2.60
Q4 2016	0.75	0.95	1.55	2.60	2.65
Q1 2017	1.00	1.05	1.70	2.65	2.70
Q2 2017	1.00	1.15	1.80	2.70	2.75
Q3 2017	1.25	1.30	1.95	2.75	2.80
Q4 2017	1.25	1.40	2.00	2.80	2.85
Q1 2018	1.50	1.55	2.10	2.85	2.90
Q2 2018	1.50	1.65	2.15	2.90	2.95
Q3 2018	1.75	1.80	2.15	2.95	3.00
Q4 2018	1.75	1.85	2.15	2.95	3.00

of setting the budget, it has been assumed that new investments will be made at an average rate of 0.65%, and that new long-term loans will be borrowed at a weighted average rate of 3.35%.

3.0 Current Treasury Portfolio

The Council's treasury portfolio as at 31st December 2015 was as follows:

Table 2: Current Treasury Portfolio

	Principal £m	Interest rate %
Investments:		
Call accounts	-	-
Money market funds	10.0	0.46
Short-term deposits	29.0	0.56
Long-term deposits	-	-
Total Investments	39.0	0.54
Borrowing:		
Short-term loans	-	-
Long-term PWLB loans (fixed)	222.36	5.26
Long-term PWLB loans (variable)	10.00	0.65
Long-term market loans (LOBOs)	18.95	4.53
Total Borrowing	251.31	5.02
Net Borrowing	212.31	

4.0 Local Context

Forecast changes in the sums in section 3 are shown in the balance sheet analysis in the table below.

Table 3: Balance Sheet Summary and Forecast

	31.3.15 Actual £m	31.3.16 Estimate £m	31.3.17 Estimate £m	31.3.18 Estimate £m	31.3.19 Estimate £m
Council Fund Capital Financing Requirement (Borrowing only)	159	174	181	183	185
Housing Revenue Account Capital Financing Requirement (Borrowing only)	24	108	116	128	135
Capital Financing Requirement (Borrowing only)	183	282	297	311	320
Less: Current borrowing	-172	-251	-251	-250	-250
Funding Required	11	31	46	61	70
Less: Usable reserves	-54	-35	-25	-18	-18
Less: Working capital	-4	-4	-4	-3	-3
Investments / New borrowing (called the Liability Benchmark)	47	8	-17	-40	-49

The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. The Authority's current strategy is to maintain borrowing below the CFR, sometimes known as internal borrowing. Internal borrowing is currently cheaper and incurs lower credit risk than external long term borrowing.

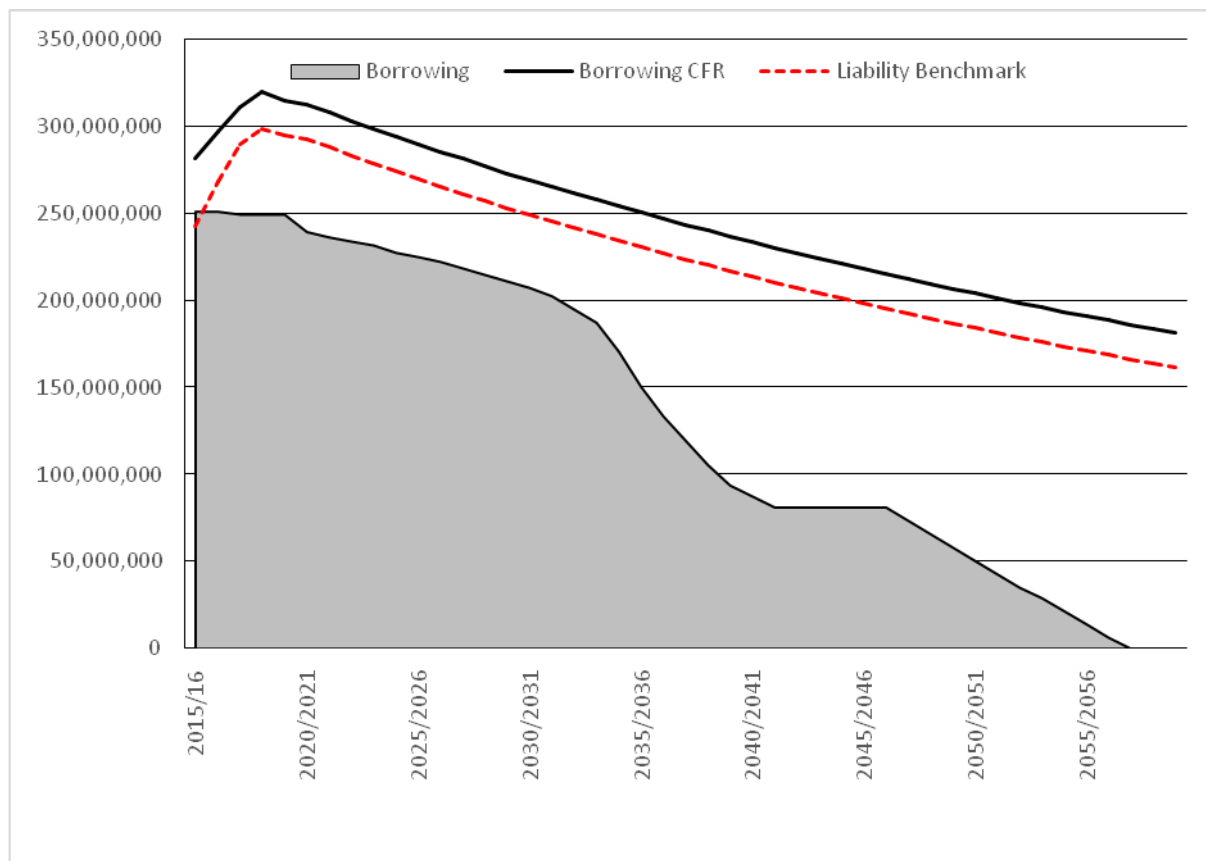
Table 3 shows the Authority's CFR increases sharply in 2015/16, this is linked with the capital programme due to the 21st century schools building programme and the capital payment required to exit the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Subsidy system and introduce Self Financing for the HRA. The level of reserves the Authority has is expected to fall in 2015/16 as funding earmarked for specific purposes falls due for payment. The combination of the increase in capital expenditure and a reduction in reserves, results in:

- a reduction in investments in 2015/16 with further reductions expected in 2016/17,
- a sustained requirement for new borrowing between 2016/17 and 2018/19, possibly required in 2016/17 but more certainly in 2017/18.

The graph in table 4 shows the Council's anticipated liability benchmark over the next 50 years, being the net requirement for borrowing after considering resources available from reserves and working capital. The steep rise in the liability benchmark in 2015/16 corresponds with the need to borrow to fund

the increase in capital expenditure described above. The strategy in 2016/17 and over the medium term is to ensure that any new borrowing undertaken does not exceed the liability benchmark and cause the council to borrow more than it needs.

Table 4: Liability Benchmark - Flintshire County Council (January 2016)



The impact of the above will result in the focus of treasury management activity changing. In recent years attention will have been concentrated on investments, which will now switch to borrowing.

Budget implications

The budget for investment income in 2016/17 is £65k, based on an average investment portfolio of £10m at an average interest rate of 0.65%. The total budget for loan interest paid in 2016/17 is £12.9m, based on a debt portfolio of £268.3m at an average interest rate of 4.68%. If levels of investments, borrowing and interest rates differ from those forecast, performance against budget will be correspondingly different.

5.0 Investment Strategy

The Council holds surplus funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. In the past 12 months, the Council's investment balance has ranged between £42.7 and £70.9 million.

Both the CIPFA Code and the WG Guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

Strategy

Given the increasing risk and continued low returns from short-term unsecured bank investments, the Authority aims to further diversify into more secure asset classes during 2016/17. This is especially the case for any longer-term investment made. The majority of the Authorities surplus cash is currently invested in short-term unsecured bank deposits and money market funds. This diversification will therefore represent a change in strategy over the coming year.

Investment criteria and limits

The Council may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparties in the following table, subject to the monetary and time limits shown.

Table 5: Investment criteria and limits

(This table should be read in conjunction with the notes that follow it)

Minimum Credit Rating	Banks Unsecured	Banks Secured	Government	Corporates	Registered Providers
UK Government			£ Unlimited 50 years		
AAA	£4m 5 years	£7m 5 years	£7m 25 years	£4m 5 years	£4m 10 years
AA+					
AA	£4m 4 years	£7m 4 years	£7m 15 years	£4m 4 years	
AA-	£4m 3 years	£7m 3 years	£7m 10 years	£4m 3 years	
A+	£4m 2 years	£7m 2 years	£7m 5 years	£4m 2 years	£4m 5 years
A	£4m 1 year	£7m 1 year		£4m 1 year	
A-	£4m 6 months	£7m 6 months		£4m 6 months	
Pooled Funds	£7m per fund				
BBB-	The Council is restricted to overnight deposits at its' own current account bank with a limit of £5m where the banks lowest credit rating is BBB+, BBB or BBB- (or equivalent)				
Unrated Local Authorities			£4m 2 years		
UnratedOther	The Council may invest in any other unrated organisation, subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an external credit assessment and specific advice from the Authority's treasury management adviser (£1m each / 1 year limit) • a further policy framework for investing with any other organisations being developed (£100k each / 5 year limit) 				

Credit Rating

Investment decisions are made by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from Fitch, Moody's or Standard & Poor's. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used.

Banks Unsecured

Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail. Unsecured investment with banks rated BBB+, BBB or BBB- are restricted to overnight deposits at the Authority's current account bank.

Banks Secured

Covered bonds, reverse repurchase agreements and other collateralised arrangements with banks and building societies. These investments are secured on the bank's assets, which limits the potential losses in the unlikely event of insolvency, and means that they are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the highest of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used to determine cash and time limits. The combined secured and unsecured investments in any one bank will not exceed the cash limit for secured investments.

Government

Loans, bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is an insignificant risk of insolvency. Investments with the UK Central Government may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 50 years.

Corporates

Loans, bonds and commercial papers issued by companies other than banks and registered providers. These investments are not subject to bail-in, but are exposed to the risk of the company going insolvent. Loans to unrated companies will only be made as part of a diversified pool in order to spread the risk widely.

Registered Providers

Loans and bonds issued by, guaranteed by or secured on the assets of Registered Providers of Social Housing, formerly known as Housing Associations. These bodies are tightly regulated by the Welsh Government or Homes and Communities Agency and, as providers of public services, they retain a high likelihood of receiving government support if needed. The Council will consider investing with unrated Registered Providers with adequate credit safeguards, subject to receiving independent advice.

Pooled Funds

Shares in diversified investment vehicles consisting of the any of the above investment types, plus equity shares and property. These funds have the advantage of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a fee. Short-term Money Market Funds that offer same-day liquidity and very low or no volatility will be used as an alternative to instant access bank accounts, while pooled funds whose value changes with market prices and/or have a notice period will be used for longer investment periods.

Bond, equity and property funds offer enhanced returns over the longer term, but are more volatile in the short term. These allow the Authority to diversify into asset classes other than cash without the need to own and manage the underlying investments. Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Authority's investment objectives will be monitored regularly.

Other Organisations

The Authority may also invest cash with other organisations, for example by making loans to small businesses. Because of the higher perceived risk of unrated businesses, such investments may provide considerably higher rates of return. They will however only be made following a favourable external credit assessment and on the specific advice of the Authority's treasury management adviser.

Foreign countries

Investments in foreign countries will be limited to those that hold an AAA or AA+ / Aa1 sovereign credit rating from all three major credit rating agencies, and to a maximum of £10 million per foreign country. Investments in countries whose lowest sovereign rating is not AAA will be limited to one year's duration. No country limit will apply to investments in the UK, irrespective of the sovereign credit rating.

Risk assessment and credit ratings

The Council uses long-term credit ratings from the three main rating agencies Fitch Ratings Ltd, Moody's Investors Service Inc and Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC to assess the risk of investment default. The lowest available credit rating will be used to determine credit quality.

Long-term ratings are expressed on a scale from AAA (the highest quality) through to D (indicating default). Ratings of BBB- and above are described as investment grade, while ratings of BB+ and below are described as speculative grade. The Council's credit rating criteria are set to ensure that it is unlikely that the Council will hold speculative grade investments, despite the possibility of repeated downgrades.

Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Council's treasury advisers, who will notify changes in ratings as they occur. Where an entity has its credit

rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:

- no new investments will be made,
- any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be, and
- full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty.

Where a credit rating agency announces that a rating is on review for possible downgrade (also known as “rating watch negative” or “credit watch negative”) so that it is likely to fall below the above criteria, then no further investments will be made in that organisation until the outcome of the review is announced. This policy will not apply to negative outlooks.

Other information on the security of investments

The Council understands that credit ratings are good, but not perfect, predictors of investment default. Full regard will therefore be given to other available information on the credit quality of the organisations in which it invests, including credit default swap prices, financial statements and reports in the quality financial press. No investments will be made with an organisation if there are substantive doubts about its credit quality, even though it may meet the above criteria.

When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations, as in 2008 and 2011, this is not generally reflected in credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, the Council will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the required level of security. The extent of these restrictions will be in line with prevailing financial market conditions. If these restrictions mean that insufficient commercial organisations of “high credit quality” are available to invest the Council’s cash balances, then the surplus will be deposited with the UK Government, via the Debt Management Office for example, or with other local authorities. This will cause a reduction in the level of investment income earned, but will protect the principal sum invested.

Specified investments

The WG Guidance defines specified investments as those:

- denominated in pound sterling,
- due to be repaid within 12 months of arrangement,
- not defined as capital expenditure by legislation, and
- invested with one of:
 - the UK Government,
 - a UK local authority, parish council or community council, or
 - a body or investment scheme of “high credit quality”.

The Council defines ‘high credit quality’ organisations as those having a credit rating of A- or higher that are, domiciled in the UK, or a foreign country with a

sovereign rating of AA+ or higher. For money market funds and other pooled funds “high credit quality” is defined as those having a credit rating of [A-] or higher.

Non-Specified Investments

Any investment not meeting the definition of a specified investment is classed as non-specified. The Council does not intend to make any investments in foreign currencies. Non-specified investments will therefore be limited to long term investments, i.e. those that are due to mature 12 months or longer from the date of arrangement; those that are defined as capital expenditure, such as money market funds and other pooled funds; and investments with bodies and schemes not meeting the definition on high credit quality. Limits on non-specified investments are shown in the table below.

Table 6: Non-Specified Investment Limits

	Cash Limit
Total long-term investments	£10m
Total shares in pooled funds	£30m
Total investments without credit ratings or rated below A- (not including pooled funds)	£10m
Total non-specified investments	£50m

Liquidity management

The Council uses purpose-built cash flow forecasting software to determine the maximum period for which funds may prudently be committed. The forecast is compiled on a prudent basis, with receipts under-estimated and payments over-estimated to minimise the risk of the Council being forced to borrow on unfavourable terms to meet its financial commitments. Limits on long-term investments are set by reference to the Council’s medium term financial plan and cash flow forecast.

Planned investment strategy for 2016/17

Treasury management staff will continue to seek out investments that meet the criteria detailed within this strategy whilst having full regard for the Council’s cash flow requirements.

The cash flow forecast will be used to divide surplus funds into three categories:

- Short-term – cash required to meet known cash outflows in the next month, plus a contingency to cover unexpected cash flows over the same period.
- Medium-term – cash required to manage the annual seasonal cash flow cycle, including amounts to cover forecast shortages, planned uses of reserves, and a longer-term contingency.

- Long-term – cash not required to meet cash flows, and used primarily to generate investment income.

Short-term funds are required to meet cash flows occurring in the next month or so, and the preservation of capital and liquidity is therefore of paramount importance. Generating investment returns is of limited concern here, although it should not be ignored. Instant access money market funds and bank deposit accounts will be the main methods used to manage short-term cash.

Medium-term funds which may be required in the next one to twelve months will be managed concentrating on security, with less importance attached to liquidity but a slightly higher emphasis on yield. The majority of investments in this period will be in the form of fixed term deposits with banks and building societies. A wide spread of counterparties and maturity dates will be maintained to maximise the diversification of credit and interest rate risks.

Cash that is not required to meet any liquidity need can be invested for the longer term with a greater emphasis on achieving returns that will support spending on local authority services. Security remains important, as any losses from defaults will impact on the total return, but fluctuations in price and even occasional losses can be managed over the long term within a diversified portfolio. Liquidity is of lesser concern, although it should still be possible to sell investments, with due notice, if large spending commitments arise unexpectedly. A wider range of instruments, including structured deposits, certificates of deposit, gilts and corporate bonds will be used to diversify the portfolio.

6.0 Borrowing Strategy

The Council currently holds £251.31m of long-term loans, as part of its strategy for funding previous years' capital programmes and HRA buy-out. The balance sheet forecast in section 4 shows that the Council may need to undertake new long term borrowing during 2016/17.

The Council's chief objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which the funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Council's long-term plans change is a secondary objective.

The Council's capital expenditure plans will be monitored throughout 2016/17 to inform and confirm the Council's long term borrowing need (figures in section 4 are an estimate). This is to ensure that the Council does not commit to long term borrowing too early and borrow unnecessarily which will be costly. The use of short-term borrowing will assist with such. This will be balanced against securing low long term interest rates currently being forecast.

Given the significant cuts to public expenditure and in particular to local government funding, the Council's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of

the debt portfolio. With short-term interest rates currently much lower than long-term rates, it is likely to be more cost effective in the short-term to either use internal resources, or to borrow short-term instead. By doing so, the Council is able to reduce net borrowing costs (despite forgone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk. Credit risk as a result of the bail-in legislation has increased as referred to in section 5, the planned borrowing strategy helps to mitigate the increased risk.

Whilst such a strategy is most likely to be beneficial over the next 2-3 years as official interest rates remain low, it is unlikely to be sustained in the medium-term. The benefits of internal borrowing will be monitored regularly against the potential for incurring additional costs by deferring borrowing into future years when long-term borrowing costs are forecast to rise. Arlingclose will assist the Council with this 'cost of carry' and breakeven analysis.

Alternatively, the Authority may arrange forward starting loans during 2016/17, where the interest rate is fixed in advance, but the cash is received in later years. This would enable certainty of cost to be achieved without suffering a cost of carry in the intervening period.

In addition, the Council may borrow for short periods of time (normally for up to one month) to cover unexpected cash flow shortages.

Sources of borrowing

The approved sources of long-term and short-term borrowing will be:

- Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) and any successor body
- UK local authorities
- any institution approved for investments above
- any other bank or building society authorised to operate in the UK
- UK public and private sector pension funds (except the Clwyd Pension Fund)
- capital market bond investors
- Local Capital Finance Company and other special purpose companies created to enable joint local authority bond issues.

In addition, capital finance may be raised by the following methods that are not borrowing, but may be classed as other debt liabilities:

- operating and finance leases
- hire purchase
- Private Finance Initiative
- sale and leaseback

LGA Bond Agency (Municipal Bond Agency)

The LGA Bond Agency is a Local Capital Finance Company established in 2014 by the Local Government Association as an alternative to the PWLB. It plans to issue bonds on the capital markets and lend the proceeds to local authorities.

This will be a more complicated source of finance than the PWLB for three reasons: borrowing authorities may be required to provide bond investors with a joint and several guarantee over the very small risk that other local authority borrowers default on their loans; there will be a lead time of several months between committing to borrow and knowing the interest rate payable; and up to 5% of the loan proceeds will be withheld from the Authority and used to bolster the Agency's capital strength instead. Any decision to borrow from the Agency will therefore be the subject of a separate report to Cabinet.

LOBOs

The Authority holds £18.95m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate as set dates, following which the Authority has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. All of these LOBOS have options during 2016/17, and although the Authority understands that lenders are unlikely to exercise their options in the current low interest rate environment, there remains an element of refinancing risk. The Authority will take the option to repay LOBO loans at no cost if it has the opportunity to do so.

Short-term and Variable Rate loans

These loans leave the Authority exposed to the risk of short-term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the limit on the net exposure to variable interest rates in the treasury management indicators in section 9.

Debt Rescheduling

The PWLB allows authorities to repay loans before maturity and either pay a premium or receive a discount according to a set formula based on current interest rates. Other lenders may also be prepared to negotiate premature redemption terms. The Authority may take advantage of this and replace some loans with new loans, or repay loans without replacement, where this is expected to lead to an overall cost saving or a reduction in risk.

Planned borrowing strategy for 2016/17

The Corporate Finance Manager will:

- Manage the Council's debt maturity profile, i.e. to leave no one future year with a high level of repayments that could cause problems in re-borrowing with the limits stated in this Strategy Statement. Appendix A analyses the debt portfolio of the Council, as at 31st December, 2015.
- Effect any borrowing that maybe required in 2016/17 at the cheapest cost commensurate with future risk based on interest rate forecasts.
- Monitor and review the level of variable interest rate loans in order to take greater advantage of interest rate movements, within the limits stated in this Strategy.

- Continue to monitor options for debt-restructuring and debt re-payment.

The Corporate Finance Manager will monitor the interest rate market and adopt a pragmatic approach to any changing circumstances, reporting any decisions and actions taken under delegated powers to Cabinet via the Audit Committee.

The Council has previously raised the majority of its long-term borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board, but it continues to investigate other sources of finance, such as bond issues and bank loans, that may be available at more favourable rates.

Loans that present additional risk to the authority, such as lender's option borrower's option (LOBO) loans and variable rate loans will be restricted to the limit on the net exposure to variable interest rates in the treasury management indicators in section 9.

7.0 Policy on Use of Financial Derivatives

In the absence of any legal power to do so, the Authority will not use standalone financial derivatives (such as swaps, forwards, futures and options). Derivatives embedded into loans and investments, including pooled funds and forward starting transactions, may be used, and the risks that they present will be managed in line with the overall treasury risk management strategy.

8.0 Treasury Management Indicators

The Council measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators. The Council is asked to approve the following indicators:

Interest rate exposures

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on fixed and variable rate interest rate exposures, expressed as an amount of net principal borrowed will be:

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Upper limit on fixed interest rate exposures	£325m	£350m	£360m
Upper limit on variable interest rate exposures	£60m	£60m	£60m

Fixed rate investments and borrowings are those where the rate of interest is fixed for at least 12 months, measured from the start of the financial year or the transaction date if later. All other instruments are classed as variable rate.

Maturity structure of borrowing

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing will be:

	Lower	Upper
Under 12 months	0%	10%
12 months and within 24 months	0%	10%
24 months and within five years	0%	30%
Five years and within 10 years	0%	50%
10 years and above	0%	100%

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

Principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days

The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the long term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end will be:

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Limit on total principal invested beyond year end	£10m	£10m	£10m

Any long term investments carried forward from previous years will be included in each years limit.

Borrowing limits

The Council is being asked to approve these Prudential Indicators as part of the Capital Programme report. However they are repeated here for completeness.

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Operational boundary – borrowing	£270m	£295m	£305m
Operational boundary – other long-term liabilities	£10m	£10m	£10m
Operational boundary – TOTAL	£280m	£305m	£315m
Authorised limit – borrowing	£300m	£325m	£335m
Authorised limit – other long-term liabilities	£25m	£25m	£25m
Authorised limit – TOTAL	£325m	£350m	£360m

9.0 Other Matters

The WG Investment Guidance requires the Council to note the following three matters each year as part of the investment strategy:

Treasury Management Advisers

The Council's treasury management adviser, Arlingclose continues to provide advice and information on the Council's investment and borrowing activities, although responsibility for final decision making remains with the Council and its officers. The services received include:

- advice and guidance on relevant policies, strategies and reports,
- advice on investment decisions,
- notification of credit ratings and changes,
- other information on credit quality,
- advice on debt management decisions,
- accounting advice,
- reports on treasury performance,
- forecasts of interest rates, and
- training courses.

The quality of this service is controlled by Financial Procedure Rules
Investment training

The needs of the Council's treasury management staff for training in investment management are assessed as part of the staff appraisal process, and additionally when the responsibilities of individual members of staff change.

Staff regularly attend training courses, seminars and conferences provided by Arlingclose and CIPFA. Relevant staff are also encouraged to study professional qualifications from CIPFA and other appropriate organisations.

Investment of Money Borrowed in Advance of Need

The Authority may, from time to time, borrow in advance of need, where this is expected to provide the best long term value for money. Since amounts borrowed will be invested until spent, the Authority is aware that it will be exposed to the risk of loss of the borrowed sums, and the risk that investment and borrowing interest rates may change in the intervening period. These risks will be managed as part of the Authority's overall management of its treasury risks.

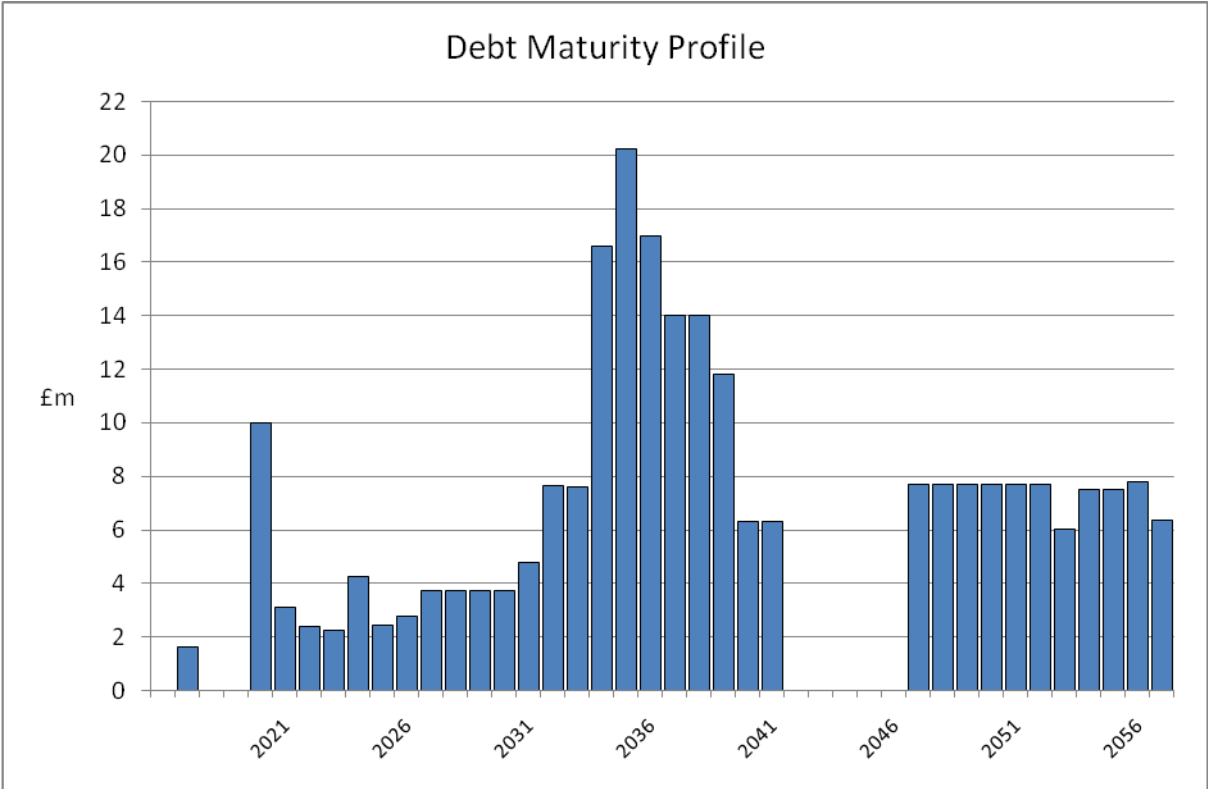
The total amount borrowed will not exceed the authorised borrowing limit of £360 million. The maximum period between borrowing and expenditure is expected to be two years, although the Authority is not required to link particular loans with particular items of expenditure.

Other Options Considered

The WG Investment Guidance and the CIPFA Code of Practice do not prescribe any particular treasury management strategy for local authorities to adopt. The Corporate Finance Manager, believes that the above strategy represents an appropriate balance between risk management and cost effectiveness. Some alternative strategies, with their financial and risk management implications, are listed in the following table.

Alternative	Impact on income and expenditure	Impact on risk management
Invest in a narrower range of counterparties and/or for shorter periods.	Interest income will be lower	Reduced risk of losses from credit related defaults
Invest in a wider range of counterparties and/or for longer periods.	Interest income will be higher	Increased risk of losses from credit related defaults
Borrow additional sums at long-term fixed interest rates	Debt interest costs will rise; this is unlikely to be offset by higher investment income	Higher investment balance leading to a higher impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs will be more certain
Borrow short-term or variable loans instead of long-term fixed rates	Debt interest costs will initially be lower	Increases in debt interest costs will be broadly offset by rising investment income in the medium term, but long term costs will be less certain
Reduce level of borrowing if debt rescheduling costs weren't prohibitive	Saving on debt interest is likely to exceed lost investment income	Reduced investment balance leading to a lower impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs will be less certain

APPENDIX A – DEBT MATURITY PROFILE



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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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**TREASURY MANAGEMENT
POLICY STATEMENT**

2016 - 2019

1.0 TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT

The Council defines the policies and objectives of its treasury management activities as follows: -

- 1.1 "The management of the authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks".
- 1.2 The Council regards the successful identification, monitoring and control of risk to be the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of its treasury management activities will be measured. Accordingly, the analysis and reporting of treasury management activities will focus on their risk implications for the Council, and any financial instruments entered into to manage these risks.
- 1.3 The Council acknowledges that effective treasury management will provide support towards the achievement of its business and service objectives. It is therefore committed to the principles of achieving value for money in treasury management, and to employing suitable comprehensive performance measurement techniques, within the context of effective risk management.
- 1.4 The Council greatly values revenue budget stability and will therefore borrow the majority of its long-term funding needs at long-term fixed rates of interest. Short-term and variable rate loans will only be borrowed to the extent that they either offset short-term and variable rate investments or can be shown to produce revenue savings.
- 1.5 The Council will set an affordable borrowing limit each year in compliance with the *Local Government Act 2003*, and will have regard to the *CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities* when setting that limit. It will also set limits on its exposure to changes to interest rates and limits on the maturity structure of its borrowing in the treasury management strategy report each year.
- 1.6 The Council's primary objectives for the investment of its surplus funds are to protect the principal sums invested from loss, and to ensure adequate liquidity so that funds are available for expenditure when needed. The generation of investment income to support the provision of local authority services is an important, but secondary, objective.
- 1.7 The Council will have regard to Welsh Government Guidance on Local Government Investments and will approve an investment strategy each year as part of the treasury management strategy. The strategy will set criteria to determine suitable organisations in which cash may be invested, limits on the maximum duration of such investments and limits on the amount of cash that may be invested with any one organisation.
- 1.8 The Council has adopted the 2011 edition of the Chartered Institute of Public

Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in Public Services: Code of Practice and has included the Code's required clauses in its Financial Procedure Rules.

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TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

DRAFT

Part 1: Main Principles

2016 - 2019

Flintshire County Council

Treasury Management Practices 2016 - 2019

TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) set out the manner in which this organisation will seek to achieve its treasury management policies and objectives and how it will manage and control those activities.

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TMP1 TREASURY RISK MANAGEMENT

The Chief Finance Officer will design, implement and monitor all arrangements for the identification, management and control of treasury management risk, will report at least annually on the adequacy/suitability thereof, and will report, as a matter of urgency, the circumstances of any actual or likely difficulty in achieving the Council's objectives in this respect, all in accordance with the procedures set out in TMP6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements.

In respect of each of the following risks, the arrangements which seek to ensure compliance with these objectives are set out in the schedule to this document.

[1] Credit and counterparty risk management

The Council regards a key objective of its treasury management activities to be the security of the principal sums it invests. Accordingly, it will ensure that its counterparty lists and limits reflect a prudent attitude towards organisations with whom funds may be deposited, and will limit its investment activities to the instruments, methods and techniques referred to in TMP4 Approved Instruments, methods and techniques and listed in the schedule to this document. It also recognises the need to have, and will therefore maintain, a formal counterparty policy in respect of those organisations from which it may borrow, or with whom it may enter into other financing or derivative arrangements.

[2] Liquidity risk management

The Council will ensure it has adequate though not excessive cash resources, borrowing arrangements, overdraft or standby facilities to enable it at all times to have the level of funds available to it which are necessary for the achievement of its business/service objectives.

The Council will only borrow in advance of need where there is a clear business case for doing so and will only do so for the current capital programme or to finance future debt maturities.

[3] Interest rate risk management

The Council will manage its exposure to fluctuations in interest rates with a view to containing its interest costs, or securing its interest revenues, in accordance with the amounts provided in its budgetary arrangements as amended in accordance with TMP6 Reporting requirement and management information arrangements.

It will achieve this by the prudent use of its approved instruments, methods and techniques, primarily to create stability and certainty of costs and revenues, but at the same time retaining a sufficient degree of flexibility to take advantage of unexpected, potentially advantageous changes in the level or structure of interest rates. This should be subject at all times to the consideration and, if required, approval of any policy or budgetary implications.

It will ensure that any hedging tools such as derivatives are only used for the

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management of risk and the prudent management of financial affairs and that the policy for the use of derivatives is clearly detailed in the annual strategy.

[4] Exchange rate risk management

The Council will manage its exposure to fluctuations in exchange rates so as to minimise any detrimental impact on its budgeted income/expenditure levels.

[5] Refinancing risk management

The Council will ensure that its borrowing, private financing and partnership arrangements are negotiated, structured and documented, and the maturity profile of the monies so raised are managed, with a view to obtaining offer terms for renewal or refinancing, if required, which are competitive and as favourable to the organisation as can reasonably be achieved in the light of market conditions prevailing at the time.

It will actively manage its relationships with its counterparties in these transactions in such a manner as to secure this objective, and will avoid over-reliance on any one source of funding if this might jeopardise achievement of the above.

[6] Legal and regulatory risk management

The Council will ensure that all of its treasury management activities comply with its statutory powers and regulatory requirements. It will demonstrate such compliance, if required to do so, to all parties with whom it deals in such activities. In framing its credit and counterparty policy under TMP1.1 credit and counterparty risk management, it will ensure that there is evidence of counterparties' powers, authority and compliance in respect of the transactions they may effect with the organisation, particularly with regard to duty of care and fees charged.

The Council recognises that future legislative or regulatory changes may impact on its treasury management activities and, so far as it is reasonably able to do so, will seek to minimise the risk of these impacting adversely on the organisation.

[7] Fraud, error and corruption, and contingency management

The Council will ensure that it has identified the circumstances which may expose it to the risk of loss through fraud, error, corruption or other eventualities in its treasury management dealings. Accordingly, it will employ suitable systems and procedures, and will maintain effective contingency management arrangements, to these ends.

[8] Market risk management

The Council will seek to ensure that its stated treasury management policies and objectives will not be compromised by adverse market fluctuations in the value of the principal sums it invests, and will accordingly seek to protect itself from the effects of such fluctuations.

TMP2 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

The Council is committed to the pursuit of value for money in its treasury management activities, and to the use of performance methodology in support of that aim, within the framework set out in its Treasury Management Policy Statement.

Accordingly, the treasury management function will be the subject of ongoing analysis of the value it adds in support of the Council's stated business or service objectives. It will be the subject of regular examination of alternative methods of service delivery, of the availability of fiscal or other grant or subsidy incentives, and of the scope for other potential improvements. The performance of the treasury management function will be measured using the criteria set out in the schedule to this document.

TMP3 DECISION-MAKING AND ANALYSIS

The Council will maintain full records of its treasury management decisions, and of the processes and practices applied in reaching those decisions, both for the purposes of learning from the past, and for demonstrating that reasonable steps were taken to ensure that all issues relevant to those decisions were taken into account at the time. The issues to be addressed and processes and practices to be pursued in reaching decisions are detailed in the schedule to this document.

TMP4 APPROVED INSTRUMENTS, METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

The Council will undertake its treasury management activities by employing only those instruments, methods and techniques detailed in the schedule to this document (including TMP6), and within the limits and parameters defined in TMP1, Risk management.

Where the Council intends to use derivative instruments for the management of risks, these will be limited to those set out in its annual treasury strategy. The Council will seek proper advice (to include that of its Treasury Management advisors) and will consider that advice when entering into arrangements to use such products to ensure that it fully understands those products.

TMP5 ORGANISATION, CLARITY AND SEGREGATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES, AND DEALING ARRANGEMENTS

The Council considers it essential, for the purposes of the effective control and monitoring of its treasury management activities, and for the reduction of the risk of fraud or error, and for the pursuit of optimum performance, that these activities are structured and managed in a fully integrated manner, and that there is at all times a clarity of treasury management responsibilities.

The principle on which this will be based is a clear distinction between those charged with setting treasury management policies and those charged with implementing and controlling these policies, particularly with regard to the execution and transmission of

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funds, the recording and administering of treasury management decisions, and the audit and review of the treasury management function.

If and when the Council is required, as a result of lack of resources or other circumstances, to depart from these principles, the Chief Finance Officer will ensure that the reasons are properly reported in accordance with TMP6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements, and the implications properly considered and evaluated.

The Chief Finance Officer will ensure that there are clear written statements of the responsibilities for each post engaged in treasury management, and the arrangement for absence cover. The Chief Finance Officer will also ensure that at all times those engaged in treasury management will follow the policies and procedures set out. The present arrangements are detailed in the schedule to this document.

The Chief Finance Officer will ensure there is proper documentation for all deals and transactions, and that procedures exist for the effective transmission of funds. The present arrangements are detailed in the schedule to this document.

The delegations to the Chief Finance Officer in respect of treasury management are set out in the schedule to this document. The Chief Finance Officer will fulfil all such responsibilities in accordance with the Council's policy statement and TMPs and, if a CIPFA member, the Standard of Professional Practice on treasury management.

TMP6 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION ARRANGEMENTS

The Council will ensure that regular reports are prepared and considered on the implementation of its treasury management policies; on the effects of decisions taken and the transactions executed in pursuit of those policies; on the implications of changes, particularly budgetary, resulting from regulatory, economic, market or other factors affecting its treasury management activities; and on the performance of the treasury management function.

As a minimum:

The County Council will receive:

- An annual report on the strategy and plan to be pursued in the coming year
- A mid-year review
- An annual report on the performance of the treasury management function, on the effects of the decisions taken and the transactions executed in the past year, and on any circumstances of non-compliance with the organisation's Treasury Management Policy Statement and TMPs.

In addition to the above, the Audit Committee will receive regular monitoring reports on treasury management activities and risks. Audit Committee will also have responsibility for the scrutiny of treasury management policies and practices.

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Treasury Management Indicators will be reported in the Strategy. The present arrangements and the form of these reports are detailed in the schedule to this document.

TMP7 BUDGETING, ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS

The Chief Finance Officer will prepare, and the Council will approve and, if necessary, from time to time amend, an annual budget for treasury management, which will bring together all of the costs involved in running the treasury management function, together with associated income. The matters to be included in the budget will at minimum be those required by statute or regulation, together with such information as will demonstrate compliance with TMP1 Risk management, TMP2 Performance Measurement, and TMP4 Approved instruments, methods and techniques. The Chief Finance Officer will exercise effective controls over this budget, and will report upon and recommend any changes required in accordance with TMP6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements.

The Council will account for its treasury management activities, for decisions made and transactions executed, in accordance with appropriate accounting practices and standards, and with statutory and regulatory requirements in force for the time being.

TMP8 CASH AND CASH FLOW MANAGEMENT

Unless statutory or regulatory requirements demand otherwise, all monies in the hands of this organisation will be under the control of the Chief Finance Officer, and will be aggregated for cash flow and investment management purposes. Cash flow projections will be prepared on a regular and timely basis, and the Chief Finance Officer will ensure that these are adequate for the purposes of monitoring compliance with TMP1 [1] liquidity risk management. The present arrangements for preparing cash flow projections, and their form, are set out in the schedule to this document.

TMP9 MONEY LAUNDERING

The Council is alert to the possibility that it may become the subject of an attempt to involve it in a transaction involving the laundering of money. Accordingly, it will maintain procedures for verifying and recording the identity of counterparties and reporting suspicions, and will ensure that staff involved in this are properly trained. The present arrangements, including the name of the officer to whom reports should be made, are detailed in the schedule to this document.

TMP10 STAFF TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Council recognises the importance of ensuring that all staff involved in the treasury management function are fully equipped to undertake the duties and responsibilities allocated to them. It will therefore seek to appoint individuals who are both capable and experienced and will provide training for staff to enable them to acquire and maintain an appropriate level of expertise, knowledge and skills. The Chief

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Finance Officer will recommend and implement the necessary arrangements.

The Chief Finance Officer will ensure that committee/council members tasked with treasury management responsibilities, including those responsible for scrutiny, have access to training relevant to their needs and those responsibilities.

Those charged with governance recognise their individual responsibility to ensure that they have the necessary skills to complete their role effectively.

The present arrangements are detailed in the schedule to this document.

TMP11 USE OF EXTERNAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

The Council recognises that responsibility for treasury management decisions remains with the organisation at all times. It recognises that there may be potential value in employing external providers of treasury management services, in order to acquire access to specialist skills and resources. When it employs such service providers, it will ensure it does so for reasons which have been submitted to a full evaluation of the costs and benefits. It will also ensure that the terms of their appointment and the methods by which their value will be assessed are properly agreed and documented, and subjected to regular review. And it will ensure, where feasible and necessary, that a spread of service providers is used, to avoid over reliance on one or a small number of companies. Where services are subject to formal tender or re-tender arrangements, legislative requirements will always be observed. The monitoring of such arrangements rests with the Chief Finance Officer, and details of the current arrangements are set out in the schedule to this document.

TMP12 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Council is committed to the pursuit of proper corporate governance throughout its businesses and services, and to establishing the principles and practices by which this can be achieved. Accordingly, the treasury management function and its activities will be undertaken with openness and transparency, honesty, integrity and accountability.

The Council has adopted and has implemented the key principles of the Code. This, together with the other arrangements detailed in the schedule to this document, are considered vital to the achievement of proper corporate governance in treasury management, and the Chief Finance Officer will monitor and, if and when necessary, report upon the effectiveness of these arrangements.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

DRAFT

Part 2: Schedules

2016 - 2019

Flintshire County Council

TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES - SCHEDULES

This section contains the schedules which set out the details of how the Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) are put into effect by this organisation.

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TMP1 RISK MANAGEMENT

1 Credit & Counterparty Policies

1. Criteria to be used for creating/managing approved counterparty lists/limits -
 - The Chief Finance Officer will formulate suitable criteria for assessing and monitoring the credit risk of investment counterparties and shall construct a lending list comprising time, type, sector and specific counterparty limits.
 - Treasury Management staff will add or delete counterparties to/from the approved counterparty list in line with the policy on criteria for selection of counterparties. The complete list is available in the Technical Accountancy Section. It should be noted that not all of these counterparties will be used. This depends on whether they are in the market at the time of investment and whether they are offering competitive rates.
 - The Council will use credit criteria in order to select creditworthy counterparties for placing investments.
 - Credit ratings will be used as supplied from Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poors credit rating agencies.
 - The minimum level of credit rating for an approved counterparty will be as follows: -

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Minimum Credit Rating	Banks Unsecured	Banks Secured	Government	Corporates	Registered Providers
UK Government			£ Unlimited 50 years		
AAA	£4m	£7m	£7m	£4m	£4m 10 years
AA+	5 years	5 years	25 years	5 years	
AA	£4m 4 years	£7m 4 years	£7m 15 years	£4m 4 years	
AA-	£4m 3 years	£7m 3 years	£7m 10 years	£4m 3 years	
A+	£4m 2 years	£7m 2 years	£7m 5 years	£4m 2 years	£4m 5 years
A	£4m 1 year	£7m 1 year		£4m 1 year	
A-	£4m 6 months	£7m 6 months		£4m 6 months	
Pooled Funds	£7m per fund				
BBB-	The Council is restricted to overnight deposits at its' own current account bank with a limit of £5m where the banks lowest credit rating is BBB+, BBB or BBB- (or equivalent)				
Unrated Local Authorities			£4m 2 years		
Unrated Other	The Council may invest in any other unrated organisation, subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an external credit assessment and specific advice from the Authority's treasury management adviser (£1m each / 1 year limit) • a further policy framework for investing with any other organisations being developed (£100k each / 5 year limit) 				

A definition of the ratings can be found in appendix A.

Banks Unsecured

Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail. Unsecured investment with banks rated BBB+, BBB or BBB- are restricted to overnight deposits at the Authority's current account bank.

Banks Secured

Covered bonds, reverse repurchase agreements and other collateralised arrangements with banks and building societies. These investments are secured on the bank's assets, which limits the potential losses in the unlikely event of insolvency, and means that they are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the highest of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used to determine cash and time limits. The combined secured and unsecured investments in any one bank will not exceed the cash limit for secured investments.

Government

Loans, bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is an insignificant risk of insolvency. Investments with the UK Central Government may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 50 years.

Corporates

Loans, bonds and commercial papers issued by companies other than banks and registered providers. These investments are not subject to bail-in, but are exposed to the risk of the company going insolvent. Loans to unrated companies will only be made as part of a diversified pool in order to spread the risk widely.

Registered Providers

Loans and bonds issued by, guaranteed by or secured on the assets of Registered Providers of Social Housing, formerly known as Housing Associations. These bodies are tightly regulated by the Welsh Government or Homes and Communities Agency and, as providers of public services, they retain a high likelihood of receiving government support if needed. The Council will consider investing with unrated Registered Providers with adequate credit safeguards, subject to receiving independent advice.

Pooled Funds

Shares in diversified investment vehicles consisting of any of the above investment types, plus equity shares and property. These funds have the advantage of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a fee. Money Market Funds that offer same-day liquidity and aim for a constant net asset value will be used as an alternative to instant access bank accounts, while pooled funds whose value changes with market prices and/or have a notice period will be used for longer investment periods.

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Bond, equity and property funds offer enhanced returns over the longer term, but are more volatile in the short term. These allow the Authority to diversify into asset classes other than cash without the need to own and manage the underlying investments. Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Authority's investment objectives will be monitored regularly.

Other Organisations

The Authority may also invest cash with other organisations, for example by making loans to small businesses. Because of the higher perceived risk of unrated businesses, such investments may provide considerably higher rates of return. They will however only be made following a favourable external credit assessment and on the specific advice of the Authority's treasury management adviser.

Foreign countries

Investments in foreign countries will be limited to those that hold an AAA or AA+ / Aa1 sovereign credit rating from all three major credit rating agencies, and to a maximum of £10 million per foreign country. Investments in countries whose lowest sovereign rating is not AAA will be limited to one year's duration. No country limit will apply to investments in the UK, irrespective of the sovereign credit rating.

Non-Specified Investments

Any investment not meeting the definition of a specified investment is classed as non-specified. The Council does not intend to make any investments in foreign currencies. Non-specified investments will therefore be limited to long term investments, i.e. those that are due to mature 12 months or longer from the date of arrangement; those that are defined as capital expenditure, such as money market funds and other pooled funds; and investments with bodies and schemes not meeting the definition on high credit quality. Limits on non-specified investments are shown in the table below.

Non-Specified Investment Limits

	Cash Limit
Total long-term investments	£10m
Total shares in pooled funds	£30m
Total investments without credit ratings or rated below A- (not including pooled funds)	£10m
Total non-specified investments	£50m

2. Approved methodology for changing limits and adding/removing counterparties

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Credit ratings for individual counterparties can change at any time. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for applying the stated credit rating criteria in 1.1 for selecting approved counterparties, and will add or delete counterparties as appropriate to / from the approved counterparty list when there is a change in the credit ratings of individual counterparties or in banking structures e.g. on mergers or take-overs. The Chief Finance Officer will also adjust lending limits and periods when there is a change in the credit ratings of individual counterparties or in banking structures e.g. on mergers or take-overs in accordance with the criteria in 1.1.

3. Details of Credit Rating Agencies' services or other services which provide current credit ratings and updates on changes.
 - Ratings from the three agencies are updated monthly by the Council's treasury management adviser; however, they will provide immediate notification of any changes which affect Flintshire County Council counterparties. If a counterparty no longer meets the investment criteria, no further investments will be made with that counterparty and consideration will be given to recalling the monies. If a counterparty is being reviewed for a possible downgrade outside the criteria no more investments will be made.
 - The Council's treasury management adviser will also inform the Chief Finance Officer of any other market information that they have (e.g. Credit Default Swap prices, news reports and opinion, balance sheet analysis in the absence of credit ratings) which may require credit ratings to be overridden and no further investment to be made with that counterparty.

1.2 Liquidity

1. Amounts of approved minimum cash balances and short-term investments
 - The Council manages its cash balances on a daily basis, dependent upon cash flow demands. The objective is to achieve a zero cash balance each day by means of temporary investments, borrowing or use of call accounts. Temporary investments are cash flow driven with the objective of ensuring that future temporary borrowing is minimised.
2. Details of:
 - Standby facilities - Short-term borrowing undertaken.
 - Short-term borrowing facilities - short term borrowing will be arranged for any overdrawn balance through the money market if no call money is available.
 - Insurance/guarantee facilities - not required.
 - Other contingency arrangements - negotiations with the Council's bankers.
 - Call Accounts and Money Market Funds (subject to ratings and sector limits).

1.3 Interest Rate

1. Details of approved interest rate exposure limits -
 - The upper limit on fixed interest rate exposures is £325 million.
 - The upper limit on variable interest rate exposures is £60 million.
2. Trigger points and other guidelines for managing changes to interest rate levels
 - This is monitored in conjunction with the Council's treasury advisers through the London money market on a daily basis.
 - The management of a balanced investment portfolio which retains a mix of long term investments (fixed rate) and shorter term (variable rate) investments which are variable to protect against interest risk.

1.4 Exchange Rate

Approved criteria for managing changes in exchange rate levels -

- The Council does not make payments or receive foreign currency in sufficient levels that warrant currency management e.g. hedging

1.5 Refinancing

1. Debt/other capital financing maturity profiling, policies and practices.
 - To manage the Council's debt maturity profile i.e. to leave no one future year with a high level of repayments that could cause problems in re-borrowing.
2. Projected capital investment requirements.
 - The borrowing requirement is determined as part of the Capital Programme.
3. Policy concerning limits on revenue consequences of capital financing.
 - This is part of the ongoing budget monitoring process

1.6 Legal & Regulatory

References to relevant statutes and regulations

- Prior to entering into any capital financing, lending or investment transaction, it is the responsibility of the Chief Finance Officer to be satisfied, by reference to the Monitoring Officer, the Authority's legal

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department and external advisors as appropriate, that the proposed transaction does not breach statute, external regulations or the Authority's Financial Procedures.

- The Council's legal powers and regulatory requirements come from –
 - ❖ Local Government Act 2003
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2003/pdf/ukpga_20030026_en.pdf
 - ❖ Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 (and subsequent amending regulations)
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/wsi2003/wsi_20033239_en.pdf
 - ❖ Welsh Government "Guidance on Local Government Investments"
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/localgovernment/publications/guideinvest/;jsessionid=mp3KKnDTyn91SG3PQvIFrpqnBVTnlXvyGH1pynJcCpJg5n9hL0tP1514291769?lang=en>
 - ❖ CIPFA "Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice"
 - ❖ CIPFA "Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities"

Hard copies are available in Technical Accountancy.

1.7 Fraud, error and corruption, and contingency management

1. Details of systems and procedures to be followed, including internet services.
 - These are documented in the Treasury Management Operational Guidelines.
2. Emergency and contingency planning arrangements
 - This process is currently under review.
3. Fraud, Error & Corruption.
 - There is a system of internal control in place to prevent and identify fraud and error.
 - Any issue identified will be immediately reported to the Chief Finance Officer and Head of Internal Audit and subsequently to Audit Committee and Council.

1.8 Market Value of Investments

Details of approved procedures and limits for controlling exposure to investments whose capital value may fluctuate (Government Issue Long Term Stock - GILTS, Certificates of Deposit - CDs, etc.)

- No limits are set, current criteria for these investments does not allow exposure to high fluctuations in value.

TMP 2 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

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2.1 Performance Measurement

1. The Council's treasury management advisers recommended the following for use as benchmarks against which to compare performance. For investments, the most commonly used benchmark is the 3 month London Inter-Bank Bid (LIBID) rate.
2. In the annual Treasury Management Outturn Report, investment and borrowing rates are analysed against the above recommended rates and with previous years.
3. Health checks are undertaken by the Council's treasury management advisers.

2.2 Value for Money

Frequency for reviewing and tendering for the following services:

- Banking services - tendered every 5 years.
- Money-broking services - annual review.
- Treasury advisers services – tendered every 3 years.
- External Cash Managers - none currently employed but this will be analysed as part of a continuous review.

2.3 Methods to be employed for measuring the performance of the organisation's Treasury Management activities

1. The Chief Finance Officer will receive a monthly update on Treasury Management from the Finance Manager – Technical Accounting.
2. The performance of treasury management will be reported quarterly to the Audit Committee and then to Cabinet and Council in the Mid-year Report and Annual Outturn Report using the performance measures outlined in 2.1.

2.4 Benchmarks and calculation methodology:

1. Debt management:
 - Average rate on all external debt.
 - Average rate on external debt borrowed in previous financial year.
 - Average rate on internal borrowing.
 - Average period to maturity of external debt.
 - Average period to maturity of new loans in previous year.

2. Investment:

The performance of investment earnings will be measured against the following benchmarks: -

- 3 month LIBID rate.

TMP 3 DECISION-MAKING AND ANALYSIS

3.1 Funding, borrowing, lending and new instruments/techniques:

1. Records to be kept:

- These are documented in the Treasury Management Operational Guidelines. All records are kept to provide a full audit trail for all Treasury decisions.

2. Processes to be pursued:

- All reports on Treasury Management issues are submitted to the Chief Finance Officer for decision making

3. Issues to be addressed:

- In respect of every decision made the Council will:
 - a. Above all be clear about the nature and extent of the risks to which the Council may become exposed
 - b. Be certain about the legality of the decision reached and the nature of the transaction, and that all authorities to proceed have been obtained
 - c. Be content that the documentation is adequate both to deliver the Council's objectives and protect the organisation's interests, and to deliver good housekeeping
 - d. Ensure that third parties are judged satisfactory in the context of the Council's creditworthiness policies, and that limits have not been exceeded
 - e. Be content that the terms of any transactions have been fully checked against the market, and have been found to be competitive.
- In respect of borrowing and other funding decisions, the Council will:
 - a. Evaluate the economic and market factors that might influence the manner and timing of any decision to fund.
 - b. Consider the merits and demerits of alternative forms of funding, including funding from revenue, leasing and private partnerships.
 - c. Consider the alternative interest rate bases available, the most appropriate periods to fund and repayment profiles to use.
 - d. Consider the ongoing revenue liabilities created, and the implications for the organisation's future plans and budgets.
- In respect of investment decisions, the organisation will:

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- a. Consider the optimum period, in the light of cash flow availability and prevailing market conditions.
 - b. Consider the alternative investment products and techniques available, especially the implications of using any which may expose the organisation to changes in the value of its capital.
4. Considerations to be made before each temporary borrowing and investment decision.
 - Borrowing
 - a. Are funds available in call accounts?
 - b. Arrange temporary borrowing through a broker for the shortest period of time at the lowest rate of interest available.
 - Investing
 - a. Establish funds available to be invested
 - b. Establish a maturity date using cash flow and the Council's treasury advisers monthly investment strategy
 - c. Using the Ratings spreadsheet –
Headroom available with each counterparty
 - d. Check the credit ratings and other market information available for the chosen counterparty.
 - e. Use a broker to find the highest rate of interest for the requirements above
 - f. If after the above, funds still cannot be placed and call accounts and Money Market Funds are full, then invest with DMO.

TMP 4 APPROVED INSTRUMENTS, METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

4.1 Approved activities of the Treasury Management operation

All borrowing is undertaken in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 section 1 and all investments undertaken in accordance with section 12.

The approved activities are:

- borrowing;
- lending;
- debt repayment and rescheduling;
- consideration, approval and use of new financial instruments and treasury management techniques;
- managing the underlying risk associated with the Council's capital financing and surplus funds activities;
- managing cash flow;

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- banking activities;
- leasing.

4.2 Approved Instruments for Borrowing

The approved sources of long-term and short-term borrowing will be:

- Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) and any successor body
- UK local authorities
- any institution approved for investments above
- any other bank or building society authorised to operate in the UK
- UK public and private sector pension funds (except the Clwyd Pension Fund)
- capital market bond investors
- Local Capital Finance Company and other special purpose companies created to enable joint local authority bond issues.

In addition, capital finance may be raised by the following methods that are not borrowing, but may be classed as other debt liabilities:

- operating and finance leases
- hire purchase
- Private Finance Initiative
- sale and leaseback

4.3 Approved Instruments for Investments

The annual Treasury Management Strategy provides details of specified and non-specified investments and the maximum limits for each, as is required under Guidance issued by the Welsh Government. The approved investment instruments are -

- Fixed Term Deposits
- Certificates of Deposit
- Bank Accounts (Instant Access & Notice Accounts)
- Pooled Investment Vehicles (Such as Money Market Funds)
- U.K. Treasury Bills
- Loans
- Bonds
- Reverse Repurchase Agreements
- Commercial Papers

4.4 Approved Techniques

- Forward dealing up to 364 days;
- Callable deposits.

4.5 Approved methods and sources of raising capital finance

Finance will only be raised in accordance with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance, and within this limit the Council has a number of approved methods and sources of raising capital finance. These are:

On Balance Sheet

Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)
European Investment Bank (EIB)
Local Authorities
Banks
Building Societies
Pension Funds
Stock issues
Negotiable Bonds
Internal sources (capital receipts & revenue balances)
Sterling commercial paper
Sterling medium term notes
Finance Leases

Off Balance Sheet

Deferred Purchase

Other Methods of Financing

Government and EC Capital Grants
Lottery monies
Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

All forms of funding will be considered dependent on the prevailing economic climate, regulations and local considerations. The Chief Finance Officer has delegated powers through this Policy and the Strategy to take the most appropriate form of borrowing from approved sources.

TMP5 ORGANISATION, CLARITY AND SEGREGATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES, AND DEALING ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 Limits to Responsibilities/Discretion at Committee/Cabinet levels

1. County Council

The Council is responsible for:-

- Receiving and reviewing reports on treasury management policies, practices and activities.
- Approval of annual policy and strategy.
- Approval of/amendments to the organisation's adopted clauses, treasury management policy and strategy.
- Budget consideration and approval.
- Approval of the division of responsibilities.

2. Cabinet

The Cabinet is responsible for:

- Receiving reports from the Chief Finance Officer informed by the deliberations of the Audit Committee on the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policy, strategy and practices.
- Consideration of Treasury Policy and Strategy for approval by Council.

3. Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is responsible for –

- Reviewing the treasury management policy and practices and making recommendations to Cabinet.
- Receiving and reviewing regular monitoring reports.

5.2 Principles and practices concerning segregation of duties

Procedure	Regular	Trained in Absence
Cash Balances	Accounting Technician	Accounting Technician/Technical Accountant
Dealing and Limit Calculations	Accounting Technician	Accounting Technician/Technical Accountant
Logotech	Accounting Technician	Accounting Technician/Technical Accountant
Dealing Check	Accounting Technician	Accounting Technician/Technical Accountant/Accountancy Assistant
Dealing Authorisation	8 Authorised Bank Signatories (Chief Officer (People & Resources), Corporate Finance Manager, 6 Finance Managers)	
Funds Transfer Operators	Finance Assistant	3 Accounting Technicians
Funds Transfer Approval	6 Accountants	
Bankline System Administrators	Accountant (Systems)	Accounting Technician

5.3 Statement of duties/responsibilities of each Treasury post

1. Chief Finance Officer

- Recommending clauses, treasury management policy/practices for approval, reviewing the same regularly, and monitoring compliance.
- Submitting regular treasury management policy and strategy reports.
- Submitting budgets and budget variations.
- Receiving and reviewing management information reports.
- Reviewing the performance of the treasury management.
- Ensuring the adequacy of treasury management resources and skills and the effective division of responsibilities within the treasury management function.
- Ensuring the adequacy of internal audit and liaising with external audit.
- Approving the selection of external service providers (within the Council's Contract Procedure Rules) and agreeing terms of appointment.

2. Finance Manager - Technical Accounting

- To deputise for the Chief Finance Officer.
- To advise the Chief Finance Officer in the discharge of his/her duties.
- Regularly review the Treasury Management function.
- Submitting management information reports to the Chief Finance Officer.
- Drafting reports for Audit Committee, Cabinet and Council.
- Review a monthly report from the Technical Accountant on the performance of the Treasury Management function.

3. Technical Accountant

- Supervise treasury management staff.
- Review the draft report on the performance of the Treasury Management function.
- Identify and recommend opportunities for improved practices.
- Ensure that the day to day activities accord with the Treasury Management Policy Statement and Practices.

4. Accounting Technician

- Execution of transactions.
- Adhere to agreed policies and practices on a day-to-day basis.
- Maintain relationships with counterparties and external service

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providers.

- Draft reports for Audit Committee, Cabinet and Council.
- Produce cash flow projections and monitor performance.
- Report on the performance of the treasury management function.

5. Other Officers

- To deputise as necessary for the above posts, adhering to their duties and responsibilities.

5.4 Dealing Limits

As outlined in 1 - Credit and Counterparty Policies

5.5 List of Approved Brokers

Four approved brokers are currently used by the Council (see 11.2).

- ICAP Limited
- Martin Brokers (UK) Plc
- Prebon Marshall Yamane (UK) Limited
- Tradition (UK) Ltd

5.6 Policy on Brokers' Services

Reviewed annually.

5.7 Policy on taping conversations

No conversations are currently taped

5.8 Direct Dealing Practices

This is undertaken as and when required to maximise investment return

5.9 Settlement transmission procedures

Standard Settlement Instructions

5.10 Documentation Requirements

- Flintshire CC Treasury Management Policy Statement.
- Flintshire CC Treasury Management Annual Strategy.
- Flintshire CC Treasury Management Annual Outturn Report.
- Treasury Management Health checks.
- Loans and Treasury Management System Manual (LOGOTECH).
- Manual Diary and Cash Flow Statement (LOGOTECH).
- Money Market Dealing Form.
- Loans Outstanding Form / Limit Calculations.

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- List of Brokers and Telephone Numbers.
- Approved Counterparties (Regular update from TM Advisers).
- Outstanding and Matured Investments/Borrowing File.
- Previous TM Consultants Correspondence Files.
- Arlingclose Consultancy Services Correspondence File (TM Advisers).
- Treasury Management Operational Guidelines.
- Treasury Management (Long Term Borrowing) Operational Guidelines.

5.11 Arrangements concerning the management of third-party funds.

Third party funds are included in the net daily bank balance and the funds are utilised by the Council on that basis. Interest is paid as follows -

- Optec Youth Exchange Fund – average monthly rate, quarterly.
- Insurance Fund – average seven day rate, annually.

TMP 6 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement

1. The Treasury Management Strategy sets out the specific expected treasury activities for the forthcoming financial year. This Strategy will be scrutinised by Audit Committee, submitted to the Cabinet and then to the County Council Committee for approval before the commencement of each financial year.
2. The formulation of the annual Treasury Management Strategy involves determining the appropriate borrowing and investment decisions in the light of the anticipated movement in both fixed and shorter-term variable interest rates. For instance, this organisation may decide to postpone borrowing if fixed interest rates are expected to fall, or borrow early if fixed interest rates are expected to rise.
3. The Treasury Management Strategy is concerned with the following elements:
 - the prospects for interest rates;
 - the limits placed by this organisation on treasury activities
 - the expected borrowing strategy;
 - the expected investment strategy;
 - the expectations for debt rescheduling;
 - any extraordinary treasury issue.
 - Treasury Management Indicators.
4. The Treasury Management Strategy will establish the expected move in interest rates (using all available information such as published interest rate forecasts where applicable).

6.2 Prudential Code for Capital Finance

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1. In accordance with legislation, the Council is required to approve key indicators and limits for the Prudential Code for Capital Finance. These are listed below and reported in the Prudential Indicators Report.
 - Estimates of Capital Expenditure
 - Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream
 - Incremental impact of capital investment decisions on council tax/housing rents
 - Capital financing requirement
 - Authorised limit for external debt
 - Operational Boundary for external debt

The following are within the Treasury Management Code.

- Upper limit on fixed interest rate exposures
 - Upper limit on variable interest rate exposures
 - Upper and lower limits for maturity structure of borrowing
 - Limit for principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days
2. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for putting forward for approval the relevant limits for the Treasury Management Code into the Annual Treasury Management Strategy, and for ensuring compliance with the limits. Should it prove necessary to amend these limits, the Chief Finance Officer shall submit the changes for scrutiny by the Audit Committee and recommendation by the Cabinet before submission to County Council for approval.

6.3 Annual Investment Strategy

The Welsh Government requires the documentation of an Annual Investment Strategy including the following:

- Specified Investments – Investments offering high security and liquidity
- Non-specified Investments – Investments with greater potential risk
- Investments which can be prudently committed for longer than 1 year.
- Credit Risk Assessment.
- Use of Investment Consultants.
- Investment Training.
- Investment money borrowed in advance of need.

6.4 Annual Report on Treasury Management Activity

An annual report will be presented to the Audit Committee, Cabinet and then the County Council at the earliest practicable meeting after the end of the financial year, but in any case by the end of September. This report will include the following: -

- a comprehensive picture for the financial year of all treasury policies, plans, activities and results
- transactions executed and their revenue (current) effects

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- report on risk implications of decisions taken and transactions executed
- monitoring of compliance with approved policy, practices and statutory / regulatory requirements
- monitoring of compliance with powers delegated to officers
- degree of compliance with the original strategy and explanation of deviations
- explanation of future impact of decisions taken on the organisation
- measurements of performance
- report on compliance with CIPFA Code recommendations

The report will be subject to review by the Audit Committee

6.5 Mid-Year Review

A mid-year report will be presented to the Audit Committee, Cabinet and Council, which will include the following:

- activities undertaken
- variations (if any) from agreed policies/practices
- interim performance report
- regular monitoring
- monitoring of treasury management indicators for local authorities.

The report will be subject to review by the Audit Committee

6.6 Management Information Reports

The Technical Accountant will report management information to the Finance Manager - Technical Accountancy monthly for review. The Finance Manager Technical Accountancy will report monthly to the Chief Finance Officer.

6.7 Presentation of Reports

As a minimum:

The County Council will receive:

- An annual report on the strategy and plan to be pursued in the coming year
- A mid-year review
- An annual report on the performance of the treasury management function, on the effects of the decisions taken and the transactions executed in the past year, and on any circumstances of non-compliance with the organisation's Treasury Management Policy Statement and TMPs.

In addition to the above, the Audit Committee and Cabinet will receive regular monitoring reports on treasury management activities and risks. Audit Committee will also have responsibility for the scrutiny of treasury management

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policies and practices.

Treasury Management Indicators will be reported in the strategy.

TMP 7 BUDGETING, ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS

7.1 Statutory/ Regulatory Requirements

The Treasury Management part of the statement of accounts has been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies applicable to local authorities.

7.2 Accounting Practices and Standards

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Sector Code of Practice, supported by guidance notes on the application of accounting standards.

7.3 Budget Monitoring

The budget for treasury management activities is monitored on a monthly basis through the Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA).

TMP 8 CASH AND CASH FLOW MANAGEMENT

8.1 Arrangements for preparing/submitting cash flow statements

Annual cash flow prepared before the start of the financial year and updated throughout the year.

8.2 Content and frequency of cash flow budgets

All known cash flow factors are included for the coming financial year.

8.3 Listing of sources of information

Correspondence from external organisations and internal departments, together with various information extracted from the Annual Budget Book.

External –

- Welsh Government
- North Wales Police
- North Wales Fire Authority

Internal –

- Payroll
- Pensions
- Council Tax
- Creditors

8.4 Bank statement procedures

All bank statement information is obtained electronically from the NatWest Bankline website.

8.5 Procedures for banking of funds

All day to day treasury management transactions are paid and received by the Clearing House Automated Payments System (CHAPS).

8.6 Cash Flow Management

Arrangements as detailed in section 3.1.4

8.7 Debtors and Creditors

Debtors and Creditors are monitored so that any significant moves can be prepared for. Creditors provide warning of payments 2 days in advance.

TMP 9 MONEY LAUNDERING

9.1 Procedures for establishing identity/authenticity of Lenders

1. The Council does not accept loans from individuals. All loans are obtained from the PWLB or from authorised institutions on the FSA Register which is a public record of financial service firms, individuals and other bodies which fall under its regulatory jurisdiction as defined in the Financial Services & Markets Act 2000 (FSMA). This Act came into force on 1st December 2001.
2. Any borrowing undertaken from the money markets is through money brokers, who are also authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. This adds a further layer of protection as the broker vets the institutions involved in any transactions.
3. Appropriate consideration will be given to identify and verify SMEs when undertaking any lending from SMEs.

TMP 10 STAFF TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

10.1 Details of approved training courses

1. Reviewed as part of the annual Employee Appraisal process. The Council's treasury advisers also provide training on treasury issues to staff when required.
2. Flintshire County Council is a member of the CIPFA Treasury Management Network. Treasury officers receive weekly updates from the Network and attend seminars organised by the Network, as required.

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10.2 Records of training received by Treasury staff

All training is recorded on a departmental database.

10.3 Approved qualifications for Treasury staff

All treasury officers are qualified to AAT Technician level as a minimum.

10.4 Training of Members

Audit Committee Members will receive a quarterly Treasury Management report and training will be given as required. Other Members will be invited to attend training and receive treasury reports as outlined in these practices.

10.5 Statement of Professional Practice (SOPP)

1. Where the Chief Finance Officer is a member of CIPFA, there is a professional need for the Chief Finance Officer to be seen to be committed to professional responsibilities through both personal compliance and by ensuring that relevant staff are appropriately trained.
2. Other staff involved in treasury management activities who are members of CIPFA must also comply with the SOPP.

TMP 11 USE OF EXTERNAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

11.1 Details of contracts with Service Providers, including Bankers, Brokers, Consultants & Advisers

1. Banking services:
 - National Westminster Bank Plc
 - Contract commenced January 2015 to run for 3 years.
 - Cost of core service - £50,000 p.a.
 - Payments due on an ongoing basis throughout the year

2. Money-broking services:

The following money market brokers' services are utilised for day to day transactions as and when required.

- ICAP plc
- Martin Brokers (UK) plc
- Prebon Marshall Yamane (UK) Limited
- Tradition UK Limited

3. Treasury Consultant services:

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- Arlingclose Consultancy Services
- Contract commenced 1st May 2010 for 3 years with the option exercised to extend for a further 2 years.
- Cost of service - £9,900 plus VAT per annum
- Payments due quarterly

11.2 Procedures and frequency for tendering services

See TMP2 Performance Measurement section (2.2) for full details of services tendered. The process must comply with the Council's Contract Procedure rules.

TMP 12 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

12.1 List of documents to be made available for public inspection

- 12.1.1 Treasury Management Policy Statement
- 12.1.2 Treasury Management Strategy
- 12.1.3 Treasury Management Practices
- 12.1.4 Treasury Management Mid Year Report
- 12.1.5 Treasury Management Annual Outturn Report

APPENDIX A

Definition of Ratings

Fitch Long Term

- **AAA** -Highest credit quality. Rating denotes the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in case of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. The capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.
- **AA** - Very high credit quality. Rating denotes expectations of very low credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.
- **A** - High credit quality. Rating denotes expectation of low credit risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. The capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.
- **BBB** - Good quality rating. 'BBB' ratings indicate that there are currently expectations of low credit risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered adequate but adverse changes in circumstances and economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity. This is the lowest investment grade category.

The modifiers "+" & "-" may be appended to any of the ratings above to denote a relative status within major categories.

Moody's Long Term

- **Aaa** - Judged to be one of the highest quality, with minimal credit risk
- **Aa** - Judged to be of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk
- **A** - Considered upper-medium grade and are subject to low credit risk
- **Baa** - Offers adequate credit quality. However, certain protective elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time.

Moody's appends numerical modifiers 1, 2 and 3 to each rating classification. 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its category, 2 mid-range and 3 a ranking in the lower end of that category.

Standard & Poors Long Term

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- **AAA** - An obligor rated 'AAA' has the highest rating assigned by Standard & Poor's. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is extremely strong.
- **AA** - An obligor rated 'AA' differs from the highest-rated obligations only to a small degree. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is very strong.
- **A** - An obligor rated 'A' is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher-rated categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is still strong.
- **BBB** - An obligor rated 'BBB' has adequate capacity to meet its financial commitments. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitments.

Plus (+) or minus (-) The ratings from 'AA' to 'CCC' may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show relative standing within the major rating categories



FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

TREASURY MANAGEMENT

DRAFT MID YEAR REPORT 2015/16

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To provide members with a mid-year update on matters relating to the Council's Treasury Management function.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 Treasury management comprises the management of the Council's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.
- 2.02 The Council's primary objectives for the investment of its surplus funds are to protect the principal sums invested from loss, and to ensure adequate liquidity so that funds are available for expenditure when needed. The generation of investment income to support the provision of local authority services is an important, but secondary, objective.
- 2.03 The Council's policy is to appoint external consultants to provide advice on its treasury management function. The current external adviser is Arlingclose Ltd.
- 2.04 The Council has adopted the 2012 edition of the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice, which requires the Council to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year, a mid-year report, and an annual report after the end of each financial year.
- 2.05 In addition, the Welsh Government (WG) Guidance on Local Government Investments recommends that local authorities amend their investment strategies in light of changing internal or external circumstances.
- 2.06 This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the WG Guidance.
- 2.07 The Council approved the 2015/16 Treasury Management Strategy at its meeting on 17th February 2015.

3.00 ECONOMIC & INTEREST RATE REVIEW APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2015.

Provided by Arlingclose Ltd the Council's Treasury Management advisors.

Global:

As the year began, economic data was largely overshadowed by events in Greece. Markets' attention centered on the never-ending Greek issue stumbled from turmoil to crisis, running the serious risk of a disorderly exit from the Euro. The country's politicians and the representatives of the 'Troika' of its creditors - the European

Commission (EC), the European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) – barely saw eye to eye. Greece failed to make a scheduled repayment to the IMF on 30th June, in itself not a default until the IMF's Managing Director declares it so. Prime Minister Tsipras blindsided Greece's creditors by calling a referendum on 5th July on reform proposals which by then were off the table anyway. The European Central Bank froze liquidity assistance provided to Greek banks and capital controls within the country severely restricted individuals' and corporates' access to cash.

On 12th July, following a weekend European Union Summit, it was announced that the terms for a third bailout of Greece had been reached. The deal amounting to €86 billion was agreed under the terms that Greece would see tax increases, pension reforms and privatisations; the very reforms Tsipras had vowed to resist. This U-turn saw a revolt within the ruling Syriza party and on 27th August, Alexis Tsipras resigned from his post as Prime Minister of Greece after just eight months in office by calling a snap election, held on 20th September. This gamble paid off as Tsipras led his party to victory once again, although a coalition with the Independent Greeks was needed for a slim parliamentary majority. That government must now continue with the unenviable task of guiding Greece through the continuing economic crisis – the Greek saga is far from over.

The summer also saw attention shift towards China as the Shanghai composite index (representing China's main stock market), which had risen a staggering 50%+ since the beginning of 2015, dropped by 43% in less than three months with a reported \$3.2 trillion loss to investors, on the back of concerns over growth and after regulators clamped down on margin lending activity in an effort to stop investors borrowing to invest and feeding the stock market bubble. Chinese authorities intensified their intervention in the markets by halting trading in many stocks in an attempt to maintain market confidence. They surprised global markets in August as the People's Bank of China changed the way the yuan is fixed each day against the US dollar and allowed an aggressive devaluation of the currency. This sent jitters through Asian, European and US markets impacting currencies, equities, commodities, oil and metals. On 24th August, Chinese stocks suffered their steepest one-day fall on record, driving down other equity markets around the world and soon becoming known as another 'Black Monday'. Chinese stocks have recovered marginally since and are trading around the same level as the start of the year. Concerns remain about slowing growth and potential deflationary effects.

UK Economy:

The economy has remained resilient over the last six months. Although economic growth slowed in Q1 2015 to 0.4%, year/year growth to March 2015 was a relatively healthy 2.7%. Q2 2015 GDP growth bounced back and was confirmed at 0.7%, with year/year growth showing slight signs of slowing, decreasing to 2.4%. GDP has now increased for ten consecutive quarters, breaking a pattern of slow and erratic growth from 2009. The annual rate for consumer price inflation (CPI) briefly

turned negative in April, falling to -0.1%, before fluctuating between 0.0% and 0.1% over the next few months. In the August Quarterly Inflation Report, the Bank of England projected that GDP growth will continue around its average rate since 2013. The Bank of England's projections for inflation remained largely unchanged from the May report with them expecting inflation to gradually increase to around 2% over the next 18 months and then remain there in the near future. Further improvement in the labour market saw the ILO unemployment rate for the three months to July fall to 5.5%. In the September report, average earnings excluding bonuses for the three months to July rose 2.9% year/year.

The outcome of the UK general election, largely fought over the parties' approach to dealing with the consequences of the structural deficit and the pace of its removal, saw some very big shifts in the political landscape and put the key issue of the UK's relationship with the EU at the heart of future politics.

The US economy slowed to 0.6% in Q1 2015 due to bad weather, spending cuts by energy firms and the effects of a strong dollar. However, Q2 GDP showed a large improvement at a twice-revised 3.9% (annualised). This was largely due to a broad recovery in corporate investment alongside a stronger performance from consumer and government spending and construction and exports. With the Fed's decision on US interest rate dependent upon data, GDP is clearly supportive. However it is not as simple as that and the Fed are keen to see inflation rise alongside its headline economic growth and also its labour markets. The Committee decided not to act at its September meeting as many had been anticipating but have signalled rates rising before the end of the year.

Market reaction:

Equity markets initially reacted positively to the pickup in the expectations of global economic conditions, but were tempered by the breakdown of creditor negotiations in Greece. China led stock market turmoil around the globe in August, with the FTSE 100 falling by around 8% overnight on 'Black Monday'. Indices have not recovered to their previous levels but some improvement has been seen. Government bond markets were quite volatile with yields rising (i.e. prices falling) initially as the risks of deflation seemingly abated. Thereafter yields fell on the outcome of the UK general election and assisted by reappraisal of deflationary factors, before rising again. Concerns around China saw bond yields dropping again through August and September. Bond markets were also distorted by the size of the European Central Bank's QE programme, so large that it created illiquidity in the very markets in which it needed to acquire these bonds, notably German government bonds (bunds) where yields were in negative territory.

Outlook for Q3 and Q4 2015/16:

Arlingclose's expectation for the first rise in the Bank Rate (interest base rate)

remains the second calendar quarter of 2016. The pace of interest rate rises will be gradual and the extent of rises limited. The appropriate level for Bank Rate for the post-crisis UK economy is likely to be lower than the previous norm. We would suggest this is between 2.0% and 3.0%. There is also sufficient momentum in the US economy for the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates in 2015, although risks of issues from China could possibly push this back.

The weak global environment and resulting low inflation expectations are likely to dampen long term interest rates. We project gilt yields will follow a shallow upward path in the medium term, with continuing concerns about the Eurozone, and other geo-political events, weighing on risk appetite, while inflation expectations remain subdued. The uncertainties surrounding the timing of UK and US interest rate rises, and the Chinese stock market-led turmoil, are likely to prompt short term volatility in gilt yields.

The table below details the latest forecast for the Bank of England base rate as provided by our advisors Arlingclose:

	Dec 15	Mar 16	Jun 16	Sep 16	Dec 16	Mar 17	Jun 17	Sep 17	Dec 17	Mar 18	Jun 18
Interest Rate	0.50%	0.50%	0.75%	0.75%	1.00%	1.00%	1.25%	1.25%	1.50%	1.50%	1.75%

4.00 BORROWING REQUIREMENTS AND DEBT MANAGEMENT

4.01 PWLB (Public Works Loans Board) Certainty Rate Update.

The Authority qualified for borrowing at the 'Certainty Rate' (0.2% below the PWLB standard rate) for a 12 month period from 1st November 2014. In August 2015, the Authority submitted its application to WG along with the 2015-16 Capital Estimates Return to access this reduced rate for a further 12 months from 1st November 2015.

4.02 Borrowing Activity to 30th September 2015.

The total long term borrowing outstanding, brought forward into 2015/16 totalled £172.1 million. As reported in the 2015/16 Treasury Management Strategy, the UK and Welsh Governments, along with all 11 stock retaining authorities in Wales were preparing to sign a voluntary agreement to change the financing arrangements for council housing in Wales in early 2015/16.

The negative subsidy system in operation, which required Flintshire to make annual payments of circa £6m in to Welsh Government ceased at the end of 2014/15. The Council was required to buy itself out of the arrangement by making a one-off 'settlement payment' to the Welsh Government on 2nd April 2015.

Part of the agreement was that the Council would borrow in full for the settlement

payments from the PWLB at special Welsh HRA Subsidy Reform interest rates. These were set at a margin above PWLB Standard rates due to the methodology adopted by the Welsh Government and HM Treasury in determining the settlement amounts.

Flintshire's settlement payment amounted to £79.2m, and the Council was required to draw down loans that would deliver a minimum interest payment to the PWLB of £3.3m for each of the first five years following settlement.

The agreement will generate revenue savings allowing the Council to increase its investment in existing stock and support the delivery of additional supply of housing.

- 4.03 Loans with the Public Works Loans Board are in the form of fixed rate (£222.35m) and variable rate (£10m). The remaining £18.95m is variable in the form of Lobo's (Lender's Option, Borrower's Option). The Council's average borrowing rate is currently 5.02%.

	Balance 01/04/2015 £m	Debt Maturing £m	New Debt £m	Balance 30/09/2015 £m
Long Term Borrowing	172.1	0.00	79.2	251.3
TOTAL BORROWING	172.1	0.00	79.2	251.3
Other Long Term Liabilities *	7.1	0.00	0.00	7.1
TOTAL EXTERNAL DEBT	179.2	0.00	0.00	258.4
Increase/ (Decrease) in Borrowing £m				79.2

- 4.04 The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) measures the Authority's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose. The calculation of the CFR is taken from the amounts held in the Balance Sheet relating to capital expenditure and financing.

- 4.05 No other new long term borrowing has been undertaken so far during 2015/16.

Affordability (interest costs charged on new loans) and the "cost of carry" (costs associated with new loans) remain important influences on the Council's borrowing strategy alongside the consideration that, for any borrowing undertaken ahead of need, the proceeds would have to be invested in the money markets at rates of interest significantly lower than the cost of borrowing.

- 4.06 Loans at Variable Rates

The extent of variable rate borrowing the Council can potentially undertake is influenced by the level of Reserves and Balances. The interest rate on the Council's £10m variable rate loans averaged 0.633%.

The Council has determined that exposure to variable rates is warranted. It also

assists with the affordability and budgetary perspective in the short-to-medium term. Any upward movement in interest rates and interest paid on variable rate debt would be offset by a corresponding increase in interest earned on the Council's variable rate investments. The interest rate risk associated with the Council's strategic exposure of £10m is regularly reviewed with our treasury advisor against clear reference points, this being a narrowing in the gap between short and longer term interest rates by 0.5%. If appropriate, the exposure to variable interest rates will be reduced by switching into fixed rate loans.

4.07 Internal Borrowing

Given the significant cuts to local government funding putting pressure on Council finances, the strategy will be to minimise debt interest payments without compromising the longer-term stability of the portfolio.

The differential between the cost of new longer-term debt and the return generated on the Council's temporary investment returns was significant at around 3.21%.

The use of internal resources in lieu of borrowing has therefore continued to be the most cost effective means of funding capital expenditure, with a projection for £30m to be utilised for this purpose by the end of 2015/16. This has lowered overall treasury risk by reducing both external debt and temporary investments.

The Council acknowledges that this position is not sustainable over the medium term and borrowing options and the timing of such borrowing continue to be assessed, with current expectations that the Council will need to borrow for capital purposes from 2016/17 onwards.

4.08 Lender's Option Borrower's Option Loans (LOBOs)

The Authority holds £18.95m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Authority has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. The option to change the terms on £18.95m of the Council's LOBOs was not exercised by the lender. The Authority acknowledges there is an element of refinancing risk even though in the current interest rate environment lenders are unlikely to exercise their options.

4.09 Debt Rescheduling

The premium charge for early repayment of PWLB debt remained relatively expensive for the loans in the Authority's portfolio and therefore unattractive for debt rescheduling activity. No rescheduling activity was undertaken as a consequence.

The Corporate Finance Manager, in conjunction with the Council's treasury

advisors will continue to review any potential opportunities for restructuring the Council's debt in order to take advantage of potential savings as interest rates change and to enhance the balance of the long term portfolio (amend the maturity profile and/or the balance of volatility).

5.0 INTERIM INVESTMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 5.01 The Welsh Government's Investment Guidance gives priority to security and liquidity and the Authority's aim is to achieve a yield commensurate with these principles.
- 5.02 The maximum investments the Authority had on deposit at any one time totalled £65.4m. The average investment balance for the period was £55.6m and the average rate of return was 0.48%, generating investment income of £133k. The investment income received for the reporting period exceeded the budgeted figure of £65k by £68k.
- 5.03 Investments have been made with UK banks and building societies up to periods of 12 months, as well as utilising investment opportunities afforded by money market funds, instant access accounts, Debt Management Office, other Local Authorities and other financial instruments such as Certificates of Deposit (CD's).
- 5.04 The average debt balance held was £251.3m and the average rate paid was 5.02%, generating interest payable of £3.551m in line with budget forecasts (to date).

	Investments		Borrowing	
	Interest received £'000	Interest rate %	Interest paid £'000	Interest rate %
Actual	133	0.48	3,551	5.02
Budget	65	0.65	3,579	4.53
Difference	+68	-	-28	-

Year end projections are as follows:

	Investments		Borrowing	
	Interest received £'000	Interest rate %	Interest paid £'000	Interest rate %
Actual	200	0.5	12,597	5.02
Budget	130	0.65	12,600	4.53
Difference	+70	-	+3	-

5.06 *Credit Risk (security)*

Counterparty credit quality was assessed and monitored with reference to credit ratings; credit default swaps; GDP of the country in which the institution operates; the country's net debt as a percentage of GDP; any potential support mechanisms and share price. The minimum counterparty credit rating outlined in the 2014/15 Treasury Management Strategy was A-/A3/A- across rating agencies Fitch, S&P and Moody's.

Counterparty Update (provided by Arlingclose Ltd)

All three credit ratings agencies have reviewed their ratings in the six months to reflect the loss of government support for most financial institutions and the potential for varying loss given defaults as a result of new bail-in regimes in many countries. Despite reductions in government support many institutions have seen upgrades due to an improvement in their underlying strength and an assessment that that the level of loss given default is low.

Fitch reviewed the credit ratings of multiple institutions in May. Most UK banks had their support rating revised from 1 (denoting an extremely high probability of support) to 5 (denoting external support cannot be relied upon). This resulted in the downgrade of the long-term ratings of Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) to BBB+ from A, Deutsche Bank to A from A+, Bank Nederlandse Gemeeten to AA+ from AAA and ING to A from A+. JP Morgan Chase and the Lloyds Banking Group however both received one notch upgrades.

Moody's concluded its review in June and upgraded the long-term ratings of Close Brothers, Standard Chartered Bank, ING Bank, Goldman Sachs International, HSBC, RBS, Coventry Building Society, Leeds Building Society, Nationwide Building Society, Svenska Handelsbanken and Landesbank Hessen-Thuringen.

S&P reviewed UK and German banks in June downgrading Barclays' long-term rating to A- from A, RBS to BBB+ from A- and Deutsche Bank to BBB+ from A. S&P has also revised the outlook of the UK as a whole to negative from stable, citing concerns around a planned referendum on EU membership and its effect on the economy.

At the end of July, the council's treasury advisors Arlingclose advised an extension of recommended durations for unsecured investments in certain UK and European institutions following improvements in the global economic situation and the receding threat of another Eurozone crisis. A similar extension was advised for some non-European banks in September, with the Danish Danske Bank being added as a new recommended counterparty and certain non-rated UK building societies also being extended.

5.07 *Liquidity*

In keeping with the WAG's Government's Guidance on Investments, the Council maintained a sufficient level of liquidity through the use of Money Market Funds and call accounts.

5.08 *Yield*

The Council sought to optimise returns commensurate with its objectives of security and liquidity. The Council's investment yield is outlined in 5.02.

7.00 COMPLIANCE

7.01 The Council can confirm that it has complied with its Prudential Indicators for the period April to September 2015. These were approved on 17th February 2015 as part of the Council's 2015/16 Treasury Management Strategy.

7.02 In compliance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice this report provides members with a summary report of the treasury management activity during the period April – September 2015. None of the Prudential Indicators have been breached and a prudent approach has been taken in relation to investment activity with priority being given to security and liquidity over yield.

8.00 OTHER ITEMS

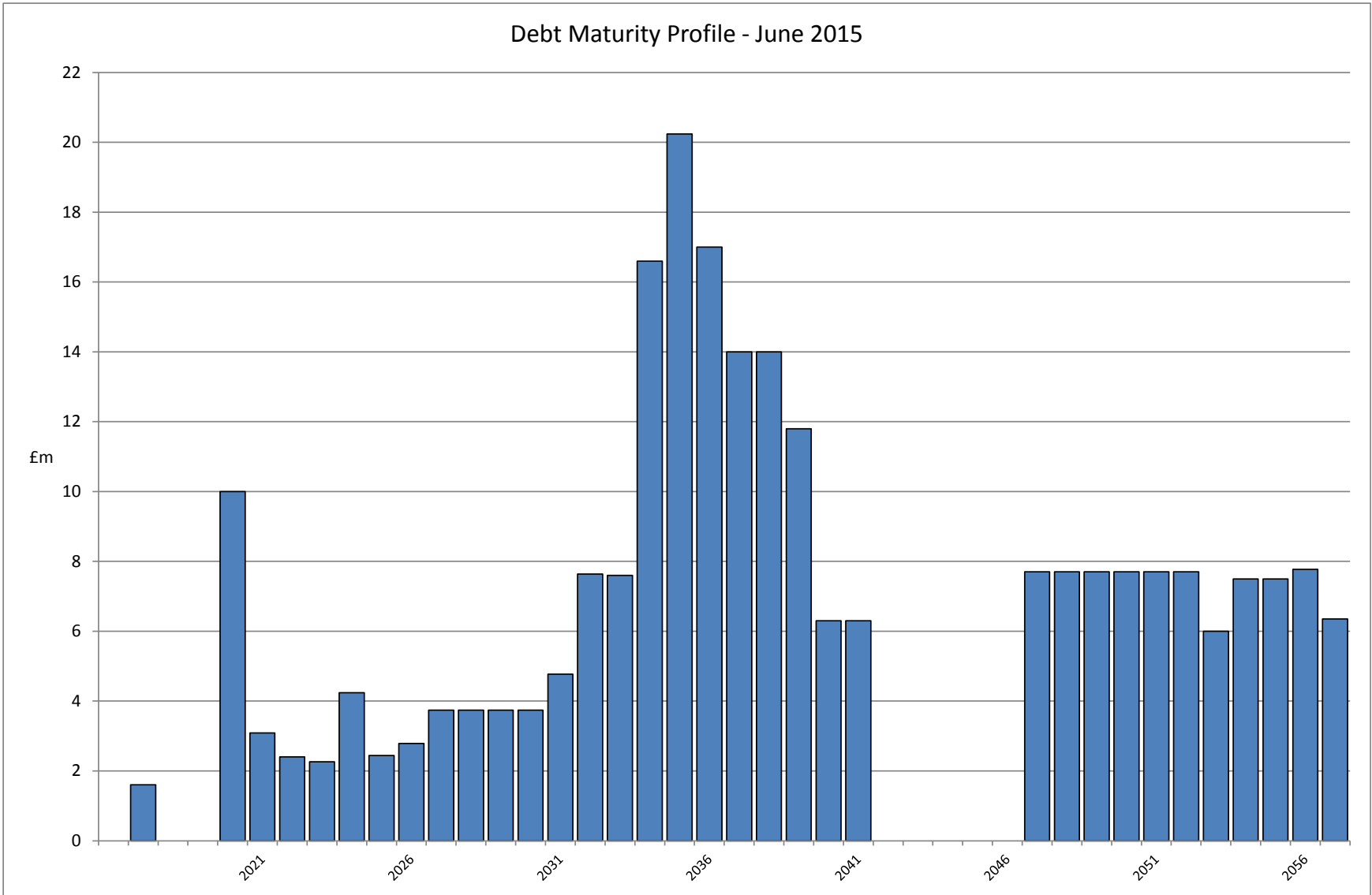
8.01 Other treasury management related activity that took place during April – September 2015 includes:

- The Treasury Management Annual Report 2014/15 was reported to Audit Committee in July. Cabinet and Council reviewed and approved the report in September.
- Quarterly Treasury Management updates were reported to the Audit Committee.
- The Council continues to be a member of the CIPFA Treasury Management Forum and the TM Network Advisory Group.

9.00 CONCLUSION

9.01 In compliance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice this report provides members with a summary report of the treasury management activity during the first half of 2015/16.

9.02 As indicated in this report none of the Prudential Indicators have been breached and a prudent approach has been taken in relation to investment activity with priority being given to security and liquidity over yield.





CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 16th February 2016
Report Subject	Flintshire Local Service Board and Strategic Partnership Performance – Mid Year Monitoring
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report presents an overview of arrangements for the transition of the Flintshire Local Service Boards (LSB) to a Public Services Board (PSB) in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

An update on the Flintshire LSB Single Integrated Plan (SIP) priorities is also provided. These are based on the themes:

- People enjoy good health, well-being and independence.
- People are safe

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Members note the arrangements for the transition of the Flintshire LSB to the Flintshire PSB.
2	That Members note the progress made as detailed in the two SIP priority update reports and endorse the commitments made.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE LOCAL SERVICE BOARD AND THE SINGLE INTEGRATED PLAN
1.01	The Flintshire LSB was established in 2008. In accordance with requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, from 1 st April 2016 the LSB partnership will be dissolved and the Flintshire Public Services Board (PSB) will be established.
1.02	Transition arrangements are in place that include a review of membership, terms of reference, governance arrangements, performance management and branding.
1.03	<p>The Flintshire LSB are responsible for the Single Integrated Plan (SIP). The last Plan was adopted in 2014 and currently focuses on two primary themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People enjoy good health, well-being and independence. • People are safe <p>Work has been undertaken to refresh the secondary priorities and the associated key activities and achievement measures. A copy of this refresh is attached at Appendix A and B.</p>
1.04	<p>In May 2015, implementation of a new performance management system known as CAMMS began across Flintshire Local Authority. CAMMS is an integrated planning, risk management and programme / project management and reporting software. It has already been used for Improvement plan reporting since June 2015.</p> <p>Work is about to commence to develop two further aspects of the system: 'global collaboration' and 'community dashboard' that can be used by all PSB Partners to aid performance management of PSB priorities including those mentioned in 1.03.</p> <p>CAMMS can provide benefits which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • efficiencies by reducing duplication and data entry; • a single version of the truth; • improved visibility and accountability for performance and programme / project management objectives; including an audit trail, and; • dynamic, exception based reporting with dashboards and standard reports.
1.05	From 1 st April 2016 the Flintshire PSB will have a statutory duty to produce an Assessment of Local Well-being (by March 2017) and a Local Well-being Plan (by March 2018). These will replace the existing SIP.

	<p>The Assessment of Local Well-being should provide an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in Flintshire. This should be published no later than one year before the date on which a local Well-being Plan is to be published.</p> <p>The local Well-being Plan must state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why the PSB feels their objectives will contribute within their local area to achieving the well-being goals, and • How it has had regard to the Assessment of Local Well-being in setting its objectives and steps to take. <p>The Well-being Plan must be signed off by the PSB and endorsed by Full County Council and the Boards for other 3 statutory partners as a minimum.</p> <p>Any decisions taken by the PSB have to be agreed by all 4 statutory partners (Flintshire County Council, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, Natural Resources Wales and North Wales Fire and Rescue Service). The PSB will hold other partners to account on collective priorities. Overview and Scrutiny will hold the PSB to account on its general duty.</p> <p>There will be a requirement to consult with the Future Generations Commissioner on the Well-being Plan no less than 14 weeks before it is published.</p> <p>The Commissioner will act as a 'critical friend' / advisory role to the PSB in relation to the Well-being Plan but will have a formal role in ensuring that individual bodies discharge their duties.</p> <p>Each public body specified in the Act has a duty to meet the requirements of the Act in its own right and, if they are a member of the Public Services Board (PSB) they must also deliver the requirements of the Act in the context of a local well-being plan.</p> <p>The PSB will be required to carry out an annual review of their plan showing their progress.</p>
1.06	<p>The LSB partners have committed to a workshop in late February 2016. At this session partners will agree activities (with a timeline) for achieving the requirements placed on the PSB under the Act, and identify priority areas where there may be further opportunities for collaborative working.</p>
1.07	<p>Consideration is also being given as to how the PSB ensure that plans and needs assessments link into local and regional priority setting going forward.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan is aligned to resource the Council's contribution to these partnership priorities.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Consultation with the Corporate Resource Overview and Scrutiny Committee is planned for 11 th February.
3.02	All Local Service Board partners and respective Delivery Boards have contributed to the development of this report.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	A recent review has been undertaken by Internal Audit to consider the controls in place for strategic partnership self-assessment. The recommendations of this report are being implemented as part of the LSB to PSB transition.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix A – Priority Update: People enjoy Good Health, Well-being and Independence Appendix B – Priority Update: People Are Safe

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Link to Legislative Overview by Welsh Government: http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-bill/?lang=en Contact Officer: Yvonne Tonks, Team Leader - Policy Telephone: 01352 702126 E-mail: Yvonne.tonks@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	1) Assessment of Local Well-being – This assessment sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community areas of Flintshire. • Analysis of the state of well-being in each community area and in the area as a whole. • Analysis of the state of well-being of the people in the area.

- Analysis that the board carries out by reference to criteria set and applied by it for the purpose of assessing economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in the area or in any community situated in the area.
- Predictions of likely future trends in the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the area.

2) Flintshire Local Service Board (LSB)

The Flintshire LSB is a senior leadership team with representation from:

- Flintshire County Council
- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB)
- Coleg Cambria
- Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC)
- Glyndwr University
- Natural Resources Wales
- North Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- North Wales Police
- Police and Crime Commissioners Office
- Probation: National Probation Service
- Probation: Wales Community Rehabilitation Community
- Public Health Wales
- Welsh Government

Flintshire Local Service Board (LSB) under its Terms of Reference has five principal roles:

- Effective and trusting partnership relationships as a set of local leaders.
- Discharging the responsibilities of an LSB - this includes producing a meaningful and fit for purpose Community Strategy.
- Consistent and effective governance and performance of strategic partnerships.
- Identifying common issues as public bodies/employers.
- Promoting collaboration in the design and provision of local public services and to make best economic use of local partner's resources, such as people, money, assets and technology.

3) Public Services Board

The Well Being of Future Generations Act 2015 establishes Public Services Boards (PSBs) for each local authority area in Wales. The Members of each Public Services Board must include:

- Flintshire County Council
- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB)
- Natural Resources Wales
- North Wales Fire and Rescue Service

In addition to these members, each PSB must also invite the following people to participate on the Board who become 'invited participants' if they accept the invite. In Flintshire this includes:

- Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC)
- North Wales Police
- Police and Crime Commissioners Office

- Probation: National Probation Service
- Probation: Wales Community Rehabilitation Community
- Welsh Government

PSBs can also invite other people who carry out public functions. In Flintshire this will include:

- Coleg Cambria
- Glyndwr University
- Public Health Wales
- Chairs of Health, Well-being & Independence Board and the People are Safe Board

The PSB must improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area by working to achieve the well-being goals. It will do this by:

- Assessing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area; and
- Setting objectives that are designed to maximise the PSBs contribution to the well-being goals.

They must do this in accordance with the sustainable development principle

4) Single Integrated Plan (SIP) – Plan required by Welsh Government that replaced:

- Flintshire County Vision - 2009 to 2019.
- Making a Positive Difference Plan - 2011 to 2014 (Children & Young People's Partnership).
- Community Safety Strategic Plan - 2011 to 2014.
- Good Health, Good Care Strategy - 2011 to 2014 (Health, Social Care and Well-being Partnership).

The purpose of the Plan is to improve links between organisational and strategic partnership planning and remove unnecessary duplication.

The Plan is also used to meet statutory responsibilities in relation to the development of plans and strategies under the following legislation:

- Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 - Part 2: Community Strategies and Planning (Ss 37-46).
- Children Act 2004 (Part 3: S26) (which includes plans required in accordance with the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 (S2) and the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010 (Part 1)).
- NHS (Wales) Act 2006 (Part 3: S40).
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Part 1: S6).

5) Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

It aims to make the public bodies listed in the Act think more about the long-term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to

prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach.

To make sure we are all working towards the same vision, the Act puts in place seven **well-being goals**.

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture & thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales.

In addition, each public body must carry out **sustainable development**. In this Act “sustainable development” means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.

The intended benefits of the Act include:

- Identifies goals to improve the well-being of Wales
- Introduces national indicators, that will measure the difference being made to the well-being of Wales
- Establishes a Future Generations Commissioner for Wales to act as an advocate for future generations
- Puts Local Service Boards and Well-being Plans on a statutory basis and simplifies requirements for integrated community planning.

6) Well-being Plan

Many existing duties are currently being repealed to allow for a single plan. Legislation that can be delivered through this Act has been considered by Welsh Government and will be listed in the draft guidance. Examples include the Mental Health Measure, Child Poverty Strategy, Local Housing Act. There are other areas where there is no statutory or explicit legal link that may also be included such as Ageing Well, Crime and Disorder, etc.

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APPENDIX A

PEOPLE ENJOY GOOD HEALTH, WELLBEING AND INDEPENDENCE

Our Aim:

People enjoy good health, wellbeing and independence.

The HWIB will focus on four key priorities, those being:

1. People take responsibility for their own health and that of their families, within supportive communities
2. Early intervention, prevention and support reaches the right people
3. A shared vision and approach for effective integrated health and social care service delivery.
4. People who require more specialist support get their needs met

This is important because:

- The costs of poor health and loss of independence are significant to individuals, families and organisations.
- As a result of population changes, advances in medicine and public expectations, demands on services are likely to grow and organisations will find it increasingly difficult to meet those needs.
- There is evidence of effective interventions that can be taken to prevent or reduce the demand for services

Evidence:

- [Social Services and Wellbeing Act \(Wales\), 2014](#)
- [Our Healthy Future, 2011](#)
- [Together for Health, 2011](#)
- [Delivering Local Health Care, 2013](#)
- [Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan, 2013 - 2023](#)
- Local Public Health Strategic Framework for North Wales
- [North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority Combined Improvement and Risk Reduction Plan](#)
- North Wales Community Safety Plan
- BCUHB Annual Operational Plan
- North Wales Planning Framework 16/17
- Flying Start Delivery Plan

- Families First Project Plan

What we (as a HWIB) will do in 2015 – 2018: KEY ACTIVITIES

1. Provide information and support for people to take responsibility for their own health and that of their families
2. Promote and protect the wellbeing of children aged 0-5 and their families and older people through prevention, making best use of existing services and facilities and being creative in the way they are delivered.
3. Put in place a model for the implementation of Primary and Community care services (Deliver More Services Closer to Home)
4. Strengthen capacity and skills in the independent care sector to meet the needs of people who need care home placements or domiciliary care.
5. Improve arrangements to ensure that the health needs of Looked After Children are met
6. Improve approaches to support the needs of adults with a Learning Disability for example in delivery of care, housing, employment etc

What difference we want to make:

The following indicators will be used across the whole programme to indicate if progress is being made.

We want to see an INCREASE in the..

- % of people reporting that they live in the right home for them
- % of people reporting they can do what matters to them
- % of people reporting they were treated with dignity and respect
- % of people reporting that they feel safe
- % of people reporting that they belong to their community
- % of people reporting they have received the right information or advice when they needed it
- % of people reporting they felt involved in any decisions made about their care and support
- % of people who are satisfied with care and support that they received
- % of adults at the end of reablement phase who a) have no package of care and support 6 months later b) have no package of care and support 12 months later
- % of adults who have received advice and assistance and have not contacted social services for 6 months for the same outcome during the year
- % of children in the Flying Start Programme who have met or exceeded their developmental milestones at 2 and 3 years of age

% of Looked After Children seen by a registered dentist within 3 months of becoming looked after (revised measure from 2016/2017)
 % of Looked After Children registered with a GP (revised measure from 2016/2017)
 % smokers accessing specialist support services / % of these who quit
 % of health and social care staff who receive flu vaccinations

We want to see a DECREASE in the...

average length of time older people (aged 65 or over) are supported in care homes per 1,000 population by the local authority
 average length of stay in hospital
 % of unscheduled admissions of older people (aged 65 or over) to hospital who were receiving care and support service
 rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons per 1,000 population aged 75 or over

What we mean by:

Alternative Delivery Models	Ways that delivering services or meeting an individual needs can be met through a different approach.
Assets	Health assets are factors or resources which enhance the ability of individuals, communities and populations to maintain their health and wellbeing. These act as protective or supporting factors to buffer against life's stresses. They include the capacity, skills, knowledge, connections and potential in a community. This approach contrasts with a health deficits approach which focuses on problems or deficiencies in a community. These include, for example, deprivation, illness and health damaging behaviours" Welsh Government. <i>Fairer outcomes for All, Reducing Inequities in Health Strategic Action Plan</i> . March 2011
Continuing Care (aged up to age 18)	Applies to children and young people whose <u>health needs</u> cause them to require a bespoke multi agency package of continuing care that cannot be met by existing universal or specialist services alone. Although the main reason for such a package will derive from the child or young person's health needs, they are likely to require multi agency service provision involving input from education, social services and sometimes others. ¹
Continuing Health Care (aged 18+)	NHS continuing healthcare is the name given to a package of care that is arranged and funded solely by the NHS for individuals aged 18+ who are not in hospital and have been assessed as having a "primary health need" ²
Domicillary care	Care that is provided within an individual's own home
Early intervention	Early intervention involves taking action as soon as possible to tackle problems that have already emerged
Independent Care Sector	Providers of care that are not based within the NHS or local government.

¹ <http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/17374/1/121127careen.pdf>

² <http://www.nhs.uk/chq/Pages/2392.aspx?CategoryID=68&SubCategoryID=681>

Looked After Children	Defined within the Children Act 1989 , a Looked After Child is one who's care is the responsibility of the local authority as a "Corporate Parent".
Resilient Communities	Community resilience is 'the ability of community members to take meaningful, deliberate, collective action to remedy the impact of a problem, including the ability to interpret the environment, intervene, and move on' Norris, F., Stevens, S., Pfefferbaum, B., Wyche, K. and Pfefferbaum, R. (2008) 'Community Resilience as a Metaphor, Theory, Set of Capacities and Strategy for Disaster Readiness', American Journal of Community Psychology, 41:127-150.
Single Point of Access	A new way for adults across North Wales to gain access to advice, assessment and co-ordinated community health and social care services by contacting just one telephone number. (Regional Vision)

1. Provide information and support for people to take responsibility for their own health and that of their families

ACTION REPORT		Date:			
Achievements in last 6 months:					
•					
Achievements for next 6 months:					
•					
Risk and Changes:			Support Required: What, who, when?		
Next Steps:					
Achievement Measures	Lead	Baseline	Target	Current Position	On Target RAG
Engage all partners within the Local Service Board to promote and protect the health of their staff by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committing to securing appropriate health standard (e.g. Corporate Health Standard, Workplace Health Award Healthy Colleges, Healthy Schools) 	LSB Members.		Partner agencies identified level of commitment to achieving standards		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging staff and others to access opportunities to improve and maintain health (e.g. national screening programmes, flu vaccination) Develop an area of their intranet sites as a tool to raise awareness and signpost to health information and opportunities 			<p>Intranet pages developed, including relevant signposting to information about national screening programmes</p>		
<p>Contribute to the national target to reduce smoking prevalence by having an up to date no smoking workplace policy, and supporting employees who smoke to access smoking cessation services.</p>	<p>LSB Members.</p>		<p>Partner agencies hold up to date no smoking policy. Smoking cessation services promoted.</p>		
<p>Support staff and others who work with vulnerable groups / those known to experience health inequality to access training (e.g. Making Every Contact Count and brief intervention training relation to smoking and alcohol) so that they can be effective in promoting healthy behaviour changes.</p> <p>To embed such training in core in-house staff training for relevant staff groups.</p>	<p>LSB Members</p>		<p>Increase in numbers trained on an annual basis.</p> <p>Training identified as core component of LSB</p>		

			organisation training programmes by March 2018.		
Explore and make best use of opportunities to promote mental wellbeing across partner agencies	LSB Members		Mental wellbeing resources promoted		

2. Promote and protect the wellbeing of children aged 0-5 and their families and older people through prevention, making best use of existing services and facilities and being creative in the way they are delivered .

ACTION REPORT		Date::			
Achievements in last 6 months:					
•					
Achievements for next 6 months:					
•					
Risk and Changes:		Support Required: What, who, when?			
Next Steps:					
Achievement Measures	Lead	Baseline	Target	Current Position	On Target RAG

Develop and implement an "Ageing Well in Flintshire" Plan	Older Peoples Strategy Coordinator, FCC	NA	Developed by October 2015 Milestones identified within full plan		
Implementation of actions within the "A Place to Call Home" action plan	Senior Manager, Adult & Integrated Services, FCC Commissioning Manager, FCC		March 2016		
Fully implement the North Wales Service Models for the management and prevention of falls in hospitals, care homes and the community	Director of Clinical Services, East BCUHB. Senior Manager, Adult & Integrated Services, FCC		December 2018		
Explore potential for North Wales Fire and Rescue Service to identify and refer older people at risk of falls as an extension of the current Falls Prevention Service.	Assistant Chief Fire Officer, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service		March 2016		
Develop additional Extra Care accommodation within Holywell and Flint	Chief Officer, Social Services FCC		Flint to be built by Summer		

			2017		
			Holywell to be built by end 2018		

3. Put in place a model for the implementation of Primary and Community Care Services (Deliver More Services Closer to Home)

ACTION REPORT		Date::				
Achievements in last 6 months:						
•						
Achievements for next 6 months:						
•						
Page 236	Risk and Changes:		Support Required:			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Environment • Performance frameworks within partner organisations are not always compatible • Organisational change • Competing priorities • Requirements relating to use of funding 		What, who, when?			
Next Steps:						
Achievement Measures		Lead	Baseline	Target	Current Position	On Target RAG

Partners to undertake a self-assessment to identify current position against the key determinants of effective integration ³	Health, Wellbeing and Independence Board	NA	February 2016		
Multi-agency group convened, working description of 'effective integrated health and social care service delivery' agreed and implementation plan for improvements adopted.		NA	May 2016		
NHS, local authority and third sector partners match their service delivery against agreements reached as a result of work undertaken above		NA	Post 2016 for remainder of the plan		
Undertake engagement work with key stakeholders to develop a shared model for what primary and community services should look like (for adults)	Health, Wellbeing and Independence Board	NA	Workshop 1 September 2015		
Workshop 1 – Primary Care focus Workshop 2 – Community Services focus		NA	Workshop 2 Jan 2016		
Map existing service provision against the agreed model		NA	March 2016		
Develop an implementation plan		NA	June 2016		
Undertake process above for children and young people.	Health, Wellbeing and Independence Board	NA	Commence April 2016		
Full introduction of a multi-agency SPOA , including signposting to prevention / promotion opportunities	Area Team, BCUHB Social Services, FCC	NA	March 2016 (WG deadline)		

³ [The Key Determinants of Effective Integration of Health and Social Care - Health and Wellbeing Best Practice and Innovation Board, February 2013](#)

BCUHB and FCC to improve the way that disputes relating to Continuing Health Care decisions are processed.	Area Team, BCUHB Social Services, FCC		April 2016		
Use research, innovative practice and shared learning to embed best practice into core service delivery.	HWIB	NA	Ongoing		
Develop Primary Care Centre in Flint	Area Director, BCUHB	Spring 2017			

4. Strengthen capacity and skills in the independent care sector to meet the needs of people who need care home placements or domiciliary care.

Page 238	ACTION REPORT	Date::
	Achievements in last 6 months:	
	•	
	Achievements for next 6 months:	
	•	
Risk and Changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment and retention of skilled and experienced staff within highly competitive market (both within and beyond the care sector) • Frailties within the regional supply market • Regional and national concerns over availability of quality care provision • Rising care home costs with no national financial subsidy • Responding to increasing complexity of need and palliative/end of life care and support • Care Council for Wales Qualifications Framework (Standards) restricts opportunities for Managers who 	Support Required: What, who, when?	

wish to move into Wales to Work

Next Steps:

Achievement Measures	Lead	Baseline	Target	Current Position	On Target RAG
Ensure that the county's approach to regeneration supports and promotes work within the Care Sector.	Enterprise and Regeneration Manager, FCC Chief Officer, Social Services.		Host a multi-agency event to promote work within Health and Social Care by Dec 2016		
Work as part of the North Wales Commissioning Board to develop a sustainable Care Home market as a regional commissioning priority.	Senior Manager Safeguarding & Commissioning, FCC Area Director, BCUHB, East		Ongoing		
Develop a joint approach to commissioning.	Senior Manager Safeguarding & Commissioning, FCC Director of Clinical Services, BCUHB East Area				

Further develop the use of a one page profile within domiciliary and residential care in order to ensure person centred practice	Head of Nursing, Area Team East, BCUHB. Senior Manager Safeguarding & Commissioning, FCC				
Complete the Residential Care Home Review and respond to findings	Senior Manager, Adult & Integrated Services, FCC		Completed by February 2016		

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Improve arrangements to ensure that the health needs of Looked After Children are met					
ACTION REPORT			Date::		
Achievements in last 6 months:					
•					
Achievements for next 6 months:					
•					
Risk and Changes:			Support Required: What, who, when?		
Next Steps:					
Achievement Measures	Lead	Baseline	Target	Current Position	On Target RAG

The percentage of health assessments for looked after children due in the year that have been undertaken – continued improvement on position	Looked After Childrens Nurse, BCUHB	54.5% - 2014/2015 Year end (76.1% for Q2 in 2015/16)	75%		
Key health promotion information materials relevant to the age and stage of LAC is provided to foster carers / residential care staff	Principal PH Practitioner, PHW Participation Officer, FAST	December 2016			

6. Improve approaches to support the needs of adults with a Learning Disability for example in delivery of care, housing, employment etc

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ACTION REPORT		Date::
Achievements in last 6 months:		
Achievements for next 6 months:		
<p>Risk and Changes:</p> <p><u>For all areas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not meeting the complex needs of service users. • Meet Local Authority financial targets • Support Flintshire's social responsibility • Meeting statutory and legal requirements • Expectation of carers. <p><u>For work specifically relating to Alternative Delivery Models</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service costs transferring to another budget (rather than 	<p>Support Required:</p> <p>What, who, when?</p>	

efficiencies being realised across the local authority) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenging savings targets are not met in timescale. • Staff resistance to change. • Commercial/change expertise not held. • PIN returns no acceptable alternatives with appropriate accommodation. • Provide new opportunities to trade 	
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Next Steps:

Achievement Measures	Lead	Baseline	Target	Current Position	On Target RAG
Complete the review of the Enhanced Community Rehabilitation Service (ECRS) and report on review findings.	Jo Taylor	NA	March 2016		
ECRS Report to include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust conclusions based on evidence • Evidence of engagement and communication with service users and carers 		NA	March 2016		
Implement the SHARP Housing Programme to increase housing options including for older people and adults with a Learning Disability	Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme Manager, FCC	NA	Within 5 year project timescale		
Alternative Delivery Model (ADM) Business plan agreed relating to work opportunities and day care services for adults with a Learning Disability	Senior Manager, Adult & Integrated Services, FCC	NA	January 2016		
Develop implementation plans for 2 project plans:	Senior	NA	April 2016		

1 Work Opportunities and Work Options Team (LD) 2 Day Care Services (LD)	Manager, Adult & Integrated Services, FCC				
Project 1 to go live	Senior Manager, Adult & Integrated Services, FCC	NA	May 2016		
Project 2 to go live	Senior Manager, Adult & Integrated Services, FCC	NA	Summer 2017		

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APPENDIX B

PEOPLE ARE SAFE WORK PROGRAMME – 2015/6

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Priority 2: People are Safe

A key aim of the Flintshire Local Service Board is to work in partnership to make Flintshire a safer place to live, work and visit.

Over the past decade levels of recorded crime have steadily reduced. This is partly a reflection of the improved ways public sector organisations have worked together to promote community safety.

The intention of the 'People are Safe' work plan for 2015/6 is to respond to the issues affecting Flintshire, which have been identified through a needs assessment process. The progress of the plan will be reported on a six monthly basis, to both the Flintshire Local Service Board and also the North Wales Safer Communities Board

Our focus for 2015/6 are as follows:

- Page 246
- i. **Reducing crime and disorder, through focussing on:**
 - Reduce victim based crime
 - Reduce ASB
 - Support vulnerable people to prevent them becoming victims of crime
 - Reduce repeat incidents of victim based crime and ASB for victims and perpetrators
 - Work with MARAC to manage the levels of repeat victims of Domestic Abuse
 - Deal effectively with high risk cases of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
 - Increase the confidence in reporting Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
 - Increase awareness amongst young people of sexual violence
 - ii. **Combat substance misuse in the area, through:**
 - Reduce substance misuse
 - iii. **Reducing reoffending, through focussing on:**
 - Adult reoffending
 - Children and young people reoffending

The tables that appear in the remainder of this document details how these areas will be addressed and their success measured.

FLINTSHIRE PEOPLE ARE SAFE DELIVERY BOARD: 2015/6 WORK PLAN

- 1. FOCUS: Reduce victim based crime (violence and acquisitive crimes)**
- 2. FOCUS: Reduce anti-social behaviour**
- 3. FOCUS: Support vulnerable people to prevent them becoming victims of crime**
- 4. FOCUS: Reduce repeat incidents of victim based crime and ABS for victims and perpetrators**

Context:

Flintshire is a safe place to live and work. Victim based crime has fallen by 7% in the county over the past four years and incidents of anti-social behaviour have reduced by nearly 20% during the same period.

Becoming a victim of crime and anti-social behaviour can have a significant impact on an individual's well-being. It is essential for partner agencies to work together to identify, reassure and support victims of crime and ASB. Often solutions cannot be found by a single agency.

Focus must also be on identifying and protecting the most vulnerable in our communities to prevent them from becoming repeat victims of both crime and ASB.

Anti-social behaviour is defined as behaviour likely to cause alarm, harassment or distress to members of the public not of the same household as the perpetrator.

Where anti-social behaviour is identified, agencies have a number of different powers to help tackle the issues. The most recent powers are those introduced through the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. This legislation provides professionals and organisations with greater flexibility to deal with offenders, including Public Space Protection Orders, Community Protection Notices, Civil Injunctions, Closure Orders and Criminal Behaviour Orders.

Achievement Measures

- 1. Total numbers of victim based crime reported**
- 2. Number of repeat victims of crime**
- 3. Repeat victims of hate crime**
- 4. Level of ASB (personal)**

2014/15 Baseline Information

- 1. 6568**
- 2. 460**
- 3. 0**
- 4. 4587**

5. Number of repeat victims of ABS (personal) 6. Numbers of households supported by the Flintshire Neighbourhood Wardens	5. 70 6.
Key Activities	Target Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to promote the OWL on-line system as a means of engaging with members of our communities (March 2016) 	On-going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Actively contribute to the work of the regional Tackling Serious Organised Crime Group (January 2016) 	On-going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop links with the PCC's 'victim hub' to ensure an enhanced service to victims of crime 	March 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Include focus on hate crime in the partnership tasking process 	September 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support partners to tackle 'doorstep crime' in our communities 	On-going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agree a multi-agency process to ensure a consistent approach to powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 	March 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Address juvenile ASB & Crime offenders through developing a procedure for FCC staff to issue 'yellow card' warning notices 	March 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain the multi-agency intelligence led approach to tackle ASB through monthly tasking and ad hoc professionals meetings. 	On-going

- 4. FOCUS: Increase confidence in reporting domestic abuse / Work with MARAC to manage the levels of repeat victims of Domestic Abuse (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences)**
- 5. FOCUS: Increase confidence in reporting sexual violence/ Increase awareness amongst young people of Sexual violence**

Context:

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. Domestic abuse affects people of all

socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. Domestic abuse occurs in both opposite-sex and same-sex relationships and can happen to intimate partners who are married, living together, or dating.

Domestic abuse not only affects those who are abused, but also has a substantial effect on family members, friends, co-workers, other witnesses, and the community at large. Children, who grow up witnessing domestic violence, are among those seriously affected by this crime. Frequent exposure to violence in the home not only predisposes children to numerous social and physical problems, but also teaches them that violence is a normal way of life - therefore, increasing their risk of becoming society's next generation of victims and abusers.

One woman in four (and one man in six) in the UK will be a victim of domestic violence during their lifetime, according to research estimates. Two women a week are killed by a current or former male partner.

<http://www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk/>

Domestic violence is officially classified as "any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between adults who are or have been in a relationship together, or between family members, regardless of gender or sexuality".

Achievement Measures

1. Number of high risk repeat victims of Domestic Abuse (reviewed MARAC).
2. All domestic crimes reported to North Wales Police.
3. All non crime domestic incidents reported to North Wales Police.
4. Number of individuals supported through the IDVA Service who report 'feeling safe'
5. Number of 'Homesafe' referrals to the Neighbourhood Wardens

Sexual violence:

6. Levels of reporting of sexual abuse and violence (NWP)

2014/15 Baseline Information

1. -
2. 760 all crime (624 DV)
3. 1035
4. -
5. -

Key Activities

- Raise awareness of violence against women by supporting the International White Ribbon Campaign on a

Target Date

November 2015

regional level	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to monitor the effectiveness of MARAC through the local strategic groups, ensuring they are operating to 'SaveLives' minimum standards 	On-going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a collaborative approach to standardising IDVA service across the region. 	March 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Respond to new legislation – The violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act, including the National Training Framework. 	March 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish local domestic abuse service user groups to ensure they are involved with the planning, design and delivery of services. 	July 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that there are age appropriate education plans in place for all secondary school children in the region through delivery of the Cat's Paw Theatre Company Forum Theatre, School Liaison Officers and Spectrum Project. 	March 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raise awareness of child sexual exploitation in order to improve intelligence and identify specific areas of concern for Flintshire. 	March 2016

6. FOCUS: Combat substance misuse in the area

Context

Substance misuse can affect anyone, from any walk of life.

The focus of this workstream will be the key areas of education, prevention, enforcement and recovery. Particular emphasis will be placed on:

- The needs of young people
- The impact of New Psychoactive Substances (Legal Highs)
- The impact that alcohol has on individuals and the community

We will also work closely with those who use our services to ensure our efforts are making a genuine difference.

Achievement Measures	2014/15 Baseline Information	
<p>Key Performance Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. KPI 2 Waiting Times between Referral and Treatment Start Date (to achieve a waiting time of less than 20 days) 2. KPI 5 Treatment Completes (numbers of cases closed as treatment complete) 3. Number of successful awareness sessions delivered to young people 4. Number of successful training sessions delivered to professionals 	<p>Baseline figures for 2014/15 are measured against 13/14 baseline figures.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. KPI 2 – Green – above 80%, Amber between 70.1 and 79.9%, Red under 70%, these baseline figures have not changed for 2015/16. Flintshire baseline for 2013/14 was 71.8% 2. KPI 5 – 2013/14 Flintshire baseline 70.2%, Wales 13/14 baseline 72.3%, these have changed for 2015/16 	
Key Activities		Target Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local gaps in services are fed into regional commissioning and planning cycle 		On-going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish a virtual network to disseminate information and advice on substance misuse appropriately 		March 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Respond effectively to emerging issues with consistent approaches in terms of awareness/treatment and recovery 		On-going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of recommendations emerging from the Harm Reduction and Drug Poisoning Review Group 		March 2016

▪ Implementation of alcohol brief intervention training as per the alcohol demand reduction work stream	March 2016
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7. FOCUS: Reduce reoffending (for victims and offenders)

Context

A great deal of work is undertaken to identify those who have or are likely to cause harm to our communities. A distinction is made between adult and children's services, although when a young person transfers to adult services resources are available for practitioners, young people and their families to manage this transition effectively.

i. Adult services

Reducing reoffending is key objective in safeguarding our communities. By working with offenders in a targeted way with partners we can significantly reduce crime levels. We have a well established Integrated Offender Management Unit which brings together partners who will continue to deliver against the 'All Wales Reducing Reoffending Strategy'.

ii. Children's services

There are four Youth Justice Services in North Wales. They focus on preventing young people entering the criminal justice system, and seek to reduce reoffending and use of custody. An important aspect of their rehabilitation work is to focus on the impact of crime on victims, and undertake community reparation work – where appropriate.

Achievement Measures	2014/15 Baseline Information	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of repeat victims of crime 2. Re-offending rate (YJS) 10-17 yr olds who received a substantive outcome (youth caution and above) 3. Number of Y2A transition referrals – YJS to NPS 4. Number of First Time Entrants- YJS 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 460 2. 01/10/14 - 30/06/15: 16.4% 3. No data available for 14/15 4. 01/10/13 - 30/09/14: 47 male & 18 female 	
Key Activities		Target Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Target repeat offenders (adults) via an Integrated Offender Management (IOM) process. Identifying those who cause the most harm (prolific offenders) and addressing their re-offending behaviour 		On-going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Targeting young offenders to reduce offending and re-offending by implementing the Flintshire Youth Justice Service Plan 		March 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement the new IOM Cymru strategic and operational delivery framework through Flintshire agencies 		January 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement the new Youth to Adult (Y2A) portal – information sharing system for YOTs and NPS 		January 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce the number of young people entering the youth justice system 		On-going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ YJS to complete the Enhanced Case Management test project, contribute to Cordis Bright evaluation and disseminate learning 		March 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of revised YJS Resettlement and Reintegration partnership (RRP) providing scrutiny of resettlement practice and partnership working. 		March 2016

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 16 th February 2016
Report Subject	School Modernisation - Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr Picton
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education and Youth
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To inform Cabinet of the responses from the statutory consultation period for Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr Picton.

To inform Cabinet of the outcomes from the Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to invite Cabinet to determine the next steps in the current school review.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet is requested to consider the responses from the statutory consultation period for Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr Picton.
2	Cabinet is requested to consider comments from the Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the evidence and analysis provided by officers within the reports.
3	Cabinet is requested to determine the next steps for Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr Picton.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND AND CONSIDERATIONS
1.01	In June 2015 the Cabinet determined that we enter into formal consultation on closure and other school organisation options for Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr Picton by September 2016.
1.02	<p>The proposal was put forward on the basis of criteria laid down in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfilled places across the primary school portfolio – Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant had 48 full time pupils as at January 2015 (PLASC) with unfilled places at 57.76%. As at September 2015 the school had 44 full time pupils with unfilled places at 60.36% (based on the current school capacity assessment of 111 full time pupils); • Diminishing resource criteria (i.e. small numbers within the community raise concern regarding sustainability within the school's portfolio); • Small School – The school population of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant is lower than national designation of a small school, additionally school numbers do not meet the minimum requirements of primary school models as noted in the Council's School Modernisation Strategy; • Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant is currently (July 2015) in Welsh Government categorisation 4 (out of 1-4) with 4 being the lowest for standards. Welsh Government review their categorisation annually. At the time of writing this report, the categorisation of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton had not been reviewed by Welsh Government (NB annual revised categorisation is scheduled to be released before the Cabinet meeting).
1.03	The formal consultation period for Ysgol Mornant commenced Wednesday 11 th November 2015 and ended on Wednesday 23 rd December 2015.
1.04	The Council has issued consultation documents in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code.
1.05	School organisation consultation documents are subject to rigorous compliance checks prior to their publication, which includes verifying information provided by the schools and national sources (see Appendix 1- Compliance Statement).
1.06	Reviewing the future of any school is controversial and emotive. Pupils, parents, carers and teachers, past and present, have strong ties to local schools as part of their own life-stories. The Council is challenged with balancing the sensitivities of community feeling on the one hand, with providing a high quality education offer which can be sustained and afforded. The Council cannot avoid making decisions for the future which are in the best interests of pupils and students.
1.07	During the consultation responses from the community, staff, parents and carers have focused on the following concerns, in summary:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on Welsh Culture (language, community & education provision); • Transport, with concerns regarding distance and time to alternative schools; • Impact on the wider community; • Concern that the Council is not following own Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP); • Impact on childcare, parents and carers; • Impact on pupils; • Concern about the consultation documents and procedure.
1.08	Responses also focussed on the strengths of the school, such as the welcoming family ethos and comments from the wider community regarding their personal links to the school.
1.09	An alternative suggestion of federation has been suggested by a number of consultees, notably the governing body. During consultation the governing body has actively sought potential federal partners.
1.10	The Governors of Ysgol Croes Atti, Flint, considered an official request to federate with Ysgol Mornant at their governing body meeting dated 20th January 2015. However, the Governors decided unanimously that they wouldn't be in favour of forming a federation at this time (see Appendix 2). Other Welsh Medium primary schools in Flintshire whilst not supporting the proposal have not and are not advocating a federal arrangement with Ysgol Mornant. The Governors of Ysgol y Llys, Prestatyn offered no response to the consultation.
1.11	However, representatives of Ysgol Maes Garmon have stated that they would wish to engage further with the Governors at Ysgol Mornant and the Council to explore ways in which Welsh Medium provision could be sustained in the area and what support they could offer to achieve this (see Appendix 2). This has not advanced to a formal decision of the Governing Body or a formal proposal.
1.12	As part of the consultation the views of children and young people have been sought. The pupils at Ysgol Mornant do not want their school to close and have the following concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • possible split of friendships groups and siblings; • potential loss of the Welsh language; • staff jobs; • that their families will have to pay more to access education at another school; • the loss of family connections with the school; and • concerns about what will happen with the school site.
1.13	Children and young people offered alternative ideas to closure. Their suggestions were to continue to try and get more pupils to the school, open a bigger Welsh school and the County Council to support small schools.

1.14	Other nearby school councils consulted stated that they had mixed feelings. Some were sad that another Welsh school may close. Some said they would be happy as their school will have more children. Some felt the rationale for closure was “a fair enough reason” and some thought it a good idea if there are not enough children. Others raised concerns on the impact on pupils under 5, insecurity about their own school’s future, concerns about the Welsh Language, transport to other schools and care for what happens to the teachers. Some stated that, as the Urdd Eisteddfod was in Flintshire this year, the school should be kept open (see Appendix 2 pages 1-17).
1.15	In the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and through the work in the Welsh in Education Strategic Partnership, the Council works in partnership to increase the number of fluent Welsh speakers within its boundaries, with the aim of creating an increasingly bilingual county and country. Actual take up in individual schools and areas depends on parental preferences.
1.16	Welsh Language surveys commissioned by the Council in 2009 and 2013 confirmed that the greatest demand for Welsh medium education in Flintshire is currently in the Deeside area and Buckley/Mynydd Isa area. The Local Authority has responded to this demand by extending the provision of Ysgol Croes Atti (Flint) onto an additional site in Shotton and this opened in September 2014. The numbers of pupils attending the new school site are rising.
1.17	Conversely, pupil numbers at Ysgol Mornant have been in steady decline to the current number of 44 full-time pupils. This will not provide sufficient income to sustain high quality provision at the school. With such exceptionally low numbers the quality of the social experience within the school will also be limited. There are approximately 200 unfilled places in the nearest Welsh medium primary schools.
1.18	The Council would take all practicable steps to ease the transition for all pupils, most especially for vulnerable groups of learners such as Additional Learning Needs (ALN). Should the proposal be implemented, the Council would work alongside pupils, their parents and the relevant schools to make appropriate transition arrangements for pupils to familiarise themselves with their new environments (subject to parental preference).
1.19	Ysgol Mornant was inspected by Estyn in October 2014 and was placed in the follow up category of ‘Estyn Monitoring’. Since Estyn’s visit in October 2014, the school has been supported by a bespoke package of support from both the Council and from GwE. Additionally, the Council has also provided additional funding to support the implementation of the post-inspection action plan by funding an additional teacher 0.6 to cover the teaching commitment of the Headteacher to enable her to focus on leadership and improvement issues. The Council has funded additional time of an experienced Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo) to assist the school with its documentation and processes in relation to pupils with ALN and purchased new furniture for the Foundation Phase classroom.

1.20	Ysgol Mornant was revisited by a team of inspectors on January 25 th and 26 th . The team reviewed the progress the school has made in meeting the recommendations in the original report. The outcome of the monitoring visit and the final report will not be available in the public domain for several weeks.
1.21	Transport costs will not be known until the future of the school is decided and parents have expressed a preference to a new school and have been offered a place. However, given the geographical location most parents would be entitled to free home to school transport to their nearest appropriate school. Transport provision provided by the Council would not be in contravention of the learner travel (Wales) Measure 2008.
1.22	The community impact assessment noted the school is not widely used and there would be a limited impact on a small number of community activities which currently take place at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton. Therefore, the potential loss of the school would have a limited impact on a small number of community activities which take place at the school. The largest impact would be to the Cylch Meithrin (non-statutory provision). However, Cylch Meithrin provision is available at both Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn and Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell.
1.23	The Council has no plans for the school site should the school close. In line with established practice, future usage of the school site will only be determined following confirmation that the school site is no longer required for educational purposes.
1.24	Estyn has provided its statutory response to the consultation that 'It is likely that the current proposal will at least maintain education provision and outcomes for pupils in the area' and "The proposal has considered in detail the likely impact of each option on Welsh medium provision in the local authority. It is fair in pointing out that the closure of the school may result in parents and pupils choosing an English medium school nearer to their home. This may reduce the numbers of pupils taught and assessed through the medium of Welsh. However, it reasonably suggests that parents and pupils who are committed to continuing to receive a Welsh-medium education may choose another Welsh-medium school accordingly' (see Estyn's full response Appendix 4).
1.25	<p>Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny met on 5th February 2016 to consider the outcomes from consultation. The recommendations of the committee to Cabinet were:</p> <p>'That the Committee recommend to Cabinet that they do not issue the Statutory Notice to Ysgol Mornant but work towards a federation of schools using welsh medium education.'</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS												
2.01	There is sufficient team capacity to prepare the detailed transition plans for students.												
2.02	Should the current proposals be implemented, the Council will work with the current members of staff at Ysgol Mornant, including teaching and support staff, should they seek redeployment opportunities. Staff displaced by the proposal may have the opportunity to be employed in the local primary network.												
2.03	<p>The estimated net annual saving that could be achieved if the proposal to close the Ysgol Mornant goes ahead is as follows:-</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Saving/Costs</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Formula Funding Saving</td> <td>£110,896</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transport Costs</td> <td>26,600 (current transport costs of £34,200) Transport Saving of £7,600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Catering Saving</td> <td>£6,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Net Saving</td> <td>£124,496</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Backlog Maintenance Saving</td> <td>£19,402 (over a 5 yr cycle)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Saving/Costs	Amount	Formula Funding Saving	£110,896	Transport Costs	26,600 (current transport costs of £34,200) Transport Saving of £7,600	Catering Saving	£6,000	Net Saving	£124,496	Backlog Maintenance Saving	£19,402 (over a 5 yr cycle)
Saving/Costs	Amount												
Formula Funding Saving	£110,896												
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Catering Saving	£6,000												
Net Saving	£124,496												
Backlog Maintenance Saving	£19,402 (over a 5 yr cycle)												
2.04	Actual transport costs can only be established once all families have chosen their preferred school.												

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	If the Cabinet decision is to proceed, the Council will publish a Statutory notice providing a 28 day notice period for objections. If objections are received, the Council must publish an objection report providing a summary of the objections and their responses to them within 28 days of the end of the objection period.
3.02	At the County Council meeting, 26 th January 2016, Councillor Glyn Banks handed in a petition opposing closure of Ysgol Mornant.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	A Programme Board is set up to oversee the implementation of business plans and manage risks in close detail. Reports are made to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny at key stages of decision-taking, performance reporting and evaluation.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	<p>Appendix 1 – Compliance statement Appendix 2 – Federation responses Appendix 3 – Consultation report Appendix 4 – Estyn response Appendix 5 – Statutory proposal anticipated timeline</p>

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>All responses from the consultation period (and responses received before the consultation period) are available in the members' library. Consultation documentation links:</p> <p>http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Modernisation-Related/Home.aspx</p> <p>Contact Officer: Damian Hughes, Senior Manager, School Planning Provision Telephone: 01352 761209 E-mail: Damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>PLASC – The Welsh Government Pupil Level Annual School Census is mandatory with returns for all sectors required every January including nursery, primary, middle, secondary and special. Returns are required every January.</p> <p>School Organisation Code – The new School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 makes Local Authorities responsible (rather than the Welsh Ministers prior to October 2013) for the determination of most statutory school organisation proposals that receive objections. Such provisions apply to any proposals published on or after 1st October 2013 that consider the establishment, discontinuance or otherwise significantly alter schools.</p> <p>The Council does this in line with the Welsh Government's statutory School Organisation Code</p> <p>http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/130719-school-organisation-codes-en.pdf</p> <p>(3) Estyn - Estyn is the education and training inspectorate for Wales. Estyn is responsible for inspecting primary and secondary schools and</p>

nursery schools maintained by, or receive funding from, local authorities.

Federation – The federation of schools is a legal process which enables schools to work together through a formal structured process by sharing a governing body that will make decisions in the best interest of all the schools, staff and pupils in that federation.

The Welsh Government has brought in new regulations around federation of maintained schools in Wales. The Federation of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2014 which came into force on 22 May 2014 gives effect to Council's powers to federate schools. (School governors already have powers to federate by choice under provisions introduced in 2010). These powers have now been consolidated into the 2014 Regulations.

(5) Estyn's definition of small school is a school of 100 or less.

Compliance Statement in Relation to the Current School Proposals

Introduction: School Organisation:

The School Organisation Code imposes requirements and provides guidelines in respect of all school organisation proposals in Wales.

For all of the current school organisation proposals the School Modernisation Team have planned the consultations, decision making and statutory notices in line with what the Code requires.

Consultation Process Timescales:

RAG Status: GREEN

The Schools Modernisation Team are required to ensure that timescales are adhered to in relation to school organisation proposals.

The timescale and process for consultation, decision making and statutory notice for the current school proposals have been checked and verified with Flintshire County Council Legal Team and through external verification through the Welsh Government Officers.

Welsh Government Consultation Documentation Checklist.

RAG status: GREEN

In the case of all school organisation proposals, the consultation document **must** contain certain information in line with School Organisation Code, July 2013 (Document number: 006/2016).

A RAG checklist has been produced by Welsh Government School Governance & Organisation Branch for the current school organisation proposals. The RAG checklist document follows a colour coding system in order to highlight any missing information or areas which Welsh Government felt could have been dealt with more thoroughly.

Ysgol Llanfynydd, Ysgol Maes Edwin and Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant proposals have all been assessed by the external Welsh Government Officers as having no concerns identified.

Flintshire County Council Consultee Checklist:

RAG status: GREEN

When bringing forward statutory proposals the School Organisation Code provides a full list of consultees that the proposer should consult with during the statutory process. An internal checklist has been produced by the School Modernisation Team to assess if the required statutory consultees have been identified.

Ysgol Llanfynydd, Ysgol Maes Edwin and Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant consultee checklist have all been assessed by the external Welsh Government Officers as having no concerns identified.

Verification of Data in the Consultation Document:

RAG status: GREEN

The School Modernisation Team uses the latest verified data at the time of constructing the consultation documents:

- School pupil numbers and more detailed information around pupils (for example Additional Learning Needs, English as an Additional Language and School action/school action plus/statemented) are obtained from the schools own statistical returns (September or January)
- Estyn data is obtained from the schools last Estyn inspection. Timing of inspections will depend on Estyn's own inspection cycle.
- National Welsh Government categorisation data, is based on the school returns. The Council use the most up to date data at the time of document construction from the Welsh Government website. Welsh Government update their national data base annually.
- GwE (The Regional School Improvement Service) data is fed into the Welsh Government's national categorisation system.
- The Welsh Government's national Measuring Capacity of Schools in Wales forms are verified by Head teachers, this provides the School Capacity and Admission Number.
- Unfilled places are recorded by Welsh Government; the Council provide its returns to Welsh Government annually; they are also based on official school returns.
- Birth Information by area is obtained from the Office of National Statistics
- Pupil projections are aligned with the methodology as neighbouring Authorities with North Wales
- Housing development information is based on actual current housing applications provided from the Planning Officers.
- Potential pupils which may be generated from new housing developments is calculated using a formula providing by a partnering Authority (Conwy CBC) who derive the formula based on the latest census returns.
- Pupil teacher ratios are provided by publically available statistics on a school (<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk>), provided by Welsh Government and is updated on an annual basis.
- Foundation Phase and Core Subject Outcomes are provided by publically available statistics on a school (<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk>), provided by Welsh Government is updated on an annual basis
- School Building condition information is provided by an external company who compare the school building condition against the building bulletin for Primary and Secondary schools
- Backlog maintenance information is provided by through independent consultants Property Condition Surveys are undertaken on a 5 year cycle.

Priority Codes [definition] are as follows:-

Priority 1: Urgent work required to be undertaken within 1 year

Priority 2: Essential work required to be undertaken within 2 years

Priority 3: Desirable work [deemed as] required to be undertaken within 3 to 5 years

Priority 4: Long term work [deemed as] required to be undertaken outside the 5 year [cycle] period

The element Total 1 - 3 defines a five year financial investment and element 4 defines a six - ten year financial investment.

Work items are costed by the Consultant and include for preliminaries, labour, plant and materials etc. These costs are based on the current building cost information service [BCIS] provided by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, [RICS] as the leading provider of cost and price information within the construction and maintenance areas. These costs [Unit Rates] are present within the condition survey software to a default figure and amended/updated as required by the Consultant. The budget costings are exclusive of VAT, updated annually [using inflation indices] and reviewed post completion of work.

- School suitability information is provided from Suitability surveys undertaken independently in line with DfE Asset Management guidance and reviewed by FCC officers and amended if work has been completed at schools post initial survey.
- School Budgetary Work is conducted using agreed formula as per the School budget forum. Cost per pupil data is obtained from the Authority's section 52 budget statements.
- Travel distances between school sites is provided by the Flintshire County Council mapping system Route Finder 3.41
- Transport costs are provided by the infrastructure unit who administer home to school transport contracts.

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Fw: Ysgol Mornant
Damian Hughes to: Jennie Williams

27/01/2016 17:13

Damian Hughes

Senior Manager, School Planning & Provision | Uwch Reolwr, Cynllunio a Darpariaeth Ysgolion
Education and Youth | Addysg ac Ieuenctid
Flintshire County Council | Cyngor Sir y Fflint

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<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk> | <http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk>

<http://www.twitter.com/flintshirecc> | <http://www.twitter.com/csyfflint>

----- Forwarded by Damian Hughes/LifelongLearning/Flintshire/GB on 27/01/2016 17:14 -----

From: Carole Speakman <c.speakman423@btinternet.com>
To: damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk,
Date: 25/01/2016 12:24
Subject: re: Ysgol Mornant

Dear Damian,
I am emailing you to inform you that Ysgol Croes Atti's Governors met last week and discussed the idea of Federation with ourselves but

" the Governors decided unanimously that they wouldn't be in favour of forming a federation at this time.

Their reasoning was thus:

1. How would a federation benefit the pupils at Croes Atti?
2. Given Croes Atti's current level of involvement at Glannau Dyfrdwy, Garden City and Maes y Coed, would forming another challenging partnership be too much of a stretch on Croes Atti's resources?
3. Governors felt that the federation was geographically challenging for us here at Flint."

as quoted from an email received by me from the Head of Ysgol Croes Atti. I have spoken to David Hytch several times since regarding moving forward with Federation with Ysgol Meas Garmon, - regarding a solid plan. I will inform you asap with the details.

Yours Faithfully,

Carole Speakman

Chair of Governors,
Ysgol Mornant

School Modernisation: Review of Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr-Picton

Consultation response – Ysgol Maes Garmon

While we understand the rationale for FCC's policy of school review, and accept that the policy must apply to all schools that trigger a review, it is unfortunate, to say the least, that a Welsh medium school should find itself in this situation at a time when both Welsh Government, through its Welsh Education policy, and FCC, through its consequential Welsh Education Strategic Plan, are seeking to extend and develop Welsh medium education (cf. para. 13.4) – as evidenced by the recent opening of Ysgol Croes Atti @ Glannau Dyfrdwy.

As governors of Flintshire's only Welsh-medium High School, we are concerned at the likely impact of closure on the Welsh language, in what is, at 22.9%, the pre-eminent Welsh-speaking area in the county. As the consultation document recognises, the risk is that, if Ysgol Mornant is closed, parents will opt to send their children to the nearest school – which in almost all cases would be an English-medium school. This accords with recent research in the Shotton area, where a significant proportion (some 30%) of parents indicated that they would choose Welsh medium education for their child **provided it were available locally**. Clearly, and understandably, the primary concern for parents of nursery-age children is that their school should be as close as possible to their home. Given that only 6.25% of current pupils speak Welsh at home, the role of the school in maintaining and developing their linguistic capacity is clearly crucial.

While the viability or otherwise of a school is ultimately a matter for the community it serves, we should wish to do whatever we can to support Welsh-medium provision across the county, and would be willing to engage in further discussion with governors of Ysgol Mornant and LA officers to explore ways in which Welsh-medium provision could be sustained in the area, and what support we could offer to achieve this.

D. M. Hÿtch

Chair of Governors, Ysgol Maes Garmon



CONSULTATION REPORT

For the proposal to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant (Welsh Medium, Community School) as of 31st August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference.

January 2016

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1. Introduction

1.1 Following the end of a school organisation consultation period, the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code requires the proposer (the Council) to publish a consultation report. In this document the proposer is required to:

- Summarise each of the issues raised by consultees.
- Respond to these by means of clarification.
- Set out Estyn's view (as provided in its consultation response) of the overall merits of the proposal.

1.2 This report should be considered by decision-makers prior to determining any recommendation relating to the proposal.

2.0 The Proposal and Consultation

2.1 On Tuesday 16 June 2015, Cabinet resolved to:

Open a period of formal consultation with key stakeholders for Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton with a future report to be provided to Cabinet.

2.2 Consultation was carried out in accordance with the School Organisation Code. The consultation period commenced, Wednesday 11th November 2015 and ended, Wednesday 23rd December 2015.

2.3 In accordance with the code, the consultation documents were published on Flintshire County Council's website, Wednesday, 11th November 2015, and a link to the consultation documents was provided to stakeholders. A complete list of recipients can be found in **Appendix A**.

2.4 A special version of the consultation document, for primary school children, was also published on the Flintshire County Council website and provided to all pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant. Copies of this document were also provided to the school councils at Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn and Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenffrwd, Holywell. Both versions of the consultation document can be found in the school modernisation section of the Flintshire County Council website at the following link:-

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Modernisation-Related/Ysgol-Gymraeg-Mornant-Picton.aspx>

2.5 Hard copies of the consultation documents were delivered to Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn and Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenffrwd, Holywell for people to view if they were unable to access the website. Hard copies were also available on request and were either posted or collected from County Hall, Mold.

- 2.5 A post box was made available at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton for consultation responses to be posted and collected by a member of the school modernisation team.
- 2.6 The Council produced a response document (standard response form) to assist and encourage people to give their views. This formed part of the consultation document and was also published on the Council's website. The children and young people's version of the consultation document contained a simpler response form. The consultation response form was converted into an online survey using the survey monkey online tool. Links to the survey were also published on the website.
- 2.7 All consultees received an e-mail with the link directing them to the formal consultation document, supplementary documents, and also the link to the online survey on the first day of the consultation 11th November 2015.
- 2.8 Documents were produced in both Welsh and English.

3.0 Consultation events/meetings

- 3.1 Whilst not a requirement under the Code, the Council held separate consultation meetings on 7th December 2015 with:

Teachers and support staff and governing body of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton

Officers from Flintshire County Council attended these meetings. Officers informed those in attendance at the meetings of the process to date and what would happen if the proposal were approved. The attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and express their views and opinions in Welsh or English.

A summary of the points raised at these consultation events/meetings, together with the responses given at the time in **Appendix B.**

Parents/carers/guardians of pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton

The parents/carers/guardians meeting took place in Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton. Each parent/carer/guardian received a letter containing the date, time and location asking them to register their attendance at the event.

The consultation event allowed for parents/carers/guardians to meet with Council representatives and ask questions or raise issues in Welsh or English which were pertinent to them as individuals and also their wider views regarding the school and community.

The summary of the points raised at these consultation events/meetings, together with the responses given at the time in **Appendix B.**

- 3.2 A school council consultation event was arranged for Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton. The event was facilitated by the Healthy Schools Co-ordinator whose role includes engaging and consulting with school councils. A member of the school modernisation team was also present at the school council meeting.
- 3.3 A consultation event was also arranged with the School Councils at Ysgol Y Lllys, Prestatyn. A member of the school modernisation team and a member of the Welsh Advisory Teachers Team was also present at the School Council meeting. Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenffrwd, Holywell School, chose to facilitate their own meeting with the School Council to discuss the proposal, and provided minutes of the School Council meeting set out in **Appendix C.**

The findings of the School Council meetings are set out in **Appendix C.**

- 3.4 The School Modernisation Team met with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of the nearby affected schools. (Ysgol Y Lllys, Prestatyn on 11th December 2015 and Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell on 25th November 2015).

A record of the Headteacher and Chair of Governors meetings are set out in **Appendix D.**

4.0 **Consultation responses**

- 4.1 In total 293 responses were received before and during the consultation period. These included a response from Estyn in the form of a report. A number of responses were received on electronic response forms, e-mails and letters.
- 4.2 The table below show the methods people used to respond to the consultation:

Method of contact	Number of Contacts Received
Consultation Response Forms	174
Children & Young People's Response Forms	21
Letters and E-mails	49
Children and Young People Letters and E-mails	18
School Council Responses	2
School Governors Responses	4
Union Response	1
Estyn Response	1
AM and MP Responses	21
Freedom of Information Request	1
Total number of contacts	293

The number of contacts made pre and during the consultation are listed on the next page.

Method of contact	Pre Consultation	During Consultation	Total Number of Contacts Received
Consultation Response Forms	0	174	174
Children & Young People's Response Forms	0	21	21
Letters and E-mails	17	32	49
Children and Young People Letters and E-mails	18	0	18
School Governors Responses	0	4	4
School Council Responses	0	3	3
Union Response	0	1	1
Estyn Response	0	1	1
AM and MP Responses	12	9	21
Freedom of Information Request	0	1	1
Total number of contacts	47	246	293

4.3 Breakdown of Petition Information

No	Response Type	No of signatures
1	Online Petition	807
Totals		807

4.4 An analysis of the frequency of issues being raised within the correspondence received from adults highlighted the following issues:

Rank	Issue	Description	Frequency of issue raised
1	Impact on Welsh Culture (Language, Community)	Concern over the impact on the Welsh Language in Flintshire. Concern over reducing Welsh Medium education primary provision. Concern over impact of removing a Welsh medium school in an area with a higher % of Welsh speakers. Concerns that	157 comments

	& Education provision)	<p>less pupils would attend Welsh medium secondary education. Concern that parents/guardians will choice to move their child/children to English medium education. Concern over reputational damage to the County as pioneers of the Welsh medium education. Negative impression this would give. Concern that the language is not given the respect it should by Flintshire County Council. Concern the Council should be safeguarding all Welsh medium schools.</p> <p>The school is the only Welsh medium primary school in North Flintshire.</p>	
2	Alternatives	<p>The school should be allowed to stay open. Federation should be allowed to be explored.</p> <p>Promotion, raise profile and marketing of the school.</p> <p>Increase the pupil numbers at the school. Promote the Cylch Meithrin.</p> <p>The Local Authority should be supporting the school to overcome its challenges. Invest, or raise and save money for the school.</p> <p>Transport children of nursery age to the school to help increase numbers.</p> <p>Explore reviews or close English medium schools.</p> <p>Enlarge the catchment area.</p> <p>Make cost savings elsewhere.</p> <p>Move the school to a more suitable site.</p>	83 comments
3	Strengths of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant	<p>The school has many positives. It's a lovely family school. The school provides a unique opportunity to learn in the medium of Welsh. The school has supported my family. The teachers make time for the smallest of things. The school is located in a beautiful position overlooking the sea. The school is a very important place for me and my family. The school is welcoming and has good pastoral care. The miners path to Point of Ayr runs along the side of the school where their children received their education.</p>	79 comments
4	Travel and Transport	<p>The pupils commute to school will increase significantly. I am not happy to let my child go unsupervised on a bus to the other Welsh medium schools. Travelling extra miles a day is highly significant for a 4/5 year old. The transport policy would force some pupils to go to Ysgol Gwenffrwd against their parents wishes. The true financial costs of transporting the present</p>	52 comments

		and possible future pupils has not been calculated correctly. The additional travel time to both alternative schools would exceed the Learner Travel (Wales) measure 2008. The travel time cannot be regarded as reasonable start and finish to a child's school day. The travel times have been grossly under estimated. There is already heavy congestion problems are peak times at the alternative sites. My child would not cope with the longer journey to and from school, it would be distressing for him.	
5	Impact on the community	The school serves up to 8 villages within the North West of the county. It will be a loss to members of the community. Community impact assessment fails to show the wider community association. The alternative schools would not participate in local events. Fail to explore the long term community impacts. The proposal will have a detrimental effect on the community at large due to a decline in Welsh speakers. There is memorial garden on the school site.	49 comments
6	Local Authority is not following its own policy of Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and Welsh Medium Education Strategy	This proposal is likely to lead to a reduction in pupils attending Welsh medium schools in the Flintshire area. The proposal is completely goes against Flintshire County Council's WESP policy. Equal opportunities for pupils in the area would be compromised due to it being harder to access Welsh medium education. The proposal undermines any positive efforts to plan ahead for Welsh medium education provision in the County.	36 comments
7	Family Connections and history of the school	There are other members of the family attending the school, which maintains a closeness, and support system. I attended the school and my grandchildren attend this school. There are many happy/fond memories of attending this school. All our family have been educated here. I went there and I want to send my children to this school.	32 comments
8	Impact on Childcare	The document fails to mention the negative impact on the Cylch Meithrin and Ti a Fi Group.	23 comments

		<p>There is no relocation proposal for the Cylch Meithrin should the school close.</p> <p>There should be welsh medium nursery group provision in the area.</p>	
9	Consultation document	<p>The consultation document does not include the English medium schools in the area this is misleading.</p> <p>The document used outdated information – the schools capacity figure should be 81 not 111.</p> <p>It does not take into consideration Additional Learning Needs pupils in the performance information for the school.</p> <p>The Estyn inspection information is out of date for the other alternative schools.</p> <p>The document states that wrap around care is not provided this is not correct as there is Cylch Meithrin, Ti a Fi group (parent toddler group).</p> <p>There is no evidence to suggest that the proposal will improve the standard and quality of education within the area.</p> <p>The document is inadequate as it provides a skewed impression that the community and catchment area is confined to the hamlet of Gwespyr-Picton.</p> <p>Ysgol Gwenffrwd condition is rated as a C exhibiting major defects and significant investment.</p> <p>The document is misleading.</p> <p>The document birth rates drawing from 5 years is woefully inadequate.</p> <p>The document fails to recognise that the decrease in pupil numbers is likely to be due the quality of Welsh-language provision and culture at the local English-Medium schools.</p> <p>The consultation document deliberate paints the school in the poorest of lights, which is unjust, unfair and highly inaccurate.</p> <p>The Clych do not share the same play area.</p> <p>It is incorrect to state there is no dedicated car parking.</p> <p>Over 90% of children in the area currently attend Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant as their local school.</p>	21 comments
10	Impact on Pupils	<p>Moving to large classes may affect my child's achievement in school.</p> <p>The proposal will significantly impact of parents/guardians in terms of supporting their child/children in extra activities.</p> <p>Greater negative impact on pupils with Additional Learning Needs.</p>	14 comments

		<p>Not one member of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant had a positive view during their consultation meeting.</p> <p>It would take longer to pick up a sick child from the alternative schools.</p> <p>The move from a small village school to a large town school will be traumatic and damaging. They would be forced to travel and mix in large groups and this would have a significant effect on many of them, especially children from the traveller community.</p> <p>The pupil's health and wellbeing and right to Welsh medium education will be severely restricted.</p> <p>Less time to complete homework and other activities.</p> <p>It would be traumatic for the pupils.</p> <p>If the proposal is to close it will cause a lot of disruption to the pupils.</p>	
11	Impact on Parents/ Guardians	<p>Concern about settling into a new school community.</p> <p>Parents/Guardians would find it harder to become part of the school community in general due to the distance of home to school.</p> <p>The impact on parents/guardians has been ignored.</p> <p>The school is in a deprived area making the impact greater in many ways – purchase of new uniforms and transport costs.</p>	11 comments
12	Alternative Schools	<p>There are no spaces in the lower years of Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn.</p> <p>There are no spaces in the Early Years at Ysgol Gwenffrwd.</p> <p>If there is no room in certain year groups there is no guarantee that all my children will get a place in the same school.</p> <p>It is not mentioned in the documentation that Ysgol Gwenffrwd is wholly inaccessible to wheel chair users.</p> <p>Alternative schools traditionally draw from non-rural schools and built up areas, this is completely different to Mornant area – and would completely change the learning dynamic in the area.</p> <p>I understand parents of Ysgol Y Llys are joining together to try and stop our children attending their school.</p> <p>Apparently a member of staff at Ysgol Y Llys has openly spoken to a parent complaining our children are being 'dumped' on their school.</p> <p>Enlarge the catchment area.</p>	8 comments

13	Impact on the Teaching staff	School staff must be treated very carefully and sympathetically. Staff would lose their jobs.	6 comments
14	Consultation Process	The Equality Impact Assessment failed to grasp what is required. None of the English schools in the nearby area are being reviewed. The decision feels like it has already been made and the Council is following a process. The process has put people off registering their child/children. Past experience has shown that consultation rarely changes anything.	5 comments
15	Other Comments	There are schools of the appropriate size and standards in Prestatyn and Holywell. Standards of leadership are inadequate and it is difficult to change this in a small school.	2 comments
16	Housing Development	The Local Development Plan suggests the housing developments are in pipeline.	1 comment

4.5 An analysis of the frequency of issues being raised within the children's and young people's correspondence received highlighted the following issues:

Rank	Issue	Description	Frequency of issue raised
1	Impact on pupils	<p>Concern about impact of closing school on the pupils. Concern peer groups and siblings will be split up. Upset that closing the school would have on us Concern over friends being split up, losing and missing friends. Concern over making new friends. Concern over losing and missing teachers. Missing the school should it close. Not wanting to go to another school. Nobody will be happy. I will lose all my memories.</p> <p>Other terminology used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sad, unhappy, glum, sad, low, broken hearted, lonely, confused, lost, angry, shy and uncomfortable. 	95 comments
2	Welsh Language	<p>The Welsh language will be lost. The language will die in the area. There are not many Welsh school around in this area.</p>	19 comments

		Need to keep the Welsh language alive. There are not many people who speak Welsh near us. If this school closes I will go to an English school like my mum and dad. Don't shut the school as it's a Welsh school.	
3	Strengths of the school itself	It's a lovely, nice little school. We have lots of memories of our childhood. The school makes us feel special. Amazing experiences the school has given. The school is in an old building. We have fun here. Everyone looks out for each other. We are like a family. Our school is special. I know everyone. The school means everything to me. It's an old school. Everybody here is happy.	18 comments
4	Alternatives	Keep the school open. Try and get more pupils to the school. Open a bigger Welsh school. County to support small schools. Do more on the television. Come and see the school.	17 comments
5	Family connections	My family have come here over the years.	5 comments
6	Impact on Teaching Staff	The staff will be without a job. The teachers have been here a long time.	4 comments
7	Other Comments	What will happen to the building? Why have you opened other Welsh schools?	2 comments
8	Impact on parents/carers	Parents will have to pay more money for a new school.	1 comment

4.6 An analysis of the frequency of issues raised within the children and young people's correspondence received from School Councils highlighted the following issues:

Rank	Issue	Description	Frequency of issue raised
1	Impact on pupils	Concern about impact of closing school on the pupils. Concern peer groups and siblings will be split up. The upset and unhappiness that closing the school would have. Concern over friends being split up. Sadness and anger should the school close. Would be concerned about losing current friends and not seeing each other.	132 comments

		<p>Concern about losing teachers. Concern about having new teachers. Would miss the school. Concern about making new friends. Nervous about starting a new school. Concern pupils would have to travel further. Concern about starting again. New Uniform. I have family in the school and she feels very insecure and unhappy. The timetable to move schools by September 2016 seems very quick. It would be very strange not competing in competitions without the school. We are unhappy as a School Council. We oppose the proposal.</p> <p>Other terminology used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depressed, very lonely, nervous, it's not fair, I'm going to cry, feel down, confused, I don't like to think about it, going to be shy, would not know what to do, frightened, uncomfortable, worried, pitiful, sad, very angry, unhappy and lost. 	
2	Positive Comments about the proposal	<p>Would be happy to make new friends. We would be happy to meet new children. Mixed feelings. Would be happy as this school will have more children. I think it's a fair enough reason. I am happy. I think it would be good. It's a good idea if there are not enough children. It's quiet good and quiet bad.</p>	17 comments
3	Impact on Welsh Language	<p>Sadness that there would be no Welsh school Would miss the Welsh language. We want to develop the Welsh language. Why close a Welsh school? If you shut a Welsh school now which is next? Keep the school a Welsh school. Need to keep the language alive. There are only 5 Welsh schools. The Urdd Eisteddfod is in Flintshire this year.</p>	15 comments
4	Alternative suggestions	<p>We should stay open. Close another school. Open more Welsh schools. Make changes to the school.</p>	12 comments

		<p>There should be at least one welsh school in each town.</p> <p>There should be a welsh school in every village no matter how small.</p> <p>Close English schools, there are plenty of them.</p> <p>They could share classes.</p> <p>Raise money for the school.</p> <p>Develop a website for the school.</p> <p>Get more pupils in.</p> <p>Help them build a new school.</p> <p>The Council have to help the school.</p>	
5	Positives of the school itself	<p>Everyone looks after each other.</p> <p>We have good friendships.</p> <p>The school is in a lovely site.</p> <p>We have lots of room.</p> <p>Welsh language.</p> <p>It's a unique school.</p> <p>Everyone is like a family.</p> <p>We have a good view.</p> <p>Everyone knows each other.</p>	10 comments
6	Other Comments	<p>Will there be an adult on the bus for the nursery bus.</p> <p>Why are you trying to close the school?</p> <p>What if there is an English school nearer than the Welsh school?</p> <p>What if there is not enough room in another school for everyone?</p> <p>What will happen to the school building?</p> <p>Sadness because the school does not have much money.</p> <p>Is there another school in Picton?</p> <p>Will there be enough room in the canteen for everyone?</p> <p>Where will the children go?</p>	8 comment
7	Impact on Parents/carers	<p>Parents will have to move.</p> <p>Money will be wasted.</p>	2 comments
8	Transport	<p>The parents may have to drive them to another school.</p> <p>Is there a bus available?</p>	2 comments
9	Childcare	<p>It would have a major impact on children under 5, and the schools nursery</p>	1 comment
10	Impact on Teachers	<p>What will happen to the Teachers?</p>	1 comment

4.5 The Council's response to the concerns raised can be found in **Appendix E.**

5.0 Response forms and correspondence

5.1 The standard response form was designed to establish:

- whether or not people were in favour of the proposal;
- the capacity in which they were responding;
- whether or not they were linked to the school;
- what alternative suggestions they would have for sustaining education in the area; and
- whether they wanted to make any other comments.

5.2 A summary of the responses to the standard response form is set out in **Appendix F.**

5.3 On the response forms, we asked people to confirm whether they were responding as a pupil, parent, governor, teacher, support staff, local resident or other. Details of the respondents are set out in **Appendix F.**

6.0 Response from Estyn

The main points made by Estyn in response to the proposal and the Council's response to them are set out below. A full response from Estyn is set out in **Appendix G.**

Estyn Comment	Comments which require response
It is likely that the current proposal will at least maintain education provision and outcomes for pupils in the area.	n/a
The proposer has set out a clear and very detailed rationale for the proposal. The proposal is set appropriately in context of the council's revised school modernisation strategy, particularly in relation to its objectives in addressing the challenges faced by small schools and the comparatively high numbers of unfilled places within the council.	n/a
The proposer provides a useful summary of the challenges and triggers that leader the council to making this proposal.	n/a
The proposal clearly outlines the principle benefits and disadvantages of the proposal. They reasonably state that the reduction in surplus places and the associated saving would result in a more efficient use of resources for teaching and learning across the Council	n/a
Appropriately, the proposal claims this will improve the quality of Welsh medium education in the area and protect pupils across Flintshire from reduced resources.	n/a
The proposal provides a suitably detailed analysis of how the change will affect surplus places. It provides useful and clear data to demonstrate that over half of the places at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant are currently	n/a

surplus and these are predicted to rise to over 70% in the next five years.	
It would appear that the two nearest Welsh-medium schools have enough surplus places and gradually increasing pupil projections to provide suitable alternative provision for pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant.	n/a
The proposal fairly identifies three disadvantages and provides a comprehensive summary of the measures the council will need to make to minimise their impact on pupil travel times, staff redeployment or redundancies and the local community. Detailed consultation and impact assessment documents provide important information to support the proposal's risk management statements.	n/a
The council acknowledges the impact the proposal may have on the local community. The supporting Community Impact Assessment document provides an open and honest analysis of the positive, neutral and negative potential and residual impact on families and the local community.	n/a
The proposal has considered in detail the likely impact of each option on Welsh medium provision in the local authority. It is fair in pointing out, that the closure of the school may result in parents and pupils choosing an English medium school nearer to their home. This may reduce the numbers of pupils taught and assessed through the medium of Welsh. However, it reasonably suggests that parents and pupils who are committed to continuing to receive a Welsh-medium education may choose another Welsh-medium school accordingly.	n/a
The proposal thoroughly considers the potential impact on pupils with additional learning needs. This includes useful information about the level of need in the three schools implicated in the proposal and the recent inspection evaluations about the quality of their provision for additional learning needs.	n/a
Importantly, the proposer states that, for pupils with needs that require physical adaptations to be made to the learning environment, the council will 'work closely with parents/carers and other relevant professionals to secure a smooth transition'.	n/a
The proposer reasonably asserts that the proposal will at least maintain education provision and outcomes for pupils in the area. It makes good use of the outcomes of recent inspection reports for Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant and the nearest Welsh medium schools to support its view that the proposal will benefit pupil outcomes, provision and leadership and management. The proposal makes effective use of performance data for each school. It appropriately acknowledges that year on year comparisons of performance data in a small school is statistically unreliable. However, it reasonably suggests that the current pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant would benefit from provision in alternative schools where pupils achieve standards generally higher than the local and national averages.	n/a

The proposer properly refers to Estyn's report on 'School size and educational effectiveness' to justify its argument that the constraint on resources, in a small school, provides challenges for curriculum delivery. Therefore, it is acceptable for the proposer to state that the changes will not negatively affect the quality of pupils' learning experiences. The proposal reasonably suggests that larger alternative schools are able to provide leadership teams that are able to provide effective staff development to deliver the curriculum well.	n/a
The proposal identifies a limited number of factors, which may negatively affect learners and provides the assurance that the council will plan appropriate transition arrangements to mitigate these. The proposal sets out in detail the implications for pupils' travel times and its commitment to providing free transport for pupils where appropriate.	n/a

7.0 Responses from Assembly Members and Members of Parliament

In total 21 responses were received prior and during the consultation period from Assembly Members and Members of Parliament.

The table below show the methods Assembly Members and Members of Parliament used to respond to the consultation:

Breakdown of Responses from Assembly Members & Members of Parliament

No	Response Type	Response from Assembly Members & Members of Parliament	
		AMs	MPs
1	Consultation Response Form	0	0
2	Letters and Emails	16	5
Totals		16	5

The letters from Assembly Members and Members of Parliament and responses from the Council can be viewed in [Appendix H](#).

8.0 Responses from Governors

In total 4 responses were received during the consultation period from governors. The table below show the methods governors used to respond to the consultation:

Breakdown of Responses from Governors

No	Response Type	Amount of Governors Correspondence Received
1	Consultation Response Form	0
2	Letters and Emails	4
Totals		4

The correspondence from governors can be viewed in [Appendix I.](#)

APPENDIX A

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APPENDIX A

Consultation Document (Adult and Children's and Young People Versions); Transport Assessment, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessment Recipient List

No	Stakeholder	Number of Recipient List
1	Maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for any school likely to be affected by the proposal	20
2	Any other local authority likely to be affected Denbighshire County Council – School Modernisation Conwy County Council – School Modernisation Wrexham County Borough Council – School Modernisation	3
3	The Church in Wales	1
	Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority	1
4	School Governing body for Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton	11
	School Governing body for Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell	11
	School Governing body for Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn	11
5	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton	73
	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell	271
	Parents/Carers/Guardians/Prospective Parents/Teachers/Support Staff/School Council of Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn	371
6	The Welsh Ministers, AMs and MPs	7
7	Estyn	1
8	Teaching and Staff trade unions	18
9	North Wales Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service – Consortium - GWE	2
10	Regional Transport Consortium	4
11	Police and crime commissioner	1
12	Any community or town council for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is subject to the proposal	6
13	The local communities first partnership	1
14	In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, any independent provider	1
15	In the case of proposal affecting nursery provision, the Children and Young People Partnership	1
16	URDD	1
17	Welsh Government Schools Management	4
18	Local Members	7
19	Equality and Welsh Language	2
20	Local High School – Headteacher and Chair of Governor	4
21	Local Health Authority	1
	TOTAL	834

APPENDIX B

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YSGOL GYMRAEG MORNANT, PICTON- TEACHERS, SUPPORT STAFF AND GOVERNORS CONSULTATION EVENT , MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2015, 4.00 p.m.

Council attendees:

Councillor Chris Bithell, Ian Budd, Damian Hughes, Claire Homard, Jeanette Rock, Jennie Williams, Sarah Thomas, Steve Gow, Meira Powell

IB welcomed teachers, support staff and governors to the meeting noting their concerns and anxieties. Translation services were made available if teachers, support staff and governors wished to speak in the medium of Welsh. It was stated that the review was to ensure that their concerns can be aired. IB confirmed that the meeting would be recorded and shared with school and with decision makers. It is a public record and made available to all. All views will be shared with Cabinet members and these will be taken into account in their considerations.

There will be a Questions and Answer session after a short power point presentation, the presentation drew attention to council prioritisation of funding for learners and safeguarding of the vulnerable; £52m reduction in public services over next 3 years; a priority is trying to manage rises in pupil teacher ratios; with funding challenge ahead for the community to participate in; a challenge for small schools and how they could be organised in the future as they have to manage diminishing resources; the admissions process will assist families with their preferences; pupils with additional learning needs will be supported through transition arrangements with this school and receiving schools.

The meeting was an initial consultation process to identify the issues; the indicative timeline was responses by 23rd December 2015 with report back to Council Cabinet in February 2016 which will include copies of all correspondence from school community along with identification of the issues raised and council responses. The Cabinet will then decide to issue either a statutory proposal to close or not to continue. There will be a need to publish objections received to a statutory notice. Views and objections can be submitted to the council in a variety of ways.

Questions and Answers :

IB asked the attendees to note some ground rules to help meeting flow; to avoid interrupting when another person talking; to avoid distracting side conversations and to respect each other's views.

Q: I have read the Consultation Document and it seemed reasonable but as you go through the document it feels as if it has been deliberately slanted to make the school look poor. Eight small villages in the middle of nowhere you refer to as a hamlet, I feel disappointed with the tone of the document. The document has been cut and pasted from other Consultation Documents the School Modernisation Team have produced and I am not impressed with the quality of the evidence to close the school. The document should be more open and fair. Anybody reading the document would think the school is a dump. It's not, it is a fantastic school. I understand that the Authority needs to save money, but feel that it is a fait accompli that the school will close. I would like to emphasis my disappointment that the Consultation document is poor.

A: The Consultation Document is written in that way and follow the same style because we have to follow the statutory regulations of the Welsh Governments 'School Organisation Code' Framework. We try not to use emotive language, we keep the documents factual. The data included in the Consultation document is information provided by the school.

Q: I would like to query a point on page 8 of the Consultation document. Why aren't English Primary Schools shown as an alternative school? It looks misleading.

A: DH Following the Welsh Governments 'School Organisation Code' Framework we have to compare other schools of the same designation i.e. Welsh Medium.

Q: The Consultation Document paints the school in a much worse light and what it is. The alternative schools you have used to compare, the education standards are not much different. Why would we send pupils to another poor school and why have you emphasised that Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant is a poor school?
A: CH We can only include information on what the Estyn Inspection has reported. All Estyn Reports are available for the public to view. Estyn are a statutory consultee. Estyn made the judgement that Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant is in a category of follow up. The school is working very hard to remove themselves from this category.
Q: There are many more schools like Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant. Why a Welsh Medium school and not an English Medium School?
A: CH There are currently English Medium Primary Schools under review.
Q: As Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant is a small school the data can fluctuate. Especially if the school has a high level of Additional Learning Needs.
A: Estyn are the independent inspectors for Wales and do take into account for small schools.
Q: Estyn Standards have changed
A: There has been no change to the Estyn Framework since 2010.
Q: The Data and Estyn Report is out of date. Do you not think Ysgol Gwenffrwdd information is out of date as it is 5 years old?
A: CH. No. Estyn Inspections are carried out on a 6 year cycle. Estyn is not the only source of data within the Consultation document we also use My Local School categorisation. We understand everyone feels that the report is personal, but we can only use the data available.
Q: Do you not think we need a Welsh Medium school in this Area? What would attract more of those families to this school? Why have you not promoted this facility like the one in Deeside. If you had I am sure you would get more families.
A: The Authority is struggling with the cuts, and we are not able to sustain some smaller schools. This is obviously a position none of us what to be in, but the Authority is looking at this across the whole of Flintshire.
Q: Doesn't this proposal go against Flintshire's own Welsh Language Policy?
A: There is a high population of pupils not taking up Welsh Medium in this area.
Q: Future sibling may not get a place in other alternative Welsh Medium schools?
A: The Admissions Policy in Denbighshire is the same as Flintshire.
Q. Transport is an issue. The costs and length of the journey in transporting pupils to Prestatyn or Holywell. 4 year olds will not be getting a bus at 7.30 a.m. It would be easier to attend a local English Medium school.
A: Transport arrangements would be provided on Flintshire's Transport Policy. A number of pupils would have free transport to their nearest available school if the route is deemed hazardous. It is not statutory to provide transport for pupils for pre school education.
Q: How do pupils get to breakfast club/after school club or extra curricular activities?
A: The Authority only provides transport for the pupils statutory education not extra curricular activities?
Q: The Consultation Document has modelled the transport on all pupils attending Ysgol Gwenffrwdd, Holywell. Our response will be based on 90% of the pupils going to Prestatyn. We want to work with the Authority to save our school, improve the categorisation and look at the possibility of Federation.
A: We are in a challenging situation with the level of financial cuts. If anything can be identified e.g. federation we requires detailed information on what it would look like.
Q: We would be happy to share transport with Ysgol Bryn Garth, Ffynnongroew. The costs to transport pupils to Denbighshire would outweigh the savings
A: Before any decision on the proposal is made we need to be confident with our costs/savings
Q: What happens to our jobs?

A: Human Resources will be working with employers on any HR issues and is happy to discuss any individual concerns. If you are at risk we would ask other Governing Bodies to at least guarantee you an interview if positions become available in other schools.
Q: Is Flintshire supporting the Eisteddfod 2016?
A: Yes
Q: In smaller schools you have more time to spend with the children. In bigger schools the pupils get pushed to one side and they don't get the attention they need.
A: Larger schools are not poor. In some cases they have access to greater resources and are able to provide more support.
Q: The pupils will be very upset if they have to leave the school.
A: We have a responsibility to provide a smooth transition for both pupils and staff.
Q: Have you consulted with the wider community?
A: As part of the 'School Organisation Code' there is a Statutory Consultation list which includes the Town and Community Councils, Governors of schools in the area of the same denomination.
Q: Would you consider a community meeting?
A: There is not an expectation that meetings with the community take place. They can put their views forward either by completing the online questionnaire or emailing/writing to the school modernisation team.
Q: I am worried about the commitment to the Welsh Language?
A: We welcome information from anyone. We have received emails of support for the school from as far away as Canada. Support should be encouraged from Menter Iaith (a coffee morning is taking place at the school tomorrow). An Action Plan is needed for the school, in the last ORS survey, demand was made in the Shotton area, this demand led to the opening of the Welsh medium school Ysgol Croes Atti at Glannau Dyfrdwy site.
Q: TWF have recently moved into Flintshire but were only in the Mold and Holywell area, they do not have the funding to come down to the Gwespyr Picton area. TWF would enhance support in the area.
A: The Authority works with WESP, I will write to TWF and ask them to support work in rural areas. It was not the Authority's decision not to go into the Gwespyr area.
Q: The school have received a letter regarding an URDD event, with rehearsals in Mold for the forthcoming Eisteddfod. I would like to raise the issue of travel to the other side of the Authority. The School will send a letter to the Authority.
A: The Authority will contact the URDD and ask about the transportation issue.
Q: What percentage of Welsh Medium schools are in Flintshire?
A: 7.4% of Primary Schools in Flintshire are Welsh medium 8.3% of Secondary Schools in Flintshire are Welsh medium

**YSGOL GYMRAEG MORNANT, PICTON- PARENT/CARER/GUARDIANS
CONSULTATION EVENT , MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2015, 18.00 p.m.**

Council attendees:

Councillor Chris Bithell, Ian Budd, Damian Hughes, Claire Homard, Jeanette Rock, Gill Yates, Jennie Williams, Sarah Thomas

IB welcomed parents, carers and guardians to the meeting noting their concerns and anxieties. Translation services were made available if Parents, Carers and Guardians wished to speak in the medium of Welsh. It was stated that the review was to ensure that their concerns can be aired. IB confirmed that the meeting would be recorded and shared with school and with decision makers. It is a public record and made available to all. All views will be shared with Cabinet members and these will be taken into account in their considerations.

There will be a Questions and Answer session after a short power point presentation, the presentation drew attention to council prioritisation of funding for learners and safeguarding of the vulnerable; £52m reduction in public services over next 3 years; a priority is trying to manage rises in pupil teacher ratios; with funding challenge ahead for the community to participate in; a challenge for small schools and how they could be organised in the future as they have to manage diminishing resources; the admissions process will assist families with their preferences; pupils with additional learning needs will be supported through transition arrangements with this school and receiving schools.

GY referenced the national admissions regulations, Flintshire's policy and how parents/carers/guardians can apply for a pupil space. Each schools has an Admission Number (A year group number limit but in limited circumstances a right of appeal to an independent panel; link to Flintshire's School Transport policy on the web; pupils have entitlement to free school transport if they live 2 miles from their nearest appropriate school.)

IB stated that options for families would be worked through on an individual basis; the meeting was an initial consultation process to identify the issues; the indicative timeline was responses by 23rd December 2015 with a report going back to Council Cabinet in February 2016 which will include copies of all correspondence from school community along with identification of the issues raised and council responses. The Cabinet will then decide to issue either a statutory proposal to close or not to continue with the proposal. There will be a need to publish objections received to a statutory notice. Views and objections can be submitted to the council in a variety of ways.

Questions and Answers :

IB asked the attendees to note some ground rules to help meeting flow; to avoid interrupting when another person talking; to avoid distracting side conversations and to respect each other's views.

Q: I would like to wish you a warm welcome to Ysgol Mornant and I will speak through the medium of English.

Q: The cost per pupil spend in Wales is less than England, even less in Flintshire for the Wales average. Will parents/carers who only speak English send their child/children to Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell. At Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn the Secretary is advising that Flintshire County Council are dumping children on them and there is no room. If this school closes the Welsh language will die out in this area. Does Flintshire support the Welsh Language?

A: Thank you for your warm welcome. Yours point raised will be noted.

Q: I am an English parent and have chosen to send my child to a Welsh medium school. I feel you are taking this option away from us. The Welsh language is extremely important in Wales.

A: I cannot disagree with you that the Welsh language is important in Wales. We are in an unprecedented time financially and the Authority has to meet the learning needs of both English medium and Welsh medium schools.

Q: If the school does close. People may choose to send their child/children to an English medium school?
A: This has been identified within the document as a risk.
Q: Transport savings. How can you make savings? Children will be on buses at 7.00 a.m. in the morning to get to school?
A: Within the document we have to make assumptions on the alternative schools children will attend. As a modelling option we have placed all the children in Ysgol Gwenffrwd. If the proposal is to go ahead and the school does close, once we have received all parental preferences for an alternative school we can provide more detail around transport savings. Transportation will follow the Learner Transport Measure and no Primary aged child will be travelling more than 45 minutes to school.
Q: My children travel to Ysgol Maes Garmon and leave at 7.40 a.m. That is more than 1 hour.
A: The guidance is different for Secondary aged pupils.
Q: I can't believe you have made an assumption on a very important document. Worst case scenario is that the children go everywhere.
Q: Why have you promoted in the document that children can get a better standard of education in alternative schools. My child is above average and above the national average. I feel she has a good standard of education here.
A: The decision makers need to be confident that the standard of education is better or at least the same.
Q: You are presuming the provision of education is better and is going to stay the same in the alternative schools. Even with the budget cuts will the alternative schools manage to maintain the same standards of Education.
A: With less funding Governors will find it hard to maintain current staffing levels. They will no longer be able to afford small classes.
Q: You cannot then assume teachers/staffing will stay the same in other schools
A: As an independent Estyn will respond to the Consultation documents and there assessment of proposal maintaining the standards of education in the area.
Q: We came from a larger school 12 months ago and our child now has a totally different outlook on life and school. Will the quality still be there in the alternative schools?
A: Everybody has their own personal stories. You can view the standards of the alternative schools on Mylocalschool.com
Q: What improvements to education standards will they receive? As it will not improve the Welsh language if they choose English medium.
A: Councillors have been really good at protecting school budgets for many years. But we cannot continue to protect them. The Welsh language impact is a key message in the consultation document.
Q: The school are looking at Federation with Ysgol Maes Garmon (Secondary) in Mold
Q: I have worked at this school for 6 years and as a Teaching Assistant I have never had a course delivered in the medium of Welsh.
A: We were not able to deliver the courses for Foundation Phrase through the medium of Welsh, although our neighbouring authority was able to do this for us. We are now in a position to offer Foundation Phrase courses through the medium of Welsh.
Q: How will shutting a Welsh medium school help the bilingual language?
A: There are two alternative Welsh medium schools within a reasonable distance.
Q: I am from Denbighshire and I am being told that Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn is full to capacity. I choose to bring my children to this school
A: As at September 2015 Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn had 148 unfilled places. We are in discussions with Denbighshire County Council about the proposal, and they are also a consultee provided with the Consultation document.
Q: How do we improve this situation to reduce surplus places while we are under a review.
A: It should not stop you trying to seek alternative models. If there is confidence in developing an alternative model the process could be halted while the alternative model is looked at.

Q: The timetable shows a final decision will be made in May 2016. This does not give you much time to research and look at alternative schools
A: This is a valid point and will be communicated in the consultation process. These dates are also not fixed the process can be halted at any time to look at alternative models.
Q: What information is required for Cabinet to support federation with Ysgol Maes Garmon?
A: There is a specific code around federation, the proposal on federation to be put forward to Cabinet will need to prove it is viable and you have a partner. There are examples of 3-16 schools in Wales.
Q: You have a responsibility to promote the medium of Welsh. Why could you not do this here, like you did at Croes Atti, Shotton? Has all the money gone there?
A: The Authority is struggling with the cuts, and we are not able to sustain some smaller schools. This is obviously a position none of us what to be in, but the Authority is looking at this across the whole of Flintshire. The Welsh medium school in Croes Atti was identified as a requirement through parents/carers due to a need in the area.
Q: Is the Welsh Language Strategy Plan a public document?
A: Yes and the current plan is on the website and a revised version will be available on 20 th December 2015.
Q: Is the new English medium school in Holywell going to be full? If so, do you have the figures.
A: We hope so, as we have invested heavily in the area.
Q: Will you have a right of appeal if the year group is full?
A: The Admissions team can speak to you about individual cases and if a year group is full you have a right of appeal.
Q: If my child attends Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn but then I want them to attend Ysgol Maes Garmon, Mold. These schools have no links together.
A: This is something we would have to work on with the schools.
Q: I have a 6 year old and a 3 year old. Can you guarantee them both a place in the same school?
A: Without checking the pupil figures I cannot guarantee. I am happy to discuss individual cases if you want to contact me.
Q: The document refers to nearby school – bordering on being dishonest. Is Holywell nearby? You have slanted the document towards closure. Estyn inspections are out of date.
A: Estyn Inspections on all schools cannot be carried out every 12 months they are on a 6 year rolling programme. The Estyn information in the document is the latest publicly available information.
Q: If I were to send my young child on a bus to Holywell, would she be accompanied?
A: It would depend on the age of the child but yes there is passenger assistance.
Q: Have we got a chance in saving our school?
A: Yes, Cabinet make the decision, we cannot pre determine the outcome of the proposal. Cabinet decide on the next steps for the school.
Q: What support is in place for the emotional wellbeing of the children?
A: We need to keep the situation calm and parents/carers also have a role to play in this. There will be a transition plan if the proposal goes ahead.
Q: From the Cabinet point of view who will understand the Welsh language/culture.
A: Closing a school is not a decision Cabinet will take lightly, there is a real genuine understanding of all of the issues. As a Cabinet Member, I was a long standing experienced teacher and have spent a lot of time listening to School Organisation issues.
Q: My mother read the Consultation document and said it looks as if my child would receive a better education if she moved schools.
A: We have to publish the latest available Education standards in the Consultation document
Q: Prestatyn and Holywell are not sensible options for these children. These areas are not a 5 minute drive. There are lots of villages which serve this school.
A: Point noted
IB thanked everybody for their questions and points of view

APPENDIX C

DRAFT

Ymgynghori â Chyngor Ysgol Mornant

Crynodeb

1. **(a) Beth ydych chi'n ei hoffi am eich ysgol?** *What do you like about your school* **(b) Beth hoffech chi ei newid am eich ysgol?** *What would you like to change about your school?*

Trafodwyd y cwestiwn hwn ar lafar: *I This question was discussed verbally:*

Atebion / Answers (a)

- **Mwy o siawns i chi chwarae pêl-droed**
More chance for you to play football
- **Pawb yn edrych allan am ei gilydd**
Everyone looks out for each other
- **Pawb yn adnabod ei gilydd**
Everyone knows each other
- **Ffrindiau**
Friends
- **Llawer o goed a phlanhigion o gwmpas**
Lots of trees and plants around
- **Llwyth o le – cae a choedwig**
Lots of room – field and forest
- **Plant yn chwarae'n neis**
Children play nicely
- **Iaith Gymraeg**
Welsh language
- **Ysgol unigryw**
Unique school
- **Mae pawb fel teulu**
Everyone is like a family
- **Mae yna olygfa dda**
There is a good view

Atebion / Answers (b)

- **Mwy o blant**
More children

2. **Sut byddech chi'n teimlo petai Ysgol Mornant yn cau?** *How would you feel if Ysgol Mornant were to close?*

Isod mae'r ymatebion a ddisgrifir ar y nodiadau 'post-it' *Below are the responses as described on the post-it notes:*

Thema	Ymatebion	Nifer yr Ymatebion
<p>Blin <i>Angry</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blin (wyneb blin) • <i>Angry (angry face)</i> • Blin iawn (wyneb blin) • <i>Very angry (angry face)</i> • Blin (wyneb blin) • <i>Angry (angry face)</i> • Yn flin iawn iawn iawn iawn wynebblin • <i>Very very very very angry (angry faces)</i> 	<p>4</p>
<p>Trist <i>Sad</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trist iawn. Os bydd yr ysgol yn cau byddaf yn methu fy ffrindiau a'r athrawon • <i>Very sad. If the school were to close I would miss my friends and the teachers</i> • Trist iawn (wynebblin trist) • <i>Very sad (sad faces)</i> • Trist (wyneb trist) • <i>Very sad (sad face)</i> • Trist (wyneb trist) • <i>Very sad (sad face)</i> • Trist (wyneb trist) • <i>Very sad (sad face)</i> • Wynebblin trist • <i>Sad faces</i> • Trist (wyneb trist) • <i>Sad (sad face)</i> • Byddaf yn drist os bydd Ysgol Mornant yn cau oherwydd rydw i wedi tyfu i fyny gyda phlant eraill a wedyn da ni'n mynd i ysgolion eraill a ddim yn cael gweld ei gilydd. • <i>I would be sad if Ysgol Mornant were to close because I have grown up with the other children and then we go to different schools and won't see each other.</i> • Trist. Dydy o ddim yn deg. Yn methu ffrindiau. Methu'r ysgol. Yn teimlo'n unig. Ddim yn adnabod y bobl yn yr ysgol newydd. Ddim yn adnabod yr athrawon i gyd. 	<p>13</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sad. That it's not fair. Miss my friends. Miss the school. Feeling lonely. Not knowing the people in the new school. Not knowing all the teachers.</i> • Byddwn i'n teimlo'n drist iawn oherwydd byddaf i'n methu fy ffrindiau a'r athrawon • <i>I would feel very sad because I would miss my friends and the teachers.</i> • Byddwn i yn drist os bydd Ysgol Mornant yn cau. Yn ddigalon, anhapus, digalon iawn. Byddwn yn methur athrawon. Yn unig iawn. Trist iawn heb ffrindiau (wyneb trist) • <i>I would be sad if Ysgol Mornant closed. Depressed, unhappy, very depressed. I would miss the teachers. Very lonely. Sad without my friends (sad face)</i> • Teimlo'n ddigalon (wyneb trist) • <i>Feeling down (sad face)</i> • Trist, torri calon, anhapus, unig, teimlo fel crio (wyneb trist) • <i>Sad, broken hearted, unhappy, lonely, feel like I'm going to cry (sad face)</i> 	
Anhapus <i>Unhappy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anhapusrwydd • <i>Unhappiness</i> • Anhapus • <i>Unhappy</i> 	2
Nerfus <i>Nervous</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yn nerfus, ddim yn gwybod y ffordd yn yr ysgol (wynebau trist a dryslyd) • <i>Nervous, not knowing the way in the school (sad and confused faces)</i> • Nerfus mynd i le gwahanol (wyneb dryslyd) • <i>Nervous going somewhere different</i> • Nerfus i gyfarfod â phobl newydd • <i>Nervous to meet new people</i> 	3
Unig <i>Lonely</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unig heb ffrindiau gorau (wyneb trist) • <i>Lonely without best friends</i> • Unig, ddim yn adnabod neb yn yr ysgol (wyneb trist) • <i>Lonely, not knowing anyone in school (sad face)</i> • Unig (wyneb trist) • <i>Lonley (sad face)</i> 	3
Dryslyd <i>Confused</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Os fydda i'n symud ysgol byddaf i'n teimlo'n ddryslyd (wyneb dryslyd) • <i>If I was moving school I would feel confused (confused face)</i> • Oren (wyneb dryslyd) • <i>Amber (confused face)</i> 	2
Cymraeg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methu'r Gymraeg 	2

<p><i>Welsh</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Miss the Welsh</i> • Dim Cymraeg yn y ardal yma. Blin. (wyneb blin) • <i>No Welsh in this area. Angry. (angry face)</i> 	
<p>Ffrindiau <i>Friends</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digalon, ddim yn gallu gweld fy holl ffrindiau. Anoddach teithio i ysgolion eraill (wyneb trist) • <i>Depressed. Not seeing all my friends. Harder to travel to other schools (sad face)</i> • Heb ffrindiau (wynebau trist a dryslyd) • <i>Without friends (sad and confused faces)</i> • Mwy o blant a bydd yn anoddach cael ffrindiau (wyneb trist) • <i>More children and harder to get friends (sad face)</i> • Eisiau gweld fy ffrindiau yn Ysgol Mornant cyn mynd i ysgol uwchradd (wyneb trist) • <i>Want to see my friends in Ysgol Mornant before I go to high school (sad face)</i> • Angen gwneud ffrindiau newydd (wyneb trist) • <i>Need to make new friends (sad face)</i> • Dechrau eto, llai o ffrindiau (wyneb trist) • <i>Starting again, less friends (sad face)</i> • Digalon, gwneud ffrindiau newydd, dillad ysgol newydd. • <i>Depressed, making new friends, new school uniform</i> 	<p>7</p>
<p>Arall <i>Other</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ddim yn hoffi meddwl fod Ysgol Mornant yn cau (wyneb trist) • <i>Don't like to think about Ysgol Mornant closing (sad face)</i> • Eisiau gweld y flwyddyn olaf yn Ysgol Mornant • <i>Want to see the last year in Ysgol Mornant</i> • Byddwn yn colli'r ardal • <i>I would miss the area</i> • Yn methu'r clwb brechwast (wynebau trist) • <i>Missing the breakfast club (sad faces)</i> • Methu'r lle • <i>Miss the place</i> • Byddwn yn methu'r athrawon (wyneb trist) • <i>I would miss the teachers (sad face)</i> • Methu'r hanes • <i>Miss the history</i> • Byddaf yn swil (wyneb trist) • <i>I am going to be shy (sad face)</i> • Wedi bod yn mynd i Ysgol Mornant o'r cychwyn (wyneb trist) • <i>Have been in Ysgol Mornant from the start (sad face)</i> 	<p>9</p>

3. Sut fydddech chi'n teimlo am y posibilrwydd o wneud ffrindiau newydd?
Isod mae'r ymatebion a ddisgrifir ar y nodiadau 'post-it' / Below are the responses as described on the post-it notes:

Thema	Ymatebion	Nifer yr Ymatebion
Trist / Anhapus <i>Sad / unhappy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yn drist • <i>Sad</i> • Anhapus, Blin • <i>Unhappy, angry</i> • Wyneb trist • <i>Sad face</i> 	3
Nerfus / Swil <i>Shy / Nervous</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nerfus a swil • <i>Nervous and shy</i> • Nerfus, swil • <i>Nervous, shy</i> • Swil, nerfus (wyneb trist) • <i>Shy, nervous, (sad face)</i> • Swil • <i>Shy</i> • Nerfus, swil, ddim yn siŵr beth i'w wneud • <i>Nervous, shy, not sure what to do</i> • Yn swil • <i>Shy</i> • Swil (wyneb trist) • <i>Shy (sad face)</i> • Swil!!! • <i>Shy!!!</i> • Rhy swil i siarad ac yn teimlo'n ddigalon gyda phawb ac ar goll hefyd (wyneb trist) • <i>Too shy to talk and feeling down an lost (sad face)</i> • Swil, ofnus, eisiau mynd yn ôl, ddim yn gwybod beth i'w wneud • <i>Shy, frightened, want to go back, don't know what to do</i> • Crynu trio ysgwyd llaw, swil • <i>Shaking trying to shake hands, shy</i> • Byddwn yn teimlo'n nerfus ac yn swil oherwydd dwyt ti ddim yn gwybod os ydyn nhw'n mynd i hoffi ti oherwydd faswn i'n gallu gofyn wnei di fod yn ffrind i mi a nhw'n dweud na. • <i>I would feel nervous and shy because you don't know if they are going to like you because I could ask them to be my friend and they could say no.</i> 	12

<p>Unig <i>Lonely</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unig • <i>Lonely</i> • Unig iawn iawn ac yn anghyfforddus ac yn drist • <i>Very very lonely and uncomfortable and sad</i> • Unig (wyneb trist) • <i>Lonely (sad face)</i> • Unig oddi wrth bawb arall yn yr ysgol ac yn drist • <i>Alone from everyone else in the school and sad</i> 	<p>4</p>
<p>Methu Ffrindiau <i>Missing Friends</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methu fy ffrindiau • <i>Missing my friends</i> • Byddaf eisiau fy ffrindiau o Mornant • <i>Like I want my friends from Mornant</i> 	<p>2</p>
<p>Ofnus / Anghyfforddus <i>Frightened / uncomfortable</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ddim eisiau mynd allan oherwydd eich bod yn ofnus • <i>Not wanting to go out because you're frightened</i> • Ofnus • <i>Frightened</i> • Ofnus ac ar goll • <i>Frightened and lost</i> • Yn ofnus iawn iawn ac yn dechrau crio (wyneb trist) • <i>Very very frightened and starting to cry (sad face)</i> • Ofnus, swil a nerfus • <i>Frightened shy and nervous</i> • Ofnus, anghyfforddus, beth i'w gwneud? • <i>Frightened, uncomfortable, what to do?</i> • Byddwn yn teimlo yn anghyfforddus hefo bod o gwmpas pobl dwi ddim yn 'nabod • <i>I would feel uncomfortable being around people I don't know</i> • Yn anghyfforddus, yn nerfus, ar goll, dim eisiau siarad efo nhw (wyneb trist) • <i>Uncomfortable, nervous, lost, not wanting to talk with them (sad face)</i> 	<p>8</p>
<p><i>Arall / Other</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dipyn bach yn wyrion • <i>A bit silly</i> • Ar goll? • <i>Lost?</i> • Byddwn yn teimlo ar wahân i bawb ac ar goll oddi wrth beth maen nhw yn ei wneud a ble maen nhw wedi mynd am yr tair wythnos gyntaf. • <i>I would feel separate from everyone and lost, about what they are doing and where they have gone for the first three weeks</i> • Ddim yn adnabod neb neu'n gwybod beth i'w wneud gyntaf?? 	<p>5</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Not sure what to do first?</i> • ? beth i'w gwneud? • <i>?what to do?</i> 	
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4. Sut fydddech chi'n teimlo am y posibilrwydd o gael eich addysgu gan athrawon newydd?

Thema	Ymatebion	Nifer yr Ymatebion
Anghyfforddus / Ofnus <i>Uncomfortable / Frightened</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yn anghyfforddus, wedi drysu, ofnus, yn poeni (wyneb trist) • <i>Uncomfortable, confused, frightened, worried (sad face)</i> • Anghyfforddus (wyneb trist) • <i>Uncomfortable (sad face)</i> • Teimlaf yn ofnus ac yn drist ac yn anghyfforddus ac yn y lle anghywir • <i>Feeling frightened and sad and uncomfortable and in the wrong place</i> • Ofnus • <i>Frightened</i> • Ofnus oherwydd dydw i ddim yn gwybod os ydyn nhw'n fy hoffi • <i>Frightened because I don't know if they like me or not</i> • Ofnus, swil, anghyfforddus, dryslyd (wyneb dryslyd) • <i>Frightened, shy, uncomfortable, confused (confused face)</i> • Ac yn nerfus (wyneb dryslyd) • <i>And nervous (confused face)</i> • Ofnus, eisiau mynd i weld fy hen athrawon (wyneb dryslyd) • <i>Frightened, want to go and see the old teachers (confused face)</i> 	
Digalon <i>Depressed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digalon • <i>Depressed</i> • Yn ddigalon!!! • <i>Depressed!!!</i> • Digalon • <i>Depressed</i> 	3
Poeni <i>Worried</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poeni • <i>Worried</i> 	5

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwi yn poeni (wyneb trist) • <i>I am worried (sad face)</i> • Yn poeni!!!! (wyneb trist) • <i>Worried (sad face)</i> • Poeni • <i>Worried</i> • Poeni am beth fydd ein hathrawon yn ei wneud • <i>Worried about what the teachers will do</i> 	
Trist <i>Sad</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wynebau trist • <i>Sad faces</i> 	6
Athrawon <i>Teachers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athrawon yn rhoi gwaith gwahanol • <i>Teachers giving different work</i> • Ofnus o athrawon (wyneb trist) • <i>Afraid of teachers (sad face)</i> 	2
Dryslyd <i>Confused</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ddim yn gwybod beth i'w wneud • <i>Not sure what to do</i> • Ar goll • <i>Lost</i> • Dim yn gwybod beth i'w wneud oherwydd fy mod mor nerfus • <i>Not sure what to do because I'm so nervous</i> • Wedi drysu yn y lle anghywir (wyneb dryslyd) • <i>Confused in the wrong place (confused face)</i> • Wedi drysu • <i>Confused</i> • Dryslyd • <i>Confused</i> • Dryslyd (wyneb dryslyd) • <i>Confused (confused face)</i> • Dryslyd iawn, yn ofnus ac yn poeni (wyneb dryslyd) • <i>Very confused, frightened and worried (confused face)</i> • Dryslyd • <i>Mixed</i> 	9
Swil <i>Shy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swil!! • <i>Shy!!</i> • Swil • <i>Shy</i> • Swil, ddim yn gwybod beth i'w wneud? Wedi drysu? • <i>Shy, not sure what to do? Confused?</i> 	3
Arall / <i>Other</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beth? (wyneb dryslyd) • <i>What? (confused face)</i> • Hmmm? (wyneb dryslyd) 	6

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hmmm? (confused face)</i> • Ddim yn siwr • <i>Not sure</i> • Teimlo'n wahanol. Rheolau newydd. Ansicr i ble maen nhw wedi gofyn i mi fynd, fel lle arall yn yr ysgol. Dryslyd iawn. • <i>Feeling different. New rules. Confused about where they have called me to go to, like another place in the school. Really confused.</i> • Truenus • <i>Pitiful</i> • Teimlo fel crio • <i>Feel like crying</i> 	
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5. **Oes unrhyw beth arall yr hoffet ti ei weld yn digwydd yn lle?** *Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead?*

Trafodwyd y cwestiwn hwn ar lafar a'r awgrymiadau oedd: *This question was discussed verbally and the suggestions were:*

Ymatebion	Nifer y disgyblion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peidio â chau'r ysgol • <i>That the school doesn't close</i> 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peidio ag agor ysgol newydd a chau un arall • <i>Don't open a new school and close another</i> 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gwneud mwy o ysgolion Cymraeg • <i>Make more Welsh schools</i> 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yn lle cau'r ysgol, gwneud newidiadau yn lle • <i>Instead of closing the school, make changes instead</i> 	1

6. **Oes arnoch chi eisiau dweud unrhyw beth arall?** *Would you like to say anything else?*

- **Bws meithrin – oedolion ar y bws gyda'r plant os nad yw'r rhieni'n gyrru**
- *Nursery bus – adults on the bus with the children if their parents don't drive*
- **Pam ydych chi'n trio cau'r ysgol? Os ydych chi'n cau'r ysgol yma byddwch chi'n gwneud ysgol mewn lle arall.**
- *Why are you trying to close the school? If you close this school you will be making a school somewhere else.*

- **Beth os oes ysgol Saesneg yn agosach nag ysgol Gymraeg?**
- *What if there is an English school nearer than a Welsh school?*
- **Beth os nad oes yna ddigon o le mewn ysgol (arall) i bawb?**
- *What if there is not enough room in another school for everyone?*
- **Beth fydd yn cael ei adeiladu yn lle'r ysgol?**
- *What will be built instead of the school?*
- **Beth os yw brawd / chwaer yn mynd i ysgol a dim lle ar eu cyfer nhw?**
- *What if a brother / sister goes to a school and there isn't enough room for them*

The School Council also prepared a supporting document when they had met prior to the consultation. This contained information about clubs, classes, sports and socializing.

Roedd Cyngor yr Ysgol wedi paratoi dogfen atodol mewn cyfarfod a gawsant cyn yr ymgynghoriad. Roedd hon yn cynnwys gwybodaeth am glybiau, dosbarthiadau, chwaraeon a chymdeithasu.

Ymgynghori â Chyngor Ysgol y Lllys

Crynodeb

1. Sut byddech chi'n teimlo petai Ysgol Mornant yn cau? *How would you feel if Ysgol Mornant were to close?*

Isod mae'r ymatebion a ddisgrifir ar y nodiadau post-it / *Below are the responses as described on the post-it notes:*

Thema	Ymatebion	Nifer yr Ymatebion
Trist Sad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trist achos mae na ddim yn mynd yn Ysgol Gymraeg. • <i>Sad because there will not be a Welsh school.</i> • Mae o'n drist oherwydd mae nhw ddim yn cael lot pres. • <i>It is sad because they don't have lots of money</i> • Rydw i yn teimlo yn drist fod mae ysgol Cymraeg yn cael ei cau. Achos mae'r Gymraeg i fi yn bwysig. • <i>I think it is sad that a Welsh school will close. Because Welsh is important to me.</i> • Achos fydd y rhieni angen symud cartrefi o Gwespyr i Prestatyn (Gwyneb trist). • <i>Parents will have to move house from Gwespyr to Prestatyn (sad face).</i> 	4
Hapus Happy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwi yn hapus achos os mae nhw yn dod da ni yn gallu cael mwy o blant. • <i>I am happy because if they come here we will have more children.</i> • Rydw i yn meddwl mae'r syniad digon teg. Rydw i yn hapus. • <i>I think it is a fair enough reason. I am happy.</i> 	2
Teimladau cymysg <i>Mixed feelings</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rydw i yn meddwl bydd yn dda. Oherwydd wedyn bydd ysgolion eraill yn cael mwy o blant, ond mae drwg os mae rhai plant angen symud. • <i>I think it will be good. Because other schools will have more children, but it's bad because some children will have to move.</i> • Rydw i yn meddwl mae o'n reit da a reit ddrwg oherwydd mae'r peth da yw fydd Ysgol Mornant a Ysgol y Lllys yn cael mwy o ffrindiau newydd, ac y peth drwg fydd mae'r pobl sydd yn bwy nesaf i Ysgol Mornant hefo hiraf i teithio ac dydy o ddim 	2

	<p>yn deg i'r plant sydd yn hoffi Ysgol Mornant (Gwyneg trist a gwyneb hapus).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I think it's quite good and quiet bad, because the good thing would be that Ysgol Mornant and Ysgol y Llys would have lots more friends, and the bad thing would be that the children from Ysgol Mornant would have further to travel and it's not fair on the children who like Ysgol Mornant (Sad face and a smiley face).</i> 	
<p>Annheg <i>Unfair</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yn fy marn i, rydw ddim yn meddwl bod yn deg cau yr un Ysgol Cymraeg yn ei amgylchedd. Oherwydd mae yno digonedd o ysgolion Saesneg ac ddim yn cau yr ysgolion yna. <i>In my opinion it is not fair to close any Welsh school in its environment, because there are plenty of English school and they are not closing those schools.</i> 	1
<p>Positif <i>Positive</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mae o yn syniad da os mae yno dim digon o plant, ond bydd o'n syniad da os bydd yna oleiaf un Ysgol Gymraeg mewn bob tref. <i>It is a good idea if there are not enough children, but it would be a good idea if there was at least one Welsh school in each town.</i> 	1
<p>Aros ar argor <i>Stay open</i></p>	<p>Dwi meddwl dyla Ysgol Mornant aros ar agor oherwydd: <i>I think Ysgol Mornant should stay open because:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dan ni eisiau helpu datblygu iaith Cymraeg. <i>We want to help develop the Welsh language.</i> Lot o arian rhieni yn cael ei wastio. <i>A lot of parents money would be wasted.</i> Os ydy'r ysgol ar agor wyrach fydd yna mwy o blant yn dod i'r ysgol. <i>If the school remains open maybe more children would go to the school</i> Rydym eisiau ddatblygu y iaith Cymraeg mae hun yn Cymru. <i>We want to develop the Welsh language that's in Wales.</i> 	1
<p>Arall <i>Other</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achos dwi'n mynd i tŷ Dad. <i>Because I go to my Dad's house.</i> Mae ffrind fy Mam yna. <i>My Mum's friend is there.</i> Dwi yn meddwl bod na bod Ysgol Gymraeg yn pop pentre, dim ots os mae o yn pentre fach. <i>I think there should be a Welsh school in each village, it doesn't matter if it is a small village.</i> 	3

2. Sut byddech chi'n teimlo am ddisgyblion newydd yn cychwyn yn Ysgol y Llys? How would you feel about new pupils starting at Ysgol y Llys?

Isod mae'r ymatebion a ddisgrifir ar y nodiadau post-it / Below are the responses as described on the post-it notes:

Thema	Ymatebion	Nifer yr Ymatebion
<p>Hapus <i>Happy</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwi'n teimlo yn hapus i cael mwy o ffrindiau. <i>I am happy to have more friends.</i> • Hapus achos a ni yn cael mwy o ffrindiau a dwi ddm yn cael lot o ffrindiau. <i>I am happy because will have more friends and I don't lots of friends.</i> • Rydw i yn hapus achos rydw i ddim yn cael lot o ffrindiau. <i>I am happy because I don't have lots of friends.</i> • Rydw i yn mynd i bod yn hapus. Os ydy Ysgol Mornant yn cau fydd plant bach newydd yn dod i cyfarfod plant rydym ni ddim yn gwybod. <i>I am going to be happy. If Ysgol Mornant closes then we will meet new children that we don't know.</i> • Dwi'n hapus oherwydd mae rhai o plant gallu cael mwy o ffrindiau. <i>I am happy because other children can have more friends too.</i> • Fysa i yn teimlo'n hapus ond rydw i yn dipyn y shy felly fysa i hyn hoffi o ond rydw i ddim yn reit dda am gwneud ffrindiau. <i>I would feel happy, but I am a little bit shy but I am quiet good at making new friends.</i> • Mi fydda i yn teimlo'n hapus oherwydd mae'n neis gwneud ffrindiau newydd. <i>I will feel quite happy because it's nice making new friends.</i> 	<p>7</p>
<p>Anghyfforddus <i>Uncomfortable</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bydd o'n teimlo'n anghyfforddus oherwydd mae yna ddim lot o amser i wneud ffrindiau hefo nhw. <i>It will feel uncomfortable because there is not a lot of time to make new friends with them.</i> • Wyrach fydd plant Ysgol Mornant yn teimlo'n anghyfforddus i wneud ffrindiau newydd a dod i ysgol newydd. 	<p>2</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Maybe the children from Ysgol Mornant will feel uncomfortable making new friends and coming to a new school.</i> 	
Trist Sad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rydw i yn meddwl bod o yn drist i'r plant achos mae nhw angen gwneud ffrindiau a wyrach yr ffrindiau gorau nhw yn mynd i ysgol arall. • <i>I think it is sad for the children because they will need to make friends and maybe some of their best friends will be going to other schools.</i> 	1
Arall Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achos os mae nhw'n dawel yna mae nhw ddim yn ffrind fi. • <i>Because if they are quiet then they won't be my friend.</i> • Mi fyddaf i hyn hoffi gael ffrindiau newydd, mi fyddaf yn iawn gyda hynny ond rydw dal ddim eisiau cau ysgol. • <i>I will like having new friends, I will be fine with that but I still don't want the school to close.</i> • I gwybod gemau newydd a ffrindiau newydd hefyd. • <i>To learn new games and make new friends too.</i> • Rydw i eisiau ffrindiau newydd ond oes na le yn y stafell cinio? • <i>I want new friends, but is there room in the canteen?</i> 	4

3. **Oes unrhyw beth arall yr hoffet chi ei weld yn digwydd yn lle? Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead?**

Trafodwyd y cwestiwn hwn ar lafar a'r awgrymiadau oedd: / This question was discussed verbally and the suggestions were:

Ymatebion	Nifer y disgyblion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yn Ysgol y Llys mae rhai blynyddoedd yn rhannu dosbarthiadau, oes modd gwneud yr un peth yn Ysgol Mornant? • <i>In Ysgol y Llys some years share classes, is it possible to do the same in Ysgol Mornant?</i> 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ar ddiwrnod cyntaf y plant newydd yn Ysgol y Llys, dangos nhw ogwmpas yr ysgol. • <i>On their first day at Ysgol y Llys the new children could be shown around the school.</i> 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codi arian cyn cau'r ysgol. • <i>Raise money for the school before closing it.</i> 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cael mwy o blant i'r ysgol, gwneud gwefan am yr ysgol. • <i>Get more children to the school by doing a website.</i> 	1

4. **Oes arnoch chi eisiau dweud unrhyw beth arall?** *Would you like to say anything else?*

- **Ydy'r plant yn hapus yn mynd i Ysgol Mornant?**
Are the children happy going to Ysgol Mornant?
- **Mae yno lawer o ysgolion Saesneg yng Nghymru, pam cau Ysgol Gymraeg?**
There are plenty of English schools in Wales, why close a Welsh school.
- **Oes yna ysgol arall yn Picton?**
Is there another school in Picton?
- **Be fyddan nhw gwneud gyda'r adailad?**
What will they do with the building?

**CYNGOR YSGOL -
YSGOL GYMRAEG
GWENFFRWD**

Dyddiad : 4/12/15

Presennol	Cian, Phoebe, Mia, Erin, Liam, Emily, Mr Evans
Absennol	Ioan

Trafod:

Dogfen Ymgynghori - Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton
Fersiwn i'r plant 2015

Cyflwynodd Mr Evans y llyfryn.

Trafodwyd y tudalennau canlynol,

Pwy ydym ni?

Ein nodau

Newidiadau

Beth mae hyn yn ei olygu?

Beth fyddai'n newid?

Pa mor hir fydd pethau'n cymryd?

Ymateb:

Mia - Bydd hyn yn cael effaith mawr ar blant bl 5 ac iau yn Ysgol Mornant.

Erin - Pam gwneud ffasiwn beth, os ydyn nhw yn cau Ysgol Mornant rwan pwy fydden nhw yn cau nesaf. Fyswn i yn teimlo yn ansicr ac anhapus iawn os fyswn ni yn Ysgol Mornant.

Phoebe - Mae fy nghefnither i yn Ysgol Mornant ac mae hi yn teimlo fel yna.

Mia - mae'n dweud ar y dudalen 'pa mor hir fydd pethau'n cymryd' bod unrhyw newid yn cychwyn ym Medi 2016, sydd yn sydyn iawn. Dyw hi ddim yn deg gorfod symud i ysgol arall ac yn enwedig yn Sir Ddinbych. Mae'n dweud fe fyddi di'n mynd i ysgol ger dy gartref.

Rydyn ni angen gymaint o blant a phosib yn ysgolion Cymraeg Sir y Fflint.

Liam - Pam ddim helpu nhw drwy adeiladu adeilad newydd os nad yw adeilad yr ysgol yn ddigon diogel a chryf. Rhaid i'r Cynghorwyr helpu'r ysgol. Bydd gwario arian ar Ysgol Mornant yn fwy teg gan bod Ysgol Mornant yn Ysgol Gymraeg.

Cian - Rydyn ni angen cadw'r iaith yn fyw, dim ond 5 Ysgol Gymraeg sydd yma yn barod. A beth am yr Urdd, fydd hi'n od iawn cystadlu heb Ysgol Mornant.

Erin - Mae Eisteddfod yr Urdd yn Sir Fflint blwyddyn yma hefyd. Dyle Cynghorwyr helpu'r ysgol nid cau ef.

Mi fydden ni fel aelodau Cyngor Ysgol Gwenffrwd yn anhapus iawn pe bai Ysgol Mornant yn cau. Mi rydyn ni yn gwrthwynebu.

Cwestiynau:

Cian - Bydd plant Ysgol Mornant yn mynd i Ysgol Gymraeg arall neu i Ysgol Saesneg yn Picton?

Erin - Bydd y rhieni yn gorfod gyrru nhw i ysgol arall neu bydd bws ar gael?

Mia - Beth fydd yn digwydd i'r athrawon?

**SCHOOL COUNCIL -
YSGOL GYMRAEG
GWENFFRWD**

Date: 4/12/15

Present	Cian, Phoebe, Mia, Erin, Liam, Emily, Mr Evans
Absent	Ioan

Discussed:

Consultation document - Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton
Children's version 2015

Mr Evans introduced the booklet.

The following pages were discussed,

Who are we?

Our aims

Changes

What does this mean?

What would change?

How long will things take?

Response:

Mia - This will have a big impact on children in Year 5 and below at Ysgol Mornant.

Erin - Why do such a thing, if they close Ysgol Mornant now which school will they close next? I would feel very insecure and unhappy if I was in Ysgol Mornant.

Phoebe - My cousin goes to Ysgol Mornant and she feels like that.

Mia - it says on the 'how long will things take' page that any change will start in September 2016, which is very soon. It's not fair having to move to another school especially in Denbighshire. It says you will attend a school near your home. We need as many children as possible in Flintshire's Welsh schools.

Liam - Why not help them by building a new building if the school is not safe or strong enough. The Councillors must help the school. Spending money on Ysgol Mornant would be fairer as Ysgol Mornant is a Welsh school.

Cian - We need to keep the language alive, we only have 5 Welsh schools as it is. And what about the Urdd, it will be very odd competing without Ysgol Mornant.

Erin - The Urdd Eisteddfod is held in Flintshire this year too. Councillors should help the school not close it.

As members of Ysgol Gwenffrwd's School Council, we would be very unhappy if Ysgol Mornant was to close. We object.

Questions:

Cian - Will Ysgol Mornant pupils attend another Welsh school or an English school in Picton?

Erin - Will the parents have to drive them to another school or will a bus be available?

Mia - What will happen to the teachers?

APPENDIX D

DRAFT

Proposal to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Gwespyr from 31st August 2016
Meeting with affected Primary Schools Headteachers and Chair of Governors
25th November 2015 at 10.00 a.m. at Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell

Present:-

Damian Hughes, Senior Manager School Place Planning and Provision
 Jennie Williams, 21st Century Schools Project Officer
 Iola Owen, Headteacher, Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell
 Andrew Evans, Deputy Headteacher, Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell
 Howard Jones, Chair of Governors, Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell
 Professor Robert Moore, Governor
 Sue Roberts, Clerk to the Governors

		ACTION
1.	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>None</p>	
2.	<p><u>Introduction and Welcome</u></p> <p>DH welcomed the group and advised that he would be meeting with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of the other affected Welsh medium school (Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn).</p>	
3.	<p><u>School Modernisation</u></p> <p>DH advised that Flintshire County Council's Cabinet approved the revised School Modernisation Strategy in January 2015. This document is available at www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation</p> <p>As part of the School Modernisation Programme we are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure education provision is both high quality and sustainable • Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities • Provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations • Address unsustainable school buildings and supporting infrastructure • Recognise that doing nothing means higher pupil teacher ratios as funding reduces • Ensure that we maximise external funding through the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme. <p>As of PLASC January 2015 the primary school portfolio has 17.15% unfilled places, whilst the national target set by Welsh Government is to reduce this level to under 10%.</p>	

4.	<p><u>Consultation Documents</u></p> <p>The formal consultation period commenced on Wednesday, 11th November 2015 and ends on Wednesday, 2^{3rd} December 2015 on the 'Proposal to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Gwespyr (Welsh Medium, Community School) as of 31st August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference.</p> <p>A formal consultation document along with supporting Impact Assessments (Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Transport Impact Assessment and Community Impact Assessment) and a Children and Young People's document has been produced and is available to view either on-line at www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation or hard copies are available on request by either emailing 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk or telephoning 01352 704134.</p> <p>The majority of the data included within the document is based on information returns provided by the school (i.e. PLASC; My Local School etc.)</p> <p>The School confirmed the follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school received a copy of the email from School Modernisation on 11th November 2015 at 13.05, requesting that the school make Parents/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents aware of the link to the Consultation documents. • 5 x Hard copies of the Formal Consultation Document, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessment, Transport Impact Assessment and Children and Young People's Document were hand delivered by the School Modernisation Team on 12th November 2015 and are available to view at the school's reception for Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents. These were also signed for on delivery by a member of staff at the affected school. • The format in which they made Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents aware of the link. <p>Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell confirmed they had received the documentation and Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective</p>	
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	<p>Parents had been made aware of the link.</p> <p>As part of the School Organisation Code Consultation process the Authority is required to consult with the School Council of the affected Schools.</p> <p>All consultation feedback will be collated and form part of the consultation report which will be considered by Cabinet, who will decide on whether to proceed with the proposal.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Revised Timeline</u></p> <p>DH circulated a copy of the anticipated Timetable for Statutory Proposals at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Gwespyr showing the key milestones.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Actions for Headteachers/Governors</u></p> <p>As an affected primary school to the proposal, the Authority would be hopeful to receive a response from the Governors.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Concerns/Feedback/Questions</u></p> <p>Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell felt they should have been consulted on the proposal prior to the Consultation document being made public. Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell felt they were not treated with respect and it was a disgrace. Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell commented that they had been a shock to hear of the proposal to close a Welsh medium school and for their school to be mentioned in the document.</p> <p>DH stated that it was normal protocol for schools to be informed of any proposals affecting them prior to the consultation document being issued. DH confirmed that in hindsight this should have happened. DH confirmed during the consultation period any stakeholders could comment on the proposal. DH confirmed that this was the purpose of the meeting with this school today. DH confirmed that it was a statutory requirement to name and compare the alternative schools. DH confirmed that the primary Headteacher federation had also been informed of the names of the schools under review back in the Summer.</p> <p>A governor commented that the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) needs reviewing and was inadequate and incompetent. Adding</p>	

<p>that consultation with stakeholders should have been completed. DH/JW confirmed that the EIA information had been discussed with the Corporate EIA group in conjunction with Fiona Mochko. DH confirmed that the document was a working and live document and welcomed feedback.</p> <p>The options for the school discussed with the group where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain Status Quo (Ysgol Gwenffrwd Headteacher and Governors confirmed that this would be their preferred option for Ysgol Mornant) • Federation (Ysgol Gwenffrwd Headteacher and Governors confirmed that they would not support this because of the distance of 6 miles) • Dual Stream Welsh medium and English medium on one site (Ysgol Gwenffrwd Headteacher and Governors confirmed that they would not support this) <p>Ysgol Gwenffrwd confirmed that it did not advocate Federation between themselves and Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant.</p> <p>DH explained that Federation has been in the gift of Governors since 2010.</p> <p>The Headteacher stated that the Local Authority had a statutory obligation to raise Welsh medium education provision within the County.</p> <p>The Headteacher stated that they had felt like a lone voice in the budget forum when trying to get others to understand that the Welsh medium sector requires and should have more investment.</p> <p>The Headteacher confirmed that the school and its governors thought the proposal was not providing equal opportunities and many pupils would not travel to another Welsh medium school, particularly younger pupils.</p> <p>The Headteacher stated that since 2011 there had been many Officers within the Council who have left, and there was a general lack of insight of Welsh medium education, and the work required to educate pupils within the Welsh medium system which involves double the work.</p> <p>The Headteacher stated that many do not have the vision for Welsh medium education. The Headteacher asked if there was anyone within the decision makers who had been through a Welsh medium education. DH stated that should the school wish to pre-meet with members this could be arranged.</p> <p>The Headteacher stated that it was a massive concern that children would be lost in the Welsh medium education system. The Deputy</p>	
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	<p>Headteacher stated that if the Local Authority did have a vision for Welsh medium education then it would be supporting all Welsh medium schools.</p> <p>DH confirmed that the Local Authority would not stand in the way of parental preference for Welsh medium education for pupils at Ysgol Mornant should the school close. DH confirmed that this included the Welsh medium school over the border in Denbighshire, as it was geographically nearer to Ysgol Mornant. DH confirmed that transport would be provided for pupils under the home to transport policy which would be arranged in line with the Leaner Travel measures.</p> <p>The Clerk to the Governors raised a concern of the validity of transporting nursery children, and would there be adult supervision. DH confirmed that home to school transport applies to statutory school age only.</p> <p>The Headteacher asked what forum they would need to attend to provide their representations about the proposal. DH confirmed that the outcome of the consultation would be provided to Cabinet and at Scrutiny Committee. DH confirmed that any type of correspondence is accepted during the consultation period, feedback could be provided through the Survey monkey, emails. Letters etc.</p> <p>The Headteacher stated that there was not factually correct information about the age groups being taught in single age groups and wondered where the information had come from, stating the document was misleading. DH confirmed that this information had been sought through the school.</p> <p>The Headteacher stated that the capacity changes required for Ysgol Mornant had not been changed, because it looked better for the Local Authority.</p> <p>DH confirmed that the capacity of the school was calculated through 'Measuring Capacity in Wales' guidance. The Headteacher confirmed that she has had many meetings with the Capital Works Manager and team, and it was her believe that the school could not accommodate the number of pupils stated for the capacity of the school.</p> <p>A Governor stated that there had also been a 10 year history of accessibility issues with this school site. The Headteacher confirmed that the school did have lifts but it had been a Health and Safety Officer for the Local Authority who will not commission them, but it had been the Local Authority who had put them in originally.</p> <p>The Headteacher stated discussions with Claire Homard and the WESP, Flintshire County Council was at the bottom of the table.</p>	
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	<p>The Headteacher stated that it had been like a bombshell to them and the document had shocked her and she had personally felt insulted it, adding that she had to work with the current Headteacher of Ysgol Mornant. DH confirmed that it was a statutory requirement under the Schools Organisation Code to name and compare the alternative schools. DH confirmed that the primary Headteacher forum had also been informed of the names of the schools under review.</p>	
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End of Meeting

Proposal to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Gwespyr from 31st August 2016
Meeting with affected Primary Schools Headteachers and Chair of Governors
11th December 2015 at 9.00 a.m. at Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn

Present:-

Damian Hughes, Senior Manager School Place Planning and Provision, Flintshire County Council

Dyfan Phillips, Headteacher, Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn

Parchedig B H Jones, Chair of Governors, Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn

James Curran, School Modernisation Manager, Denbighshire County Council

		ACTION
1.	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>None</p>	
2.	<p><u>Introduction and Welcome</u></p> <p>DH welcomed the group and advised that he had met with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of the other affected Welsh medium school (Ysgol Gwenffwdd, Holywell).</p>	
3.	<p><u>School Modernisation</u></p> <p>DH advised that Flintshire County Council's Cabinet approved the revised School Modernisation Strategy in January 2015. This document is available at www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation</p> <p>As part of the School Modernisation Programme we are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure education provision is both high quality and sustainable • Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities • Provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations • Address unsustainable school buildings and supporting infrastructure • Recognise that doing nothing means higher pupil teacher ratios as funding reduces • Ensure that we maximise external funding through the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme. <p>As of PLASC January 2015 the primary school portfolio has 17.15% unfilled places, whilst the national target set by Welsh Government is to reduce this level to under 10%.</p>	

4.	<p><u>Consultation Documents</u></p> <p>The formal consultation period commenced on Wednesday, 11th November 2015 and ends on Wednesday, 2^{3rd} December 2015 on the 'Proposal to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Gwespyr (Welsh Medium, Community School) as of 31st August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area subject to parental preference.</p> <p>A formal consultation document along with supporting Impact Assessments (Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Transport Impact Assessment and Community Impact Assessment) and a Children and Young People's document has been produced and is available to view either on-line at www.flintshire.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation or hard copies are available on request by either emailing 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk or telephoning 01352 704134.</p> <p>The majority of the data included within the document is based on information returns provided by the school (i.e. PLASC; My Local School etc.)</p> <p>The School confirmed the follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school received a copy of the email from School Modernisation on 11th November 2015 at 13.05, requesting that the school make Parents/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents aware of the link to the Consultation documents. • 5 x Hard copies of the Formal Consultation Document, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessment, Transport Impact Assessment and Children and Young People's Document were hand delivered by the School Modernisation Team on 12th November 2015 and are available to view at the school's reception for Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents. These were also signed for on delivery by a member of staff at the affected school. • The format in which they made Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents aware of the link. <p>Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell confirmed they had received the documentation and Parent/Carers/Guardians/Pupils/School Council/Governors/Staff Members and Prospective Parents had been made aware of the link.</p>	
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	<p>As part of the School Organisation Code Consultation process the Authority is required to consult with the School Council of the affected Schools. This took place on 23rd November 2015 at 9.00 a.m.</p> <p>All consultation feedback will be collated and form part of the consultation report which will be considered by Cabinet, who will decide on whether to proceed with the proposal.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Revised Timeline</u></p> <p>DH circulated a copy of the anticipated Timetable for Statutory Proposals at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Gwespyr showing the key milestones.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Actions for Headteachers/Governors</u></p> <p>As an affected primary school to the proposal, the Authority would be hopeful to receive a response from the Governors.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Concerns/Feedback/Questions</u></p> <p>Headteacher wished to record that no one employed by Ysgol Y Llys had suggested that either the school was full or that pupils from Ysgol Mornant would not be welcome should Ysgol Mornant Close. They had concerns that should Ysgol Mornant close then some parents may choose an English medium schools which where nearer rather than an alternative Welsh medium school.</p>	

End of Meeting

APPENDIX E

DRAFT

APPENDIX E

Summary of Issues and Responses

Impact on Welsh Culture (Welsh Language, Community & Welsh Education Provision)

Consultee Comments	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern over impact on the Welsh Language in Flintshire. • Concern over reducing Welsh medium primary education. • Concern over impact on Welsh Language in the area. • Concern about reducing the amount of Welsh speakers in the area and within Wales. • Concern that less Welsh speakers would attend secondary Welsh medium education. • The Council should not be considering any Welsh medium schools for closure. • The Eisteddfod yr Urdd is visiting Flintshire this year it looks very poor that a Welsh medium school is being closed, and reflects badly on the Council. • A lot of parents will opt for English medium education due to the location of the other Welsh medium schools and convenience should Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant close. • This proposal is likely to impact on Ysgol Maes Garmon. • The Governors of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant have surveyed parents/guardians views and believe that 50% would transfer their child/children to a Welsh medium school should the Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant close, the remaining 50% will transfer to English medium schools. • There is a higher % of Welsh speakers in the area, the school has provided pivotal and vital role in this. • Welsh language is vital in the area due to the high % of Welsh speakers. • The school educates approximately 16% of the area's primary children through the medium of Welsh. • The Council have invested in the east of the county, and should do in the west by keeping the school open. • Send out a completely negative message to parents in term of Welsh education benefits and bilingualism in general. • The language is not given the respect it should by Flintshire County Council. 	<p>In order to assess the potential impact on the Welsh language, the consultation document gave full consideration to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language of the school; • Access to Welsh Medium education; • Education Provision/Education Standards; • Access to non-statutory provision; • Access to pre/after school activities; • Use of Welsh within the community <p>In the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, Flintshire County Council works with partners to increase the number of fluent Welsh speakers within its boundaries, with the aim of creating an increasingly bilingual county and country.</p> <p>Flintshire County Council is committed to, working in partnership to support, expand and promote Welsh-medium education within the whole community, increasing the number and percentage of pupils receiving Welsh-medium education in compliance with the Welsh Government's Welsh-Medium Education Strategy of developing learners who are fully bilingual (i.e. fluent in both English and Welsh) and where there is demand.</p> <p>Commissioned research (ORS) suggests that demand for Welsh medium provision is rising in some areas of the County but diminishing in others.</p> <p>If Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant was to close, it is the Council's view that there are sufficient unfilled places at Ysgol Y Lllys, Prestatyn and Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell to accommodate demand for Welsh medium provision in the area. The trend of decreasing numbers at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant is an indication that parents/carers in the area are not actively choosing the school for their children. The school is also</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We should be safeguarding these precious assets of language and culture. • The former director of Education would be turning in his grave. • It is a disgrace that the Council can consider closing a Welsh school. • It's a nail in the coffin of Welsh medium education in Flintshire. • It would cause significant harm to the County's reputation as pioneers of Welsh-medium education to close the school. • The school is the only Welsh medium primary school in North Flintshire. • The Welsh language and culture should be treasured and valued. • Because of Point of Ayr the language is very important part of the history and culture of the area. • Many feel that we have reached a critical tipping point which could herald the complete demise of the language which is fighting to survive in this corner of a predominately English speaking and governed county. • To close a Welsh school is scandalous. • The document sent shock waves through the local Welsh communities. • Closure would irreparably damage or even destroy the Welsh language and culture. • It would be a catastrophic blow to the Welsh language and culture in the area. 	<p>currently in Standards Category 4 in the Welsh Government categorisation model which is published on the 'My Local School' website. Like all schools, Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant has a responsibility for promoting itself within its local community and try to encourage parents to attend or consider alternative models of delivery to make it sustainable.</p> <p>In direct response to the ORS survey Flintshire County Council has opened, a new Welsh medium primary provision in Shotton, Deeside under the leadership of the next nearest Welsh medium primary school in Flint. The School, Council, Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint and Mudiad Meithrin, conducted a huge publicity campaign for Welsh medium education across the area including extensive media coverage, leaflet drops, poster campaigns, pop ups at supermarkets etc. After just one year the numbers entering the new provision have more than doubled and the expectation is that this will continue to grow.</p> <p>External evaluations of our work in promoting Welsh medium education have been consistently positive and recognised as innovative.</p> <p>The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan is delivered and monitored through the Flintshire Welsh in Education Strategic forum. This is made up of a range of partners including Mudiad Meithrin, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint, Syfflag, Coleg Cambria and Twf as well as Welsh medium primary and secondary school headteachers. It is chaired jointly by the Chief Officer and Lead Member for Education and Youth and is supported by a range of officers with responsibility for education, youth, inclusion and admissions.</p>
<p>Pupils comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Welsh language will be lost. • The language will die in the area. • There are not many Welsh school around in this area. • Need to keep the Welsh language alive. • There are not many people who speak Welsh near us. • If this school closes I will go to an English school like my mum and dad. • Don't shut the school as it's a Welsh school. • Sadness that there would be no Welsh school. • Would miss the Welsh language. • We want to develop the Welsh language. • Keep the school a Welsh school. • Need to keep the language alive. • There are only 5 Welsh schools. 	<p>The Local Authority has actively engaged with its key partners and the Welsh Government to promote Welsh medium education in a variety of ways. The Flintshire County Council website hosts a number of key documents promoting Welsh medium education as an option for parents including a booklet commissioned by Mudiad Meithrin titled "Best of Both Worlds" which outlines the benefits of being bilingual and provides reassurance to parents through individual case studies that they do not need to be Welsh speakers themselves to use Welsh medium education for their children. The Local Authority has also paid for these</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Urdd Eisteddfod is in Flintshire this year. <p>Pupils questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why close a Welsh school? • If you shut a Welsh school now which is next? 	<p>books to be printed and placed in Booktrust Cymru’s Bookstart packs which are given free to babies to encourage parental engagement in Welsh medium early childcare and early educational provision. The authority is not aware that any other Council took this innovative approach.</p> <p>Estyn comment that the Council recognises that there risk is that if Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant closes then parents and pupils might not choose to travel to a Welsh medium school that is further away and may elect to attend an English medium school which is nearer to their home, then the impact on the numbers of pupils being assessed through the medium of Welsh might be negative. However that if parents are committed to their children continuing to receive a Welsh medium education and send them to other Welsh medium schools in the area then the impact of closure will be neutral.</p> <p>The Council will provide free transport for pupils to other Welsh Medium schools in line with its Home to School Transport Policy.</p> <p>In the context of the level of austerity and impact on school budgets, declining numbers of pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, future projections of pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, the insufficient pupil numbers and demand in the area and capacity and surplus pupil places within the wider Welsh Medium Primary Sector, based on the demographic, pupil numbers and housing information for the area, should Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant close then pupils can be accommodated in existing Welsh Medium School provision, subject to parental choice.</p> <p>Flintshire County Council working with its strategic partners continues to deliver its major commitment to support the Urdd Eisteddfod. This is an existing and creative programme of activity which will have a lasting positive legacy for the cultural life of the area.</p>
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Alternative Suggestions:

Consultee Comments	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federation should be explored – suggestions include Ysgol Maes Garmon, Ysgol Croes Atti, Ysgol 	<p>The Council has given careful consideration to a range of alternative options as part of the development of the current proposal. In</p>

<p>Gwenffrwd, Ysgol Bryn Garth, Ysgol Gronant, Trelogan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school should be marketed and promoted similar to how the school in Croes Atti was. • Look to ways to increase pupil numbers. • Increase the educational standards at the school. • Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant is more than willing to widen its appeal by more intensive promotion in the locality. • Promote the Cylch Meithrin, and widen to provide more community activities. • Put more investment in Welsh medium education. • Raise the profile of the school. • The Local Authority should support the school to overcome the challenges it currently faces. • The school should be given the opportunity to recover from the pupil numbers. • The Governing body should be allowed to promote the school in the locality. • FCC needs to become more involved at this very early stage of Federation to offer guidance, encouragement and support. • The school with support from the LA should address some issues. • The Council should be offering the school as an alternative to parents/carers who are applying for a place at schools that are full. • Fundraising for the school. • Share transport costs with Ysgol Bryn Garth. • Capital investment. • Postpone the priority maintenance works to save money. • Move pupils to other smaller schools such as Trelogan. • The Council should stop wasting money. • Open days for parents to view the excellent facilities. • Transport children under the statutory school age. • Cut the salaries of the Chief Executive or Chief Officers. • Explore alternative models to address issues of standards, leadership and management. • Review the other English medium schools. • There are no other workable alternatives the school should stay open. • Move the school to a more suitable site. 	<p>considering these options reference has been made to the main investment objectives of the school modernisation strategy which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to raise educational standards • Creating the conditions for school leaders to succeed • Ensuring that school buildings are attractive learning and working environments • Reducing the number of unfilled places and the inequity of variation in cost per pupil; and • Providing resilience against falling revenue funding <p>Governing Bodies have been able to federate since 2010 using the process set out in The Federation of Maintained Schools and Miscellaneous Amendment (Wales) Regulations 2010 ('the 2010 Federation Regulations') However, Local Authorities have only been given such powers under the new Regulations in 2014.</p> <p>In Ofsted's report on Federation (2011) three main reasons were given for federating. Some schools had been approached by a Council to help a struggling school; others were small schools in danger of closure or unable to recruit high quality staff; and others were seeking to strengthen the overall education of pupils in their communities.</p> <p>There are clear benefits by working together, through federation and other partnership arrangements, schools can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raise their standards, for example, by shared training and working practices, encouraging their staff to support each other and developing integrated curriculum and pastoral policies; • offer pupils a wider range of opportunities, for example, by holding joint activities or sharing facilities or teachers that might be difficult to sustain individually; • develop a range of extended services and activities for pupils and the wider community; • improve their leadership and management, for example, through shared headship; and
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximise the sharing of resources, taking advantage of economies of scale.
<p>Pupil comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the school open. • Try and get more pupils to the school. • Open a bigger Welsh school. • County to support small schools. • Do more on the television. • Come and see the school. • Close another school. • Open more Welsh schools. • Make changes to the school. • There should be at least one Welsh school in each town. • There should be a Welsh school in every village no matter how small. • Close English schools, there are plenty of them. • They could share classes. • Raise money for the school. • Develop a website for the school. • Get more pupils in. • Help them build a new school. • The Council have to help the school. 	<p>However, federal arrangements in schools often fail to meet a number of the key drivers of school modernisation. Key issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable Buildings – The 21st Century programme funding arrangements from WG rely on rationalisation of school estate to generate revenue saving to enable access prudential borrowing. Additionally in some cases sale of surplus estate, will also generate capital receipts both are used to fund the Local Authority’s 50% contribution to the programme. Federal arrangements will not rationalise the estate, therefore the revenue saving will be either nil or limited to small potential savings in the school allocations and only if formula allocations and/ or structures can be changed. • Unfilled Places - As Federal arrangements do not rationalise school estate, reducing unfilled places is limited to mothballing areas of schools, this may or may not be achievable in individual schools for operational, practicable or building related reasons • Diminishing Resources – Federal arrangements do not support large revenue savings, instead small potential savings in the school allocations could potentially be achievable through the formula allocations if staffing structures were changed. The building related costs would remain as they are currently. <p>Developing and sustaining a resilient network of high performing schools at a time of austerity is an ongoing challenge when many of our more rural primary schools are small or very small. This is a challenge for both the provision of a broad curriculum and staff development as well as the management of school budgets. To ensure the future of our schools, it is imperative that we work to reframe our current provision in order to create a sustainable network of locally interdependent, rather than independently led communities of learning, which are able and make the most efficient use of financial</p>

and human resources to offer distinctive outstanding educational outcomes. This is a particular concern for some of our smallest rural schools where we need to develop a greater understanding of the benefits of collaboration to secure a sustainable future for local provision.

The Governors of Ysgol Croes Atti, Flint, considered an official request to federate with Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant at their governing body meeting dated 20th January 2015, however, the Governors decided unanimously that they wouldn't be in favour of forming a federation at this time. Other Welsh Medium schools in Flintshire whilst not supporting the proposal have not and are not advocating a federal arrangement with Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant. The Governors of Ysgol y Llys, Prestatyn offered no response to the consultation. However, Ysgol Maes Garmon have stated that they would wish to engage further with the Governors at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant and the Council to explore ways in which Welsh Medium provision could be sustained in the area and what support they could offer to achieve this. Currently the governors of both schools have not had given formal consideration to the guidance contained within the Welsh Governments 2014 Federation Regulations and as such have not presented a case for federation.

It is the responsibility of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant Governing body to work with the Headteacher to promote and market the individual school to the wider community.

It is the view of the Council that should the current proposal be implemented it would improve the current standard and quality of Welsh medium education within the area and more specifically for the pupils of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant. The review has set out to address challenges within the area that have the potential to impact upon the sustainability of high quality provision in the future. This proposal and related proposals seek to maintain the current standard with a view to strengthening and improving educational provision within the area.

Estyn also state that the proposal is likely to at least maintain education provision and outcomes for pupils in the area.

Regulations describe the respective roles and responsibilities of a governing body. It is the statutory responsibility of the governing body to conduct the school with a

	<p>view to promoting high standards of educational achievement at the school.</p> <p>The three main roles of a governing body are to</p> <p>(i) set the aims and objectives for the school;</p> <p>(ii) agree policies, targets and priorities for achieving these objectives;</p> <p>(iii) monitor and evaluate the aims and objectives and whether the policies, targets and priorities are being met, always with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement.</p>
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Strengths of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ysgol Mornant is important to the community. • The Building is serviceable and useful. • The school has a good ethos and close knit family feel. • Pupils thrive in this small learning environment. • Numerous ex pupils have gone on to gaining success in their adult lives. • The school is a family. • There is a nice friendly atmosphere. • The school is local and we can walk to it. • It's a small village school where all the children know and play with each other. • My child/children are happy there. • The school provides a unique opportunity to be bilingual. • The school has provided significant support for my family and my children have additional needs. • There is a close home/school friendship. • The teachers make time for the smallest things. • My child thrives in a smaller classroom. • The school was established to be an area school and serves a number of villages. • The school has an excellent reputation. • Estyn have stated that the prospects for improvement are 'GOOD'. • I had many opportunities to play a variety of sports at the school. • It's a fantastic school – home from home. • It has extensive playing fields and is situated in a beautiful position with a panoramic views overlooking the sea. • It's a small school with a big heart. • One size does not fit all. • Ysgol Mornant has been a very important place for me and my family. 	<p>The positive responses from consultees regarding Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant are noted.</p> <p>Reviewing the future of any school is controversial and emotive. Pupils, parents, carers and teachers, past and present, have strong ties to local schools as part of their own life-stories. The Council is challenged with balancing the sensitivities of community feeling on the one hand, with providing a high quality education offer which can be sustained and afforded. The Council cannot avoid making decisions for the future which are in the best interests of pupils and students.</p> <p>Estyn has identified the educational challenges faced by small schools or sites (Estyn – Small Primary Schools in Wales, 2003) as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • teaching mixed age classes containing more than 2 or 3 age groups; • the restricted size of peer groups and sufficiency of challenge; • limited opportunities for social interaction; • difficulties with recruitment and retention of staff; • excessive burdens on staff; and • increased expertise required to support pupils with special educational needs. <p>The Council's school modernisation strategy states that: future primary school provision will endeavour to follow one of the County</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has brilliant teachers and classroom assistants. • The school is so welcoming and friendly. • The school provides good pastoral care. • The school is an inspiration. • The miners path to Point to Ayr runs alongside of the school where their children received their education. 	<p>Council’s recommended models described below. The models are:</p> <p>a) 1 form entry or more – primary school providing a minimum of 210 full-time places or more (approximately 30 pupils per year group) and with no more than 25% surplus places. Other models of at least one form of entry, for example, 1.5, 2, 2.5 or 3 forms of entry are also efficient and effective.</p>
<p>Pupils comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school has many positives. • It’s a lovely, nice little school. • We have lots of memories of our childhood. • The school makes us feel special. • Amazing experiences the school has given. • The school is in an old building. • We have fun here. • Everyone looks out for each other. • We are like a family. • Our school is special. • I know everyone. • The school means everything to me. • It’s an old school. • Everybody here is happy. • We have good friendships. • The school is in a lovely site. • We have lots of room. • Welsh language. • It’s a unique school. • Everyone is like a family. • We have a good view. • Everyone knows each other. 	<p>b) Schools with less than 1 form of entry, but with more than 0.5 forms of entry providing at least 105 full-time places (approximately 15 pupils per year group) where needed, may be considered for the formation of a federated school or an area school. Area schools would be formed in accordance with the Council’s preferred operating model at (a) above.</p> <p>Resilient and sustainable primary school organisation would enable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A headteacher with a minimum 40% time commitment to leadership and management. This commitment will increase in relation to the size of the school. All schools need sufficient leadership capacity and there are inefficiencies from using headteachers as highly paid classroom teachers; • increased benefit to pupils from peer interaction; • increased social opportunities for pupils through the pursuit of a wider range of activities; enhancing children’s ability to forge relationships and celebrate diversity; • a maximum class size of 30 in Foundation Phase; • reduced mixed Key Stage classes; • increased options for class organisation within schools; • staff expertise as teachers are allowed to lead a single subject across the school, thereby gaining more focus on and depth in the delivery of a subject; • increased opportunities for professional development among staff, providing opportunity to develop strengths and expertise in wider areas, including numerous non-core subjects. • improved recruitment and retention of staff; • opportunity for excellent learning and working facilities;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a range of community focused services; • better learning and working environments and no mobile classrooms; • economies of scale for full time administrative and business support services; • fair and sufficient funding per pupil to enable pupils to reach their full potential, while making the best use of resources. <p>The school is currently in Standards Category 4 in the Welsh Government categorisation model which is published on the 'My Local School' website. Other nearby Welsh Medium schools have better educational outcomes.</p>
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Impact of the Proposals on Transport Times and costs

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pupils commute to school will increase significantly. • I am not happy to let my child go unsupervised on a bus to the other Welsh medium schools. • Travelling extra miles a day is highly significant for a 4/5 year old. • The transport policy would force some pupils to go to Ysgol Gwenffrwd against their parents wishes. • The true financial costs of transporting the present and possible future pupils has not been calculated correctly. • The additional travel time to both alternative schools would exceed the Leaner Travel (Wales) measure 2008. • The travel time cannot be regarded as reasonable start and finish to a child's school day. • The travel times have been grossly under estimated. • There is already heavy congestion problems are peak times at the alternative sites. • My child would not cope with the longer journey to and from school, it would be distressing for him. 	<p>Transport eligibility is determined by the Authority in which the pupil resides. All pupils who live in Flintshire would be entitled to free home to school transport based on the assumption and modelling that pupils transfer to Ysgol Gwenffrwd on the basis of the following grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the nearest appropriate available school is more than 2 miles away; • That the route to the alternative schools would be considered to be hazardous by the Council due to its rural location which has limited footpaths in and out of the village. <p>The estimated maximum annual costs of transport as a result of the proposal are £26,600. However, this was an indicative model based on all families choosing the further Welsh Medium school. Actual transport costs can only be fully assessed once all families have chosen their preferred school.</p> <p>The Council has a requirement to ensure it 1) provides transport in line with statute and its own policy and 2) that transport arrangements are commissioned in accordance with the Welsh Government Transport measure</p>
<p>Pupil comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parents may have to drive them to another school. 	

<p>Pupil question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a bus available? • Will there be an adult on the bus for the nursery bus. 	
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Impact on Community

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school serves up to 8 villages within the North West of the county. • It will be a loss to members of the community. • Community impact assessment fails to show the wider community association. • The alternative schools would not participate in local events. • Fail to explore the long term community impacts. • The proposal will have a detrimental effect on the community at large due to a decline in Welsh speakers. • There is memorial garden. 	<p>A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out and the Council acknowledges that where a school closure is proposed it will have some impact on the local community. The school is not widely used by the community.</p> <p>However, the Council will work with the schools and community to mitigate impacts where possible.</p> <p>The Council have no plans for the site, and will not consider the future of the site until such time as the school's future is determined.</p> <p>The Council could consider transferring the asset or part of the asset to a constituted community group where it can demonstrate a need and ability to take over the running of the site.</p> <p>Estyn state that the Council have provided an open and honest analysis of the positive, neutral and negative potential and residual impact on families and the local community.</p> <p>The Council has recognised in this documents that the area the school serves to wider than the hamlet of Gwespyr and Picton.</p>

Local Authority is not following its own Policy of Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Government Welsh Medium Education Strategy

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This proposal is likely to lead to a reduction in pupils attending Welsh medium schools in the Flintshire area. • The proposal is completely goes against FCC's WESP policy. • Equal opportunities for pupils in the area would be compromised due to it being harder to access Welsh medium education. • Opening of new provision in Shotton Ysgol Croes Atti undermines any 	<p>In the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, Flintshire County Council endeavours to increase the number of fluent Welsh speakers within its boundaries, with the aim of creating an increasingly bilingual county and country.</p> <p>The Council is meeting its objectives as noted in its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.</p>

positive efforts to plan ahead for Welsh medium education provision in the County.

Flintshire County Council is committed to supporting, expanding and promoting Welsh-medium education within the whole community, increasing the number and percentage of pupils receiving Welsh-medium education in compliance with the Welsh Government's Welsh-Medium Education Strategy of developing learners who are fully bilingual (i.e. fluent in both English and Welsh) and where there is demand, this has been shown to be the case when a demand for Welsh Medium education was identified in the Deeside area.

Estyn comment that the Council recognises that there risk is that if Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant closes then parents and pupils might not choose to travel to a Welsh medium school that is further away and may elect to attend an English medium school which is nearer to their home, then the impact on the numbers of pupils being assessed through the medium of Welsh might be negative. However that if parents are committed to their children continuing to receive a Welsh medium education and send them to other Welsh medium schools in the area then the impact of closure will be neutral.

In the context of the level of austerity and impact on school budgets, declining numbers of pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, future projections of pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, the insufficient pupil numbers and demand in the area and capacity and surplus pupil places within the wider Welsh Medium Primary Sector, based on the demographic, pupil numbers and housing information for the area, should Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant close then pupils can be accommodated in existing Welsh Medium School provision, subject to parental choice.

The outcome of the 2009 and 2013 Opinion Research Services (ORS) surveys of parental demand for Welsh medium education were key elements of the Council's decision to extend Welsh medium provision into the Deeside area in 2014 by the creation of Ysgol Croes Atti Glannau Dyfdrwy. This provision was in direct response to parental demand.

Croes Atti Glannau Dyfdrwy and is thriving in the local community. Pupil numbers have increased since the facility was opened.

Family Connections with the School

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are other members of the family attending the school, which maintains a closeness, and support system. • I attended the school and my grandchildren attend this school. • There are many happy/fond memories of attending this school. • All our family have been educated here. • I went there and I want to send my children to this school. 	<p>The responses from consultees regarding Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant are noted.</p> <p>Reviewing the future of any school is controversial and emotive. Pupils, parents, carers and teachers, past and present, have strong ties to local schools as part of their own life-stories. The Council is challenged with balancing the sensitivities of community feeling on the one hand, with providing a high quality education offer which can be sustained and afforded. The Council cannot avoid making decisions for the future which are in the best interests of pupils and students.</p>
<p>Pupil comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My family have come here over the years. 	

Impact on Childcare

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The document fails to mention the negative impact on the Cylch Meithrin and Ti a Fi Group. • There is no relocation proposal for the Cylch Meithrin should the school close. • There should be welsh medium nursery group provision in the area. 	<p>The consultation document did recognise that there is a Cylch Meithrin and Ti a Fi group that run from the Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant site, and that there is a risk to these services should Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant close.</p> <p>Both Ysgol Gwenffrwd and Ysgol Y Lllys offer pre-school provision on their sites through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Cylch Meithrin Rhagoral offers part time funded places for three year olds (Early Entitlement), and a parent & toddler group.</p> <p>Cylch Chwarae Treffynnon offers part time funded places for three year olds (Early Entitlement), and a parent & toddler group.</p> <p>Depending on parental choice if Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant closes and parents continue with Welsh Medium pre-school provision then the Council have assessed the impact is neutral. Should parents move to English Medium pre-school provision then the Council have recognised that the impact would be negative.</p> <p>No pre-school children within the Flintshire County are provided with free transport to their chosen pre-school provision.</p>
<p>Pupil comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would have a major impact on children under 5, and the schools nursery. 	

Consultation Document

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultation document does not include the English medium schools in the area this is misleading. • The document used outdated information – the schools capacity figure should be 81 not 111. • It does not take into consideration ALN pupils in the performance information for the school. • The Estyn inspection information is out of date for the other alternative schools. • The document states that wrap around care is not provided this is not correct as there is Cylch Meithrin, Ti a Fi group (parent toddler group). • There is no evidence to suggest that the proposal will improve the standard and quality of education within the area. • The document is inadequate as it provides a skewed impression that the community and catchment area is confined to the hamlet of Gwespyr-Picton. • Ysgol Gwenffrwd condition is rated as a C exhibiting major defects and significant investment. • The document is misleading. • The document birth rates drawing from 5 years is woefully inadequate. • The document fails to recognise that the decrease in pupil numbers is likely to be due the quality of Welsh-language provision and culture at the local English-Medium schools. • The consultation document deliberate paints the school in the poorest of lights, which is unjust, unfair and highly inaccurate. • The Clych do not share the same play area. • It is incorrect to state there is no dedicated car parking. • Over 90% of children in the area currently attend Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant as their local school. • Ysgol Gwenffrwd Holywell has numerous issues which do not make it a good prospect, the building has always been unsuitable as a primary school. 	<p>The School Modernisation Team uses the latest verified data at the time of constructing the consultation documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School pupil numbers and more detailed information around pupils (for example Additional Learning Needs, English as an Additional Language and School action/school action plus/statemented) are obtained from the schools own statistical returns (September or January) • Estyn data is obtained from the schools last Estyn inspection. Timing of inspections will depend on Estyn's own inspection cycle. • National Welsh Government categorisation data, is based on the school returns. The Council use the most up to date data at the time of document construction from the Welsh Government website. Welsh Government update their national data base annually. • GwE (The Regional School Improvement Service) data is fed into the Welsh Government's national categorisation system. • The Welsh Government's national Measuring Capacity of Schools in Wales forms are verified by Head teachers, this provides the School Capacity and Admission Number. • Unfilled places are recorded by Welsh Government; the Council provide its returns to Welsh Government annually; they are also based on official school returns. • Birth Information by area is obtained from the Office of National Statistics • Pupil projections are aligned with the methodology as neighbouring Authorities with North Wales • Housing development information is based on actual current housing applications provided from the Planning Officers. • Potential pupils which may be generated from new housing developments is calculated using a formula providing by a partnering Authority (Conwy CBC) who derive the formula based on the latest census returns. • Pupil teacher ratios are provided by publically available statistics on a school (http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk), provided by Welsh Government and is updated on an annual basis.
<p>Pupil questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why have you opened other Welsh schools? • Why are you trying to close the school? • What if there is an English school nearer than the Welsh school? 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What if there is not enough room in another school for everyone? • Will there be enough room in the canteen for everyone? • Where will the children go? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation Phase and Core Subject Outcomes are provided by publically available statistics on a school (http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk), provided by Welsh Government is updated on an annual basis • School Building condition information is provided by an external company who compare the school building condition against the building bulletin for Primary and Secondary schools • Backlog maintenance information is provided by through independent consultants Property Condition Surveys are undertaken on a 5 year cycle. <p>Priority Codes [definition] are as follows:-</p> <p>Priority 1: Urgent work required to be undertaken within 1 year Priority 2: Essential work required to be undertaken within 2 years Priority 3: Desirable work [deemed as] required to be undertaken within 3 to 5 years Priority 4: Long term work [deemed as] required to be undertaken outside the 5 year [cycle] period</p> <p>The element Total 1 - 3 defines a five year financial investment and element 4 defines a six - ten year financial investment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School suitability information is provided from Suitability surveys undertaken independently in line with DffE Asset Management guidance and reviewed by FCC officers and amended if work has been completed at schools post initial survey. • School Budgetary Work is conducted using agreed formula as per the School budget forum. Cost per pupil data is obtained from the Authority's section 52 budget statements. • Travel distances between school sites is provided by the Flintshire County Council mapping system Route Finder 3.41 • Transport costs are provided by the infrastructure unit who administer home to school transport contracts. <p>The Council has demonstrated in its consultation documents that there is sufficient capacity within the local school network to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant should it close, this view is upheld by Estyn.</p> <p>The community impact assessment recognises that there is a risk to pre-school</p>
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	<p>provision the Clych Meithrin on the site of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant.</p> <p>Reference to the accessibility issues for Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell school site have already been documented and recognised in the consultation report.</p> <p>From the census information for Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, there are no pupils with a physical mobility disability.</p> <p>Flintshire County Council is aware of the duties placed on it by the Equality Act 2010 and works within the confines of the Act to secure accessible school buildings for its pupils.</p> <p>The consultation document provides detailed explanation and rationale for the reasons for the proposal.</p> <p>The consultation document provided details around the alternative schools in terms of their capacity</p>
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Impact on pupils

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving to large classes may affect my child's achievement in school. • The proposal will significantly impact of parents/guardians in terms of supporting their child/children in extra activities. • Greater negative impact on pupils with Additional Learning Needs. • Not one member of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant had a positive view during their consultation meeting. • It would take longer to pick up a sick child from the alternative schools. • The move from a small village school to a large town school will be traumatic and damaging. • The pupil's health and wellbeing and right to Welsh medium education will be severely restricted. • Less time to complete homework and other activities. • It would be traumatic for the pupils. • If the proposal is to close it will cause a lot of disruption to the pupils. 	<p>When proposing changes to school organisation it is acknowledged that there will be some changes for pupils. Should the proposal be implemented and Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant be closed it would result in changes for the existing pupils such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A marginally longer route to school for pupils • A shorter journey time for pupils who reside in the Denbighshire area • A new school uniform • New teachers and support staff • New learning environment • Friendship groups may be affected, however, new friendships can be formed. <p>The council and affected schools have a duty to support appropriate transition should Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant close.</p> <p>The Council would take all practicable steps to ease the transition for all pupils, most especially for vulnerable groups of learners such as Additional Learning Needs (ALN). Should the proposal be implemented the Council would work alongside pupils, their parents, and the relevant schools to make appropriate transition arrangements for pupils to familiarise themselves with their</p>
<p>Pupils comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about impact of closing school on the pupils. • Concern peer groups and siblings will be split up. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upset that closing the school would have on us. • Concern over friends being split up, losing and missing friends. • Concern over making new friends. • Concern over losing and missing teachers. • Missing the school should it close. • Not wanting to go to another school. • Nobody will be happy. • I will lose all my memories. • Sadness and anger should the school close. • Concern about losing teachers. • Concern about having new teachers. • Would miss the school. • Nervous about starting a new school. • Concern pupils would have to travel further. • Concern about starting again. • New Uniforms. • I have family in the school and she feels very insecure and unhappy. • The timetable to move schools by September 2016 seems very quick. • It would be very strange not competing in competitions without the school. • We are unhappy as a School Council. • We oppose the proposal. <p>Other terminology used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depressed, very lonely, nervous, it's not fair, I'm going to cry, feel down, confused, I don't like to think about it, going to be shy, would not know what to do, frightened, uncomfortable, worried, pitiful, glum, low, sad, very angry, unhappy, shy and lost. 	<p>new environments (subject to parental preference).</p> <p>Where pupils have specific ALN needs the resource and support they require would be replicated in their new learning environments.</p> <p>The Council will run a admissions cycle to support parents with transition to an alternative school should Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant close.</p> <p>The Statutory timeline, complies with the School Organisation code. The timeline allows sufficient time for parent/carers and pupils to select an alternative school and allow effect transition should Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant close.</p>
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Impact on Parents/Carers

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about settling into a new school community. • Parents/Guardians would find it harder to become part of the school community in general due to the distance of home to school. • The impact on parents/guardians has been ignored. • The school is in a deprived area making the impact greater in many ways – purchase of new uniforms, transport costs. 	<p>Reviewing the future of any school is controversial and emotive. Pupils, parents, carers and teachers, past and present, have strong ties to local schools as part of their own life-stories. The Council is challenged with balancing the sensitivities of community feeling on the one hand, with providing a high quality education offer which can be sustained and afforded. The Council cannot avoid making decisions for the future which are in the best interests of pupils and students.</p>
<p>Pupil comments:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents will have to pay more money for a new school. • Parents will have to move. • Money will be wasted. 	<p>A school uniform exchange is available for Flintshire pupils. The School Uniform Exchange aims to encourage the people of Flintshire to recycle and donate unwanted or unused school uniform items rather than putting them in the bin. All donated school uniform is available for sale in Nightingale House. Hospice shops throughout Flintshire at a significantly reduced cost compared to high street prices.</p> <p>It is also fairly typical that most pupils will require new uniforms as they enter into a new academic year, therefore there may be a requirement to purchase a new uniform regardless of what school the pupil attended.</p>
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Alternative Schools

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there is no room in certain year groups there is no guarantee that all my children will get a place in the same school. • Alternative schools traditionally draw from non-rural schools and built up areas, this is completely different to Mornant area – and would completely change the learning dynamic in the area. • I understand parents of Ysgol Y Llys are joining together to try and stop our children attending their school. • Apparently a member of staff at Ysgol Y Llys has openly spoken to a parent complaining our children are being ‘dumped’ on their school. 	<p>The consultation document has identified alternative schools that at least maintain the present standards of education provision in the area.</p> <p>Estyn have provided a response to the consultation. It is Estyn’s opinion that this proposal is likely to at least maintain the present standards of education provision in the area. Overall, pupil outcomes in all two alternative schools are currently good, with all schools judged as having the necessary capacity to improve further. Pupil attendance in all of these schools is good.</p> <p>The Council has demonstrated in its consultation documents that there is sufficient capacity within the local school network to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant should it close, this view is upheld by Estyn.</p> <p>Admissions to alternative schools, should Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant close, will be administered as per the relevant Council’s admissions policy. Flintshire and Denbighshire Council policy on admissions follow the same principles. Should Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant close, the council will undertake an admissions cycle to support transition to alternative schools.</p> <p>The Headteacher of Ysgol Y Llys wished to record that no one employed by Ysgol Y Llys has suggested that either the school was full or that pupils from Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant would not be welcome should Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant Close.</p>

Impact of the Proposals on Teaching Staff

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School staff must be treated very carefully and sympathetically. Staff would lose their jobs. 	<p>The responses from consultees regarding Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, are noted.</p> <p>Should the current proposals be implemented, the Council will work with the current members of staff at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant including teaching and support staff, should they seek redeployment opportunities. Staff displaced by the proposal may have the opportunity to be employed in the local primary network.</p>
<p>Pupil comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The staff will be without a job. The teachers have been here a long time. 	
<p>Pupil question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What will happen to the Teachers? 	

Consultation Process

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Equality Impact Assessment failed to grasp what is required. None of the English schools in the nearby area are being reviewed. The decision feels like it has already been made and the Council is following a process. The process has put people off registering their child/children. Past experience has shown that consultation rarely changes anything. Consultation meeting on the 7th December was very scripted. 	<p>The Equality Impact Assessment has been conducted in accordance with Council guidance. The EIA document is a live document which can be developed should any relevant issues emerge.</p> <p>The process follows regulatory guidance as set out in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2013.</p> <p>The Council cannot pre-determine a decision on Statutory school closure.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges that statutory consultation around school organisation change will cause a level of uncertainty within the local school community.</p>

Positive Comments

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are schools of the appropriate size and standards in Prestatyn and Holywell. 	<p>The responses from consultees regarding Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant are noted.</p>

<p>Pupil comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would be happy to make new friends. • Mixed feelings. • Would be happy as this school will have more children. • I think it's a fair enough reason. • I am happy. • I think it would be good. • It's a good idea if there are not enough children. • It's quiet good and quiet bad. 	
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Housing Development

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Development Plan suggests the housing developments are in pipeline. 	<p>The Council has fully considered school capacity in the area together with potential housing development yield within its consultation documents.</p> <p>Data regarding potential pupils which could be generated from new housing developments is calculated using a housing yield formula. The housing yield formula has been derived from research work based on national census data from a partnering authority. This was applied to all current housing development planning applications approved by the planning authority.</p> <p>The housing yield figures produced are a maximum figure and do not take into account parental choice and/or pupil movement i.e. pupils moving into the new homes but who are already in the local education system.</p> <p>The pace of housing developments will be constrained by the plans of the site owners/developers, the housing market, current economic climate and other factors which are unpredictable.</p> <p>The Council is satisfied that should Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant close, the local school network has the capacity to sustain the necessary potential impact of current and future housing developments.</p>

Other comments/questions

Consultee Comment	Local Authority Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will happen to the school site? <p>Pupil Comments</p>	<p>The Council have no plans for the site at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, and will not consider the future of the site until such time as the school's future is determined.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will happen to the building? 	<p>Should the proposal be implemented Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant (building and site) would be declared surplus to Education and transferred to the Property Asset Team at Flintshire County Council.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards of leadership are inadequate and it is difficult to change this in a small school 	
<p>Pupil comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sadness because the school does not have much money. 	
<p>Pupil comment</p> <p>Is there another school in Picton?</p>	<p>There is no other school in Picton.</p>

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APPENDIX F

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APPENDIX F

Summary of responses to Standard Response Forms

Question 1 Do you agree with the proposal to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton by 31st August 2016?

	Total	Percentage
Yes	1	0.57%
No	171	198.23%
Skipped Question	2	0.57%
	174	

Question 2 Please tell us if you are responding as:

Type	Total	Percentage
Pupil	0	0
Parent/Carer	25	14.37%
Governor	3	1.72%
Teacher	0	0
Support Staff	2	1.15%
Local Resident	86	49.43%
Other	82	47.13%
	198	

* Respondents were able to respond in more than one capacity. This explains why the total is greater than the number of respondents.

Comment: All of the respondents who are directly involved with the school (e.g. staff, governors, pupils, parents, carers, guardians) were against the proposal.

Question 3 Please tell us do you have any alternative suggestions for sustainable education provision in Gwespyr-Picton?

Alternative Suggestions	Total	Percentage
Federation Schools suggested included Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell Ysgol Bryn Garth Ysgol Maes Garmon Ysgol Gronant	29	16.67%
There are no other alternative but to remain open	29	16.67%
Pupil recruitment drive – Increase pupil numbers, market the school	11	6.32%
Increase funding/invest in the school & Make cost savings	4	2.30%

Transport pre-school children to the school	3	1.72%
Promote the Cylch Meithrin	3	1.72%
Move to a more suitably located site	1	0.57%
Re-evaluate the capacity of the school	1	0.57%
Review or close other English medium schools in the area	1	0.57%
Enlarge the catchment area	1	0.57%
TOTAL	83	

Comment: Of the 174 respondents, 98 answered the question and 76 skipped the question. The majority of people who responded said that they would like to see either a Federation with another school and for the school to remain open as alternatives.

Question 4 Additional comments or views regarding the proposal.

Please note that the responses to this question have been considered as part of the main consultation responses in **Appendix E.**

APPENDIX G

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Estyn response to the proposal to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton from 31st of August 2016 with existing pupils transferring to other Welsh medium schools in the local area, subject to parental preference.

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

The proposal is by Flintshire County Council.

The proposal is to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton from 31st of August 2016 with existing pupils transferring to other Welsh medium schools in the local area, subject to parental preference.

Summary/ Conclusion

It is likely that the current proposal will at least maintain education provision and outcomes for pupils in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer has set out a clear and very detailed rationale for the proposal. The proposal is set appropriately in context of the council's revised school modernisation strategy, particularly in relation to its objectives in addressing the challenges faced by small schools and the comparatively high numbers of unfilled places within the council. The proposer provides a useful summary of the challenges and triggers that lead the council to making this proposal. It identifies the majority of the school's pupil places as surplus and the proposal appropriately places this information in the wider context of the council's challenges around sustaining high quality education during a period of significant austerity.

The proposer clearly outlines the principal benefits and disadvantages of the proposal. They reasonably state that the reduction in surplus places and the associated savings would result in a more efficient use of resources for teaching and

learning across the council. Appropriately, the proposal claims this will improve the quality of Welsh medium education in the area and protect pupils across Flintshire from reduced resources.

The proposal provides a suitably detailed analysis of how the change will affect surplus places. It provides useful and clear data to demonstrate that over half of the places at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant are currently surplus and these are predicted to rise to over 70% in the next five years. This would only reduce to 40%, in the current year, if the school's full-time admissions capacity was reduced, thereby still triggering a review within its school modernisation strategy. It would appear that the two nearest Welsh-medium schools have enough surplus places and gradually increasing pupil projections to provide suitable alternative provision for pupils at Ysgol Gymrag Mornant.

The proposal fairly identifies three disadvantages and provides a comprehensive summary of the measures the council will need to make to minimise their impact on pupil travel times, staff redeployment or redundancies and the local community. Detailed consultation and impact assessment documents provide important information to support the proposal's risk management statements. Firstly, to reduce the proposal's negative impact on travel times, the proposer reasonably states that the council's school transport policy would provide free transport to all pupils required to travel further to school as all travel times fall within the Welsh Government Transport Measure. Secondly, the proposer correctly identifies that the council will need to support and work with the current members of staff at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton, should they wish to seek redeployment or retirement opportunities. It raises the possibility of staff redeployment within the local primary network. The proposal reasonably refers the governing body of the school to its own organisational change and redundancy policy, which will apply to all staff directly implicated in the proposal.

Finally, the council acknowledges the impact the proposal may have on the local community. The supporting Community Impact Assessment document provides an open and honest analysis of the positive, neutral and negative potential and residual impact on families and the local community.

The proposer has carefully considered and clearly summarised the advantages and disadvantages of three alternatives to the proposal. Option 1 and 3 refer to retaining the status quo and closure, which the proposer properly considers in earlier sections of the document. The proposal suggests that the disadvantages of option 2, to federate two or more schools, outweigh the advantages and do not address the existing challenges of surplus places, pupils taught in mixed aged classes of more than two age ranges and the reduced cost effectiveness of financing and resourcing two or more schools.

The proposal has considered in detail the likely impact of each option on Welsh medium provision in the local authority. It is fair in pointing out, that the closure of the school may result in parents and pupils choosing an English medium school nearer to their home. This may reduce the numbers of pupils taught and assessed through the medium of Welsh. However, it reasonably suggests that parents and pupils who are committed to continuing to receive a Welsh-medium education may choose another Welsh-medium school accordingly.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposal thoroughly considers the potential impact on pupils with additional learning needs. This includes useful information about the level of need in the three schools implicated in the proposal and the recent inspection evaluations about the quality of their provision for additional learning needs. It appropriately recognises that a change in learning environment could be more challenging for pupils that are more vulnerable and provides clear assurances about how the council and schools will support them. Importantly, the proposer states that, for pupils with needs that require physical adaptations to be made to the learning environment, the council will 'work closely with parents/carers and other relevant professionals to secure a smooth transition'.

The proposer reasonably asserts that the proposal will at least maintain education provision and outcomes for pupils in the area. It makes good use of the outcomes of recent inspection reports for Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant and the nearest Welsh-medium schools to support its view that the proposal will benefit pupil outcomes, provision and leadership and management. The proposal makes effective use of performance data for each school. It appropriately acknowledges that year on year comparisons of performance data in a small school is statistically unreliable. However, it reasonably suggests that the current pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant would benefit from provision in alternative schools where pupils achieve standards generally higher than the local and national averages.

The proposer properly refers to Estyn's report on 'School size and educational effectiveness' to justify its argument that the constraint on resources, in a small school, provides challenges for curriculum delivery. Therefore, it is acceptable for the proposer to state that the changes will not negatively affect the quality of pupils' learning experiences. The proposal reasonably suggests that larger alternative schools are able to provide leadership teams that are able to provide effective staff development to deliver the curriculum well.

The proposal identifies a limited number of factors, which may negatively affect learners and provides the assurance that the council will plan appropriate transition arrangements to mitigate these. The proposal sets out in detail the implications for pupils' travel times and its commitment to providing free transport for pupils where appropriate.

APPENDIX H

DRAFT

Our Ref: DH/HR.fcc.ed.s

Mr Colin Everett
Chief Executive
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
Flintshire CH7 6NF

23rd December 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

RE: Ysgol Mornant

I wish to submit the following, as my contribution to the Ysgol Mornant Consultation.

I have had a large amount of correspondence, regarding Ysgol Mornant (copies of which I have forwarded to you independently). I wish to support the contention that there is value in the School, and that the County Council should consider very carefully any proposal to close it. I do so in the light of the following key points:

Ysgol Mornant is the only Welsh medium primary school in North Flintshire. It is particularly important, therefore, that the County focus on the fact that, for Ysgol Mornant, the issue of Welsh language is critical. Many people in the North of Flintshire would either have to send their children out of the County or travel some distance to Holywell to maintain the Welsh language for their children. This is likely to lead, in my view, to a reduced use of Welsh, when Flintshire's own policy is to increase the use of Welsh.

In addition, Ysgol Mornant is a feeder school for Ysgol Maes Garmon in Mold, and I know that many people have raised with me the importance of having the opportunity to attend Ysgol Maes Garmon, and to participate in the activities of that school.

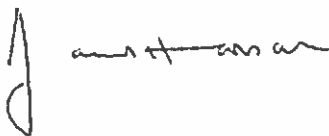
Furthermore, my constituents believe strongly that Ysgol Mornant is important to the community – a community that is like a large family that want to keep the Welsh language and heritage alive.

Finally, and not least, the building itself is still serviceable and useful.

I would be grateful if the above concerns can be taken into consideration, as part of the Consultation process, which ends today.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



David Hanson MP
Delyn

Mr David Hanson MP
Constituency Office
64 Chester Street
Flint
Flintshire
CF6 5DH

Your Ref/Eich Cyt CH/HR.fcc.ed.s
Our Ref/Ein Cyf
Date/Dyddiad 21st January 2016
Ask for/Gofynner am School Modernisation Team
Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704134/4015
21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

Dear Mr Hanson

School Modernisation Programme

As part of Flintshire County Council's school modernisation programme, and as you are already aware we invited stakeholders to express their views through a consultation on the proposals for Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton. The consultation period closed on the 23rd December 2015.

This letter confirms that we have received your views as part of the consultation process.

During the period of consultation communities have been able to fully express their views on the proposals and offer alternative solutions for future education delivery in the area.

We received a number of responses for the proposal for Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton, the comments are currently being collated and summarised. A summary report of these comments will be published alongside our own response to the comments in a consultation report which will be made available publically by the end of February 2016. A special Cabinet meeting will be arranged in February 2016 to make a decision about the proposals taking into consideration the consultation.

More information will be provided as the Council and school work through this process. Information will be provided through the school and on the County Council website.

Kind Regards

Yours faithfully,



Ian Budd
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6ND
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug. CH7 6ND
www.siryfflint.gov.uk



Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton - Re: Edward Leverett, Pant Glas, Tyn y Morfa, Holywell, Flintshire CH8 9JW (376-49048)

21stCenturySchools to: Sandy.Mewies

06/01/2016 11:22

Sent by: Jennie Williams

Cc: Sarah Thomas, "Hughes, Louise (AM Support Staff, Sandy Mewies)"

Good Morning Mrs Mewies

Thank you for your email in relation to one your constituent Edward Leverett correspondence. This is acknowledgement of receipt of your correspondence.

We will ensure that all responses during the consultation period are shared with Councillors. We will also produce a public statutory consultation report identifying key issues raised and the Council's response to those issues.

The consultation report will be made available on the website and available in hard copy of request.

Kind Regards

Jennie Williams

Dear Mr Everett,

Re: Edward Leverett, Pant Glas, Tyn y Morfa, Holywell, Flintshire CH8 9JW

I attach a letter received from my constituent, Edward Leverett of the above address.

He has contacted me regarding the Authority's proposal to Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant. I would be grateful for your confirmation that Mr Leverett's concerns will be taken fully into account as part of the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

Sandy Mewies AM (Mrs)

Delyn Constituency



Letter from Edward Leverett.pdf

School Modernisation Team/Y Tim Moderneiddio Ysgolion
County Hall/Neuadd y Sir
Mold/Yr Wyddgrug
Flintshire/Sir y Fflint
CH7 6ND
Tel/Ffon: 01352 704015/4134

email/e-bost: 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

Pant Glas
Tyn-y-Môr
CH8 9JN
Hollywell

17 o Rhagfyr, 2015

Annwyl Syr/Mis

Dydwy i ddim yn meddwl mae'n syniad da cau Ysgol
Gymraeg Mornant oherwydd roedd o'n y ysgol gyntaf
cymraeg yn Sir y Fflint a mae'n cael ei ddi
o ysgol newydd yn SARNEL yn ffordd ei agor yn
Sharn. Dydwy i'n ayn ddiogel ddiogel ysgol Gymraeg
Mornant a dwi'n cael llawer o atgofion o'r ysgol
a fy amser yna. Os fydd yna ddim ysgol mornant fydd
ddim wedi cael profiadau fel dwi wedi. Os fydd y
ysgol yn cau fydd plant bach ddim gallu cael y profiadau
fel y fi. Os fydd yna ddim ysgol Mornant fydd fydd
dim wedi fyrra a prof ysgol. Dwyf a ddim cael y cyfleio
beth roedd o wedi cael. Mae Ysgol Mornant yn ffordd arben
fawr a rwyf yn golygu'n i chi beidio gae cau. Os fyddoch
dwi ysgol Mornant fydd mae'n arwngl wedi cau
dwyf. Os fyddoch ysgol Os fyddoch ysgol yn ddi
fydd yna ddim ysgol Gymraeg yn ein ardal a dyfod nhw
ddim yn gallu cael ei ddiogel i ysgolion eraill oherwydd
dyfod na ddim lle yn ysgol y llys a bged Gwentfwrdd.

K eiddwch yn gywir,

Edward Leverett.

Letter 8

Pant Glas
Tyn-y-Môr
Holywell
CH8 9JN

17 December 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

I don't think it's a good idea to close Mornant Welsh school as it was the first Welsh school in Flintshire and it is being closed and a new English school opened in Shotton. I am a former pupil at Mornant Welsh school and I have many memories of the school and my time there. If I hadn't attended Mornant I wouldn't have gained the experiences that I have. If the school closes, young children won't have the same experiences I had. Without Mornant school, my brother wouldn't have gone to Bangor University and had the opportunities he's had. Mornant is a very special school and I am asking you not to close it. If you close Mornant school, there wouldn't be a Welsh school in our area and they can't be sent to other schools as there isn't any room at Ysgol y Lllys and Ysgol Gwenffrwd.

Yours faithfully

Edward Levenett

Edward Leverett
Pant Glas
Tyn-y-Mor
Holywell
Flintshire
CH8 9JN

Your Ref/Eich Cyl

Our Ref/Ein Cyf

Date/Dyddiad

Ask for Gofynner am

Direct Dial Rhif Union

22nd January 2016

School Modernisation
Team

01352 704134/4015

21stcenturyschools@flintshi
re.gov.uk

Dear Consultee

School Modernisation Programme

As part of Flintshire County Council's school modernisation programme, we invited stakeholders to express their views through a consultation on the proposals for Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton. The consultation period closed on the 23rd December 2015.

This letter confirms that we have received your views as part of the consultation process and explain what will happen next.

We received a number of responses for the proposal for Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton, the comments are currently being collated and summarised. A summary report of these comments will be published alongside our own response to the comments in a consultation report which will be made available publicly by the end of February 2016. A special Cabinet meeting will be arranged in February 2016 to make a decision about the proposals taking into consideration the consultation feedback we have received.

More information will be provided as the Council and school work through this process. Information will be provided through the school and on the County Council website.

Kind Regards

Yours faithfully,



Ian Budd
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6ND
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug. CH7 6ND
www.siryfflint.gov.uk

Edward Leverett
Pant Glas
Tyn-y-Mor
Holywell
Flintshire
CH8 9JN

Your Ref/Eich Cyl

Our Ref/Ein Cyl

Date/Dyddiad

Ask for/Gofynner am

Direct Dial/Rhif Union

22 Ionawr 2016

Tim Moderneiddio
Ysgolion

01352 704134/4015

21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

Annwyl Ymgynghorai

Rhaglen Moderneiddio Ysgolion

Fel rhan o raglen moderneiddio ysgolion Cyngor Sir y Fflint, rydym yn gwahodd budd-ddeiliaid i fynegi eu barn drwy ymgynghoriad ar y cynigion ar gyfer Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton. Daeth y cyfnod ymgynghori i ben ar 23 Rhagfyr 2015.

Mae'r llythyr hwn yn cadarnhau ein bod wedi derbyn eich barn fel rhan o'r broses ymgynghori ac yn esbonio beth fydd yn digwydd nesaf.

Cawsom nifer o ymatebion ar gyfer y cynnig ar gyfer Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton, mae'r sylwadau yn cael eu coladu a'u crynhoi ar hyn o bryd. Bydd adroddiad cryno o'r sylwadau hyn yn cael eu cyhoeddi ochr yn ochr â'n hymateb eu hunain i'r sylwadau mewn adroddiad ymgynghori a fydd ar gael i'r cyhoedd erbyn diwedd Chwefror 2016. Bydd cyfarfod arbennig o'r Cabinet yn cael ei drefnu ym mis Chwefror 2016 i wneud penderfyniad am y cynigion gan gymryd i ystyriaeth yr adborth yr ydym wedi'i gael i'r ymgynghoriad.

Bydd mwy o wybodaeth yn cael ei darparu fel mae'r Cyngor a'r ysgol yn gweithio trwy'r broses hon. Bydd gwybodaeth yn cael ei darparu drwy'r ysgol ac ar wefan y Cyngor Sir.

Cofion cynnes

Yn gywir,



Ian Budd
Prif Swyddog, Addysg ac Ieuenctid



Fw: Gwrthwynebiad i gau Ysgol Mornant / Objection to proposed closure to Ysgol Mornant (376-49053)
Damian Hughes to: 21stCenturySchools

02/01/2016 13:22

Chief Executive

----- Original Message -----

From: Chief Executive
Sent: 23/12/2015 12:16 GMT
To: Damian Hughes
Cc: Joanne Pierce
Subject: Fw: Gwrthwynebiad i gau Ysgol Mornant / Objection to proposed closure to Ysgol Mornant (376-49053)

Chief Executive | Prif Weithredwr

Chief Executives Suite | Swyddfa'r Prif Weithredwr

Corporate Services | Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol

Flintshire County Council | Cyngor Sir y Fflint

Tel | Ffôn | 01352 702101

Email | Ebst | chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk> | <http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk>

<http://www.twitter.com/flintshirecc> | <http://www.twitter.com/csyfflint>



----- Forwarded by Chief Executive/ChiefExecs/Flintshire/GB on 23/12/2015 12:17 -----

From: "Mewies, Sandy (Assembly Member)" <Sandy.Mewies@assembly.wales>
To: "chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk" <chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk>,
Cc: "Joanne.Pierce@flintshire.gov.uk" <Joanne.Pierce@flintshire.gov.uk>
Date: 22/12/2015 12:40
Subject: FW: Gwrthwynebiad i gau Ysgol Mornant / Objection to proposed closure to Ysgol Mornant (376-49053)

Dear Mr Everett,

I have been copied into the attached letter from Mr Raymond Roberts, Secretary of the Syfflag organisation. He writes regarding the proposal to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant.

His letter states that the proposal is in direct contradiction to the commitment made by the Authority to increase the provision of Welsh language education and is a threat to Welsh-medium education in North East Wales. He says the closure of Ysgol Mornant would undoubtedly disadvantage families who wish to speak and learn Welsh.

I would be grateful for your confirmation that Mr Roberts's concerns will be taken fully into account as part of the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,
Sandy Mewies AM (Mrs)
Delyn Constituency

-----Original Message-----

From: HELEN ROBERTS [talwrn.glas@btinternet.com]

Received: Monday, 21 Dec 2015, 11:31pm

To: 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk [21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk]

Subject: Gwrthwynebiad i gau Ysgol Mornant / Objection to proposed closure to Ysgol Mornant
Ynghlwm mae llythyr gwrthwynebiad ar ran Syfflag i'r cyrllun i gau Ysgol Mornant. Mawr hyderwn y bydd y Cyngor yn medru gweithio gyda'r ysgol i sicrhau dyfodol llewyrchus.

Please find attached an objection to the proposed closure of Ysgol Mornant on behalf of Syfflag. We sincerely hope that the Council will work with the school to create a successful future.

Raymond Roberts



Ysgrifennydd / Secretary Syfflag Mornant consultation response Cymraeg.docx;Syfflag Mornant consultation response English.docx



Gwrthwynebiad i gau Ysgol Mornant / Objection to proposed closure to Ysgol Mornant

HELEN ROBERTS to: 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

21/12/2015 23:30

Bryden Lloyd, "diana.williams@flintshire.gov.uk", Albert Leverett, "andrea.bower@btinternet.com", "Anna Braund (BCUHB - Flintshire Locality Office)", "anne.jones999@btinternet.com", "Aprille Auld (BCUHB - Pathology)", "avrillarge@hotmail.co.uk", Hugh C B Jones, "chrisgunth61@aol.com", Carole, Doli Edwards, "gmailto@glanrafon.siryfflint.sch.uk", "glyn.banks@flintshire.gov.uk", "golden.grove@lineone.net", "hannah@hannahblythyn.wales", "howard.humble@btinternet.com", Janet Seaton, Janice Hooper Williams, "jctgwespyr@tiscali.co.uk", Mike Jones, "jones.llysyfron@outlook.com", john wiltshire, "laurareesowen@gmail.com", "mgmail@ysgolmaesgarmon.siryfflint.sch.uk", "michelleebj@aol.com", "nthomas233@btinternet.com", "Number8Sally@yahoo.co.uk", "Ord489@googlemail.com",
Cc: "parry789@btinternet.com", "penyffordd.c.g@btinternet.com", Ian Price Prestatyn Athletic, "Sophie_louise1990@hotmail.co.uk", "sue.vardene@yahoo.co.uk", "vikhick@aol.com", "ysgol.gwenffrwd@flintshire.gov.uk", "ysgol.mornant@flintshire.gov.uk", "ytmail@terrig.flintshire.sch.uk", "Carl.Sargeant@assembly.wales", "Sandy.Mewies@assembly.wales", "Lesley.Griffiths@assembly.wales", "Ilyr.gruffydd@cynulliad.cymru", "Janet.Haworth@Cynulliad.Cymru", "Mark.Isherwood@cynulliad.cymru", Kelly hughes, "Aled.Roberts@cynulliad.cymru", lola Ysgol Gwenffrwyd, Dafydd Roberts, "huwalun@awelelidir.orangehome.co.uk", Rhian Davies

Please respond to HELEN ROBERTS

2 attachments



Syfflag Mornant consultation response Cymraeg.docx Syfflag Mornant consultation response English.docx

Ynghlwm mae llythyr gwrthwynebiad ar ran Syfflag i'r cynllun i gau Ysgol Mornant. Mawr hyderwn y bydd y Cyngor yn medru gweithio gyda'r ysgol i sicrhau dyfodol llewyrchus.

Please find attached an objection to the proposed closure of Ysgol Mornant on behalf of Syfflag. We sincerely hope that the Council will work with the school to create a successful future.

Raymond Roberts
Ysgrifennydd / Secretary



20/12/2015

Dear Sir / Madam

Flintshire County Council's proposal to close Ysgol Mornant – Syfflag Objection

Syfflag is an organisation established to campaign for Welsh language education in Flintshire. It is our firm view that the proposal to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant is in direct contradiction to the commitment made by Flintshire County Council to increase the provision of Welsh language education.

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for Flintshire 2014-2017 makes a very clear case for encouraging and expanding Welsh-medium education in Flintshire. The WESP recognises that the percentage of children taught through the medium of Welsh is too low. The 2012-2015 WESP gave the target of doubling the percentage of seven-year old children taught through the medium of Welsh from 5.7% to 11.4% by 2015. This target has not been met. The outrageous proposal to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, one of only five Welsh-medium primary schools in Flintshire, is clearly a threat to Welsh-medium education in north-east Wales and is counter-productive in making progress towards achieving the agreed target. Nationally the Welsh Government Education Strategy has a target to increase the percentage of seven-year olds being taught through the medium of Welsh to 30% by 2020.

The 2014-2017 WESP (as updated January 2014) also makes the commitment that the 21st Century Schools Programme-Flintshire School Modernisation Programme will “protect all Welsh-medium schools (primary and secondary)”, “utilise existing provision to increase the provision of Welsh medium education”. Located in the north of the county, Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant provides the focus for Welsh language education in a large rural area. Closing the only Welsh-medium school in north Flintshire will undoubtedly disadvantage families who wish to speak and learn Welsh.

The proposed closure to Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant will also have an impact on Welsh-medium pre-school provision in the area. Cylch Meithrin Mornant operates from the



school premises promoting the education and development of children from 2 years to school age.

Syfflag understands that Ysgol y Llys and Ysgol Gwenffrwd early years are full and therefore the children from Ysgol Mornant will not have access to local Welsh-medium education. These children will lose the opportunity to learn in a Welsh-medium environment, together with the many benefits of a bilingual life.

Syfflag strongly object to the ill-advised and ill-conceived planned closure of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant and urge Flintshire County Council to change their plans. We sincerely hope that Flintshire County Council will demonstrate its support and commitment to its vision of promoting and extending Welsh-medium education.

Yours faithfully

Raymond Roberts

Secretary

talwrn.glas@btinternet.com



Fw: Ysgol Mornant.

Damian Hughes to: 21stCenturySchools

02/01/2016 13:16

Ian Budd

----- Original Message -----

From: Ian Budd
Sent: 24/12/2015 13:22 GMT
To: Jennie Williams
Cc: Sarah Thomas; Damian Hughes
Subject: Fw: Ysgol Mornant.

Hi Jennie,

One for acknowledging and logging please.

Merry Christmas

Amanda

on behalf of:

Ian Budd

Chief Officer Education and Youth | Prif Swyddog Addysg ac Ieuenctid
Flintshire County Council | Cyngor Sir y Fflint

Tel | Ffôn | 01352 704010
Email | Ebost | ian.budd@flintshire.gov.uk

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk> | <http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk>
<http://www.twitter.com/flintshirecc> | <http://www.twitter.com/csyfflint>

----- Forwarded by Amanda Davidson/Environment/Flintshire/GB on 24/12/2015 13:16 -----

From: "Dafydd Roberts" <dafyddiwan@btinternet.com>
To: <ian.budd@flintshire.gov.uk>,
Cc: <Carl.Sargeant@assembly.wales>, <Sandy.Mewies@assembly.wales>, <Lesley.Griffiths@assembly.wales>, <lyr.gruffydd@cynulliad.cymru>, <Janet.Haworth@cynulliad.cymru>, <Mark.Isherwood@cynulliad.cymru>, <Aled.Roberts@cynulliad.cymru>, <bernie.altridge@flintshire.gov.uk>, <chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk>
Date: 23/12/2015 14:42
Subject: Ysgol Mornant.

Annwyl Mr Budd,

Ysgrifennaf ar ran llywodraethwyr Ysgol Terrig. Treuddyn i wrthwynebu'r ymgynghoriad presennol ar gau arfaethedig Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant Picton er gwaethaf pob addewid a wnaed i'r gwrthwynebu yn ystod y blynyddoedd diweddar. Mae Cynllun Strategol Addysg Gymraeg 2014-2017 y cyngor yn cyfeirio'n glir at annog ac ehangu'r ddarpariaeth addysg Gymraeg yn ein sir. Mae cau un o'r pum ysgol Gymraeg yn amlwg yn gwbl groes i'r bwriad hwnnw. Yn ein barn ni mae'r argymhelliad yma'n anghydnaws ag ymrwymiad y cyngor i hyrwyddo'r Gymraeg.

Yn ein barn ni mi fydd unrhyw ymdrechion i hyrwyddo'r Gymraeg mewn ysgol Saesneg yn fethiant llwyr oherwydd na fydd yr iaith leiafrifol yn derbyn y sylw angenrheidiol. Nid oes unrhyw bosibilrwydd y bydd ysgol Saesneg yn medru cynnig darpariaeth gystal ag ysgol Gymraeg fel Mornant.

Byddai cau'r unig ysgol Gymraeg yng ngogledd y sir yn ergyd ofnadwy i'r iaith ac i ddiwylliant yr ardal, gan amddifadu Cymry Gymraeg, Cymry di-Gymraeg a mewnfudwyr sydd o blaid yr iaith o'r cyfle i gynnig y Gymraeg i'w plant. Mae'r argymhelliad yma'n gwbl groes i feddylfryd a chanllawiau Llywodraeth Cymru. Dim ond pum ysgol gynradd Gymraeg sydd yn Sir y Fflint ar hyn o bryd. Nid oes unrhyw gyfiawnhad i gau'r un ohonynt; i'r gwrthwynebu, dylid bod yn agor mwy.

Mae darpariaeth addysg Gymraeg o Fôn i Fynwy'n rhan ganolog o gynllun strategol Llywodraeth Cymru, a phob un o'i pholisïau. Ni ddylid gwadu neb yng Nghymru rhag manteisio ar addysg Gymraeg. Dyma'n union yr hyn sy'n mynd i ddiwydd os ydi Cyngor Sir y Fflint yn cau drysau Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant.

I write on behalf of the governors of Ysgol Terrig, Treuddyn to object to the current consultation regarding the proposed closure of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant Picton, in spite of all the undertakings to the contrary made by the Council in recent years. The 'Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for Flintshire 2014-2017' makes a very clear case for encouraging and expanding Welsh-medium education in Flintshire, which clearly goes against the proposed closure of one of what is only five Welsh-medium primary schools in Flintshire. Our firm view is that this proposal is in direct contradiction to the commitment made by Flintshire County Council to promote the Welsh

language.

Any attempt to promote the Welsh language within the confines of an English-medium school is doomed to failure in our view, with the inevitable dilution of a minority language that would result from such a proposition. How can an English-medium school possibly accommodate the Welsh language – its traditions and heritage – to anything approaching the degree to which this is achieved in a Welsh-medium school such as Mornant?

The closing of the only Welsh-medium school in north Flintshire would be a catastrophic blow to the Welsh language and culture in the area and deprive parents of access to Welsh-medium primary education within the child's community. Flintshire County Council's proposal will be in complete opposition to Llywodraeth Cymru's Strategic Plan for Welsh education. In what way is the local authority strengthening the provision of Welsh-medium education by closing 20% of the County's Welsh-medium primary schools?

The provision of Welsh-medium education in all parts of Wales is an integral part of the Strategic Plan and of all Welsh Assembly Government policies. No one in Wales should be denied the opportunity to access Welsh medium education, and yet this is precisely what Flintshire County Council is proposing to do in closing Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant.

Yn Gywir/ Yours,

Dafydd I. Roberts

Cadeirydd/Chairman,
Llywodraethwyr Ysgol Terrig Governors.



Fw: Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant - Charlotte Law (376-49044)
Damian Hughes to: 21stCenturySchools

02/01/2016 13:20

Chief Executive

----- Original Message -----

From: Chief Executive
Sent: 23/12/2015 12:13 GMT
To: Damian Hughes
Cc: Joanne Pierce
Subject: Fw: Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant - Charlotte Law (376-49044)
Damian.

First of a series of letters to acknowledge and action.

I will not be replying/handling personally so please ensure that all are picked up.

Thanks.

Colin

Chief Executive | Prif Weithredwr
Chief Executives Suite | Swyddfa'r Prif Weithredwr
Corporate Services | Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol
Flintshire County Council | Cyngor Sir y Fflint

Tel | Ffôn | 01352 702101

Email | Eboost | chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk

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----- Forwarded by Chief Executive/ChiefExecs/Flintshire/GB on 23/12/2015 12:12 -----

From: "Mewies, Sandy (Assembly Member)" <Sandy.Mewies@assembly.wales>
To: "chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk" <chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk>,
Cc: "Joanne.Pierce@flintshire.gov.uk" <Joanne.Pierce@flintshire.gov.uk>, "Hughes, Louise (AM Support Staff, Sandy Mewies)" <Louise.Hughes@assembly.wales>
Date: 22/12/2015 10:56
Subject: Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant - Charlotte Law (376-49044)

Dear Mr Everett,

Re: Ms Charlotte Law, 1 Tan Y Felin, Greenfield, Holywell, Flintshire CH8 7QA

I attach letters received from my constituent, Ms Charlotte Law of the above address.

She has contacted me regarding the Authority's proposal to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant. As a former pupil of the school she points out that if it were to close it would mean young children from the local area would miss the opportunity to learn Welsh. She also quotes figures from the Office for National Statistics which shows the local area has a higher than average number of Welsh speakers due to the school.

I would be grateful for your confirmation that Ms Law's comments will be given full consideration as part of the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,
Sandy Mewies AM (Mrs)
Delyn Constituency



Letter from Charlotte Law.pdf

1 Tan-y-felin
Greenfield
Holywell
Flintshire
CH8 7QA
17/12/2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to express my opposition to Flintshire County Council's proposal to close Ysgol Manant.

I am a former pupil of Ysgol Manant and I have many fond memories of my time there. Without Ysgol Manant I would not be able to speak Welsh because nobody in my family can speak the language. If the school were to close there wouldn't be a Welsh primary school in that area so the young children would not learn the language and would miss out on the many amazing opportunities I have had. I am very proud and lucky to have been a pupil at Ysgol Manant and I would like for other pupils to feel the same way as I do.

The following figures are from the Office for National Statistics and Infobase Cymru. 22.9% of residents (aged 3 or over) are Welsh speakers. This is higher than the Flintshire average of 13.2% and higher

than the wales average of 19.6%.
16.1% of residents (aged 3 and over) can speak, read and write Welsh which is higher than the Flintshire average of 9.3% and higher than the Wales average of 14.6%.
if Flintshire County Council do close the school they will be closing the local Welsh school that has helped to create ~~the~~ one of the highest speaking, reading and writing areas in Wales.
if this is not a good enough reason to keep the school open i don't know what is.

Yours Sincerely,
Charlotte Law

1 Tan-y-felin
Maes Glas
Theffynnon
Sir-y-Aflunt
CT18 7QA
17/12/2015

Annyyl Sandy Mewies,

Rwyf yn ysgrifennu
atoch i fynegi fy nghuthyrbiaid at gaelus
Cynghor Sir y Aflunt i gan Ysgol Manant.
Rwyf yn cyn ddisyybl Ysgol Manant ac mae
gen i llawer o atgofion hapus o fy arwiser
ynna. Dyniais sut i Siarad Cymraeg yn
Ysgol Manant gan nad ydych chi siarad
yn iaitth adref. Felly heb yn ysgol ni
fnasun yn gallu Siarad Cymraeg.

Os ydych chi yn cau bydd plant bach yn
ardal ddolyn yn gael y gytel i ddysgu'r iaith
gan fod yna ddolyn ysgolion gwaddol
Cymraeg arall yn y ardal. Rydych chi
pensi bydd yn iaitth yn cael ei gollu.

Mae ysgol Manant yn ysgol arbennig
iawn a fydd yn dros iawn i weld a'i
cau. Rydych chi'n goheithio eich bod chi yn
ymroddu sylw o fy llythyr ac na
fydd yn cael ei chau.

Tr eiddoch yn gywir,
Charlotte Low.



**Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton - Re: Ms Charlotte Law, 1 Tan Y Felin,
Greenfield, Holywell, Flintshire CH8 7QA (376-49044)**

21stCenturySchools to: Sandy.Mewies

06/01/2016 11:30

Sent by: Jennie Williams

Cc: Sarah Thomas, "Hughes, Louise (AM Support Staff, Sandy
Mewies)"

Good Morning Mrs Mewies

Thank you for your email in relation to one your constituent Charlotte Law's correspondence. This is acknowledgement of receipt of your correspondence.

We will ensure that all responses during the consultation period are shared with Councillors. We will also produce a public statutory consultation report identifying key issues raised and the Council's response to those issues.

The consultation report will be made available on the website and available in hard copy of request.

Kind Regards

Jennie Williams

Dear Mr Everett,

Re: Ms Charlotte Law, 1 Tan Y Felin, Greenfield, Holywell, Flintshire CH8 7QA

I attach letters received from my constituent, Ms Charlotte Law of the above address.

She has contacted me regarding the Authority's proposal to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant. As a former pupil of the school she points out that if it were to close it would mean young children from the local area would miss the opportunity to learn Welsh. She also quotes figures from the Office for National Statistics which shows the local area has a higher than average number of Welsh speakers due to the school.

I would be grateful for your confirmation that Ms Law's comments will be given full consideration as part of the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,
Sandy Mewies AM (Mrs)
Delyn Constituency



Letter from Charlotte Law.pdf

School Modernisation Team/Y Tîm Moderneiddio Ysgolion
Directorate of Lifelong Learning/Cyfarwyddiaeth Dysgu Gydol Oes
County Hall/Neuadd y Sir
Mold/Yr Wyddgrug
Flintshire/Sir y Fflint

CH7 6ND
Tel/Ffon: 01352 704011/4010
Fax/Ffacs: 01352 704040
email/e-bost: 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk



Fw: Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant - Hannah Owen (376-49052)
Damian Hughes to: 21stCenturySchools

02/01/2016 13:21

Chief Executive

----- Original Message -----

From: Chief Executive
Sent: 23/12/2015 12:14 GMT
To: Damian Hughes
Cc: Joanne Pierce
Subject: Fw: Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant - Hannah Owen (376-49052)

Chief Executive | Prif Weithredwr
Chief Executives Suite | Swyddfa'r Prif Weithredwr
Corporate Services | Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol
Flintshire County Council | Cyngor Sir y Fflint

Tel | Ffôn | 01352 702101
Email | Ebst | chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk

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<http://www.twitter.com/flintshirecc> | <http://www.twitter.com/csyfflint>



----- Forwarded by Chief Executive/ChiefExecs/Flintshire/GB on 23/12/2015 12:14 -----

From: "Mewies, Sandy (Assembly Member)" <Sandy.Mewies@assembly.wales>
To: "chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk" <chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk>,
Cc: "Joanne.Pierce@flintshire.gov.uk" <Joanne.Pierce@flintshire.gov.uk>, "Hughes, Louise (AM Support Staff, Sandy Mewies)" <Louise.Hughes@assembly.wales>
Date: 22/12/2015 12:33
Subject: Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant - Hannah Owen (376-49052)

Dear Mr Everett,

Re: Hannah Owen, Bryn Awelon, Picton Road, Pen y Ffordd, Flintshire CH8 9JQ

I attach a letter received from my constituent, Hannah Owen of the above address.

She has contacted me regarding the Authority's proposal to Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant. She is a former pupil of the school and says that if it were not for the school she would not have been able to learn to speak Welsh as not all of her family can speak the language. She also highlights other activities she is involved in which she says is due to the opportunities she had at the school. She is concerned that if the school closes other children in the area will miss out on the opportunity to learn the Welsh language.

I would be grateful for your confirmation that Ms Owen's concerns will be taken fully into account as part of the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,
Sandy Mewies AM (Mrs)
Delyn Constituency



Letter from Hannah Owen.pdf

RECEIVED
22 DEC 2015

Bryn Avelon
Picton Road
Penyffordd
CT18 9JG

17th December, 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you today to express my feelings to Flintshire County Council's proposal to close Ysgol Mornant.

I am a ~~former~~ former pupil of Ysgol Mornant and I have many fond memories of my time in Ysgol Mornant. Without Ysgol Mornant I would not have learned Welsh because not everyone in my family can speak the language. Also I would not have gone into Welsh education if Ysgol Mornant was not there as my parents had a job and did not have the time to travel to the nearest Welsh school.

During my time in Ysgol Mornant I had many opportunities to play a variety of sports. I enjoyed playing football, hoci, netball and tag rugby, and as a girl who has spoken to her friends were not allowed to play hoci, football and tag rugby I feel very appreciative of the teachers and staff for their time in taking us to the tournaments. Without the school I would not have joined Holywell Netball Club as I would not have known how much fun netball is. I am thankful to them also for getting me into hockey and netball as I now play for Flintshire in both sports and North East Wales in netball.

If the school were to close I am very worried that the young children in the

area would not learn the language and
would miss the great opportunities that I have
had. I am very proud and lucky to have been
a pupil at Ysgol Morgant and I would like
for other pupils to feel the same way as I do

Yours sincerely
Hannah Owen



Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton - Re Hannah Owen, Bryn Awelon, Picton
Road, Pen y ffordd, Flintshire, CH8 9JQ

21stCenturySchools to: Sandy.Mewies

Sent by: Jennie Williams

Cc: Sarah Thomas

06/01/2016 11:12

Good Morning Mrs Mewies

Thank you for your email in relation to one your constituents correspondence. This is acknowledgement of receipt of your correspondence.

We will ensure that all responses during the consultation period are shared with Councillors. We will also produce a public statutory consultation report identifying key issues raised and the Council's response to those issues.

The consultation report will be made available on the website and available in hard copy of request.

Kind Regards

Jennie Williams

Dear Mr Everett,

Re: Hannah Owen, Bryn Awelon, Picton Road, Pen y Ffordd, Flintshire CH8 9JQ

I attach a letter received from my constituent, Hannah Owen of the above address.

She has contacted me regarding the Authority's proposal to Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant. She is a former pupil of the school and says that if it were not for the school she would not have been able to learn to speak Welsh as not all of her family can speak the language. She also highlights other activities she is involved in which she says is due to the opportunities she had at the school. She is concerned that if the school closes other children in the area will miss out on the opportunity to learn the Welsh language.

I would be grateful for your confirmation that Ms Owen's concerns will be taken fully into account as part of the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,
Sandy Mewies AM (Mrs)
Delyn Constituency



Letter from Hannah Owen.pdf

School Modernisation Team/Y Tim Moderneiddio Ysgolion
County Hall/Neuadd y Sir
Mold/Yr Wyddgrug
Flintshire/Sir y Fflint
CH7 6ND
Tel/Ffon: 01352 704015

email/e-bost: 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk



Fw: Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant - Angel Baxter (376-49050)

Damian Hughes to: 21stCenturySchools

02/01/2016 13:21

Chief Executive

----- Original Message -----

From: Chief Executive
Sent: 23/12/2015 12:14 GMT
To: Damian Hughes
Cc: Joanne Pierce
Subject: Fw: Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant - Angel Baxter (376-49050)

Chief Executive | Prif Weithredwr
Chief Executives Suite | Swyddfa'r Prif Weithredwr
Corporate Services | Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol
Flintshire County Council | Cyngor Sir y Fflint

Tel | Ffôn | 01352 702101
Email | Ebst | chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk> | <http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk>
<http://www.twitter.com/flintshirecc> | <http://www.twitter.com/csyfflint>



----- Forwarded by Chief Executive/ChiefExecs/Flintshire/GB on 23/12/2015 12:14 -----

From: "Mewies, Sandy (Assembly Member)" <Sandy.Mewies@assembly.wales>
To: "chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk" <chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk>,
Cc: "Joanne.Pierce@flintshire.gov.uk" <Joanne.Pierce@flintshire.gov.uk>, "Hughes, Louise (AM Support Staff, Sandy Mewies)" <Louise.Hughes@assembly.wales>
Date: 22/12/2015 12:06
Subject: Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant - Angel Baxter (376-49050)

Dear Mr Everett,

Re: Angel Baxter, 72 Pen y Maes Road, Holywell, Flintshire CH8 7BE

I attach a letter received from my constituent, Angel Baxter of the above address.

She has contacted me regarding the Authority's proposal to Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant. She is a former pupil of the school and says that if it were to close young people in the area would lose the opportunity to learn the Welsh language.

I would be grateful for your confirmation that Ms Baxter's comments will be given full consideration as part of the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

Sandy Mewies AM (Mrs)
Delyn Constituency



Letter from Angel Baxter.pdf

RECEIVED
22 DEC 2015

72 Pen-y-Maes Road
Holywell
Flintshire
CH8 7BE

Rhagfyr 17 2015

Annwyl Syr / Dear Sir

I am writing to express my opposition to Flintshire County Council's proposal to close Ysgol Mornant.

I am a former pupil of Ysgol Mornant and I have many fond memories of my time there. Without Ysgol Mornant I would not have learned Welsh because not everyone in my family can speak the language.

If the school were to close I am very worried that the young children in the area would not learn the language and that they would miss out on everything that I have had. I am lucky to have been a pupil at Ysgol Mornant and I'm sure the other pupils feel the same way as I do.

Rwyf yn ysgrifennu atoch i fyneg fy ngwrthwynebiad at gynllwyn Cyngor Sir y Flint i gau Ysgol Mornant.

Rwyf yn gyn disgybl Ysgol Mornant ac mae gen atgofion hapus iawn o fy amser yna.

Ie fais y cyfle i ddysgu Cymraeg yn Ysgol Mornant gan ydym i gyd yn siarad yr iaith yn fy nghartref. Heb Ysgol Mornant ni fuaswn yn gallu siarad Cymraeg.

Os ydych chi chi ysgol yn cau. Rwyf yn gobeithio na fydd plant

bach yr ardal yn dysguir i'ith ac fe fydd hyn yn ofnadwy
i Sir y Fflint. Dwi yn falch i fod yn gyn-disgybl
o Ysgol Mornant ac dwi'n amau fod i gyd o
cyn disgyblion eraill yn cytuno.

yours sincerely / yn gywir Angel Baxter



Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton - Angel Baxter, 72 Pen y Maes Road,
Holywell, Flintshire CH8 7BE (376-49050)

21stCenturySchools to: Sandy.Mewies

Sent by: Jennie Williams

Cc: Sarah Thomas

06/01/2016 11:18

Good Morning Mrs Mewies

Thank you for your email in relation to one your constituent Angel Baxter correspondence. This is acknowledgement of receipt of your correspondence.

We will ensure that all responses during the consultation period are shared with Councillors. We will also produce a public statutory consultation report identifying key issues raised and the Council's response to those issues.

The consultation report will be made available on the website and available in hard copy of request.

Kind Regards

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I would be grateful for your confirmation that Ms Baxter's comments will be given full consideration as part of the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

Sandy Mewies AM (Mrs)

Delyn Constituency



Letter from Angel Baxter.pdf

School Modernisation Team/Y Tîm Moderneiddio Ysgolion
Directorate of Lifelong Learning/Cyfarwyddiaeth Dysgu Gydol Oes
County Hall/Neuadd y Sir
Mold/Yr Wyddgrug
Flintshire/Sir y Fflint
CH7 6ND
Tel/Ffon: 01352 704011/4010
Fax/Ffacs: 01352 704040
email/e-bost: 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

RECEIVED
22 DEC 2015

72 Pen-y-Maes Road
Holywell
Flintshire
CH8 7BE

Rhagfyr 17 2015

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Rwyf yn gyn disgybl Ysgol Mornant ac mae gen i atgofion hapus iawn o fy amser yna.

Ie fais y cyfle i ddysgu Cymraeg yn Ysgol Mornant gan ydym i gyd yn siarad yr iaith yn fy nghartref. Heb Ysgol Mornant ni fuaswn yn gallu siarad Cymraeg.

Os ydych chi chi ysgol yn cau. Page 388 yn poeni na fydd plant

bach yr ardal yn dysgu'r iaith ac fe fydd hyn yn ofnaduwy
i Sŵ y fflint. Dwi yn falch i fod yn gyn-disgybl
o Ysgol Mornant ac dwi'n amau fod i gyd o'r
cyn disgyblion eraill yn cytuno.

yours sincerely / yn gywir Angel Baxter

Angel Baxter
72 Pen-y-Maes Road
Holywell
Flintshire
CH8 7BE

Your Ref Eich Cyl

Our Ref I in Cyl

Date Dyddiad

Ask for Gofynnwr am

Direct Dial Rhif Union

11th January 2016

School Modernisation
Team

01352 704134/4015

21stcenturyschools@flintshi
re.gov.uk

Dear Consultee

School Modernisation Programme

As part of Flintshire County Council's school modernisation programme, we invited stakeholders to express their views through a consultation on the proposals for Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton. The consultation period closed on the 23rd December 2015.

This letter confirms that we have received your views as part of the consultation process and explain what will happen next.

We received a number of responses for the proposal for Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton, the comments are currently being collated and summarised. A summary report of these comments will be published alongside our own response to the comments in a consultation report which will be made available publically by the end of February 2016. A special Cabinet meeting will be arranged in February 2016 to make a decision about the proposals taking into consideration the consultation feedback we have received.

More information will be provided as the Council and school work through this process. Information will be provided through the school and on the County Council website.

Kind Regards

Yours faithfully,



Ian Budd
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

County Hall, Mold, CH7 6ND
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug, CH7 6ND
www.siryfflint.gov.uk

Angel Baxter
72 Pen-y-Maes Road
Holywell
Flintshire
CH8 7BE

Your Ref/Eich Cyf

Our Ref/Ein Cyf

Date/Dyddiad

Ask for/Gofynner am

Direct Dial/Rhif Union

11th Ionawr 2016

Tim Moderneiddio
Ysgolion

01352 704134/4015

21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

Annwyl Ymgynghorai

Rhaflen Moderneiddio Ysgolion

Fel rhan o raglen moderneiddio ysgolion Cyngor Sir y Fflint, rydym yn gwahodd budd-ddeiliaid i fynegi eu barn drwy ymgynghoriad ar y cynigion ar gyfer Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton. Daeth y cyfnod ymgynghori i ben ar 23 Rhagfyr 2015.

Mae'r llythyr hwn yn cadarnhau ein bod wedi derbyn eich barn fel rhan o'r broses ymgynghori ac yn esbonio beth fydd yn digwydd nesaf.

Cawsom nifer o ymatebion ar gyfer y cynnig ar gyfer Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton, mae'r sylwadau yn cael eu coladu a'u crynhoi ar hyn o bryd. Bydd adroddiad cryno o'r sylwadau hyn yn cael eu cyhoeddi ochr yn ochr â'n hymateb eu hunain i'r sylwadau mewn adroddiad ymgynghori a fydd ar gael i'r cyhoedd erbyn diwedd Chwefror 2016. Bydd cyfarfod arbennig o'r Cabinet yn cael ei drefnu ym mis Chwefror 2016 i wneud penderfyniad am y cynigion gan gymryd i ystyriaeth yr adborth yr ydym wedi'i gael i'r ymgynghoriad.

Bydd mwy o wybodaeth yn cael ei darparu fel mae'r Cyngor a'r ysgol yn gweithio trwy'r broses hon. Bydd gwybodaeth yn cael ei darparu drwy'r ysgol ac ar wefan y Cyngor Sir.

Cofion cynnes

Yn gywir,



Ian Budd
Prif Swyddog, Addysg ac Ieuenctid



Cynnig i gau Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton

Roberts, Aled (Assembly Member) to: 21stcenturyschools@f
lintshire.gov.uk

23/12/2015 12:50

Annwyl Syr/Madam

Carwn gyflwyno fy ngwrthwynebiad i argymhelliad Cyngor Sir Y Fflint i gau Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant.

Credaf bod y cynnig yn groes i Gynllun Strategol Y Gymraeg Mewn Addysg Sir Y Fflint 2014-17 a hynny ar ôl i'r cynllun gael ei adolygu a'i dderbyn gan Llywodraeth Cymru yn ystod Haf 2015. Nid oes unrhyw sôn o fewn y cynllun am unrhyw gynlluniau i ostwng nifer yr ysgolion cynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg o fewn y sir. Yn wir, mae'r cynllun yn datgan bod Sir Y Fflint yn awyddus i hyrwyddo a chynyddu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y sir. Mae'r cynllun â dderbyniwyd yn ddiweddar gan Weinidog Addysg Llywodraeth Cymru yn cydnabod bod y canran o blant sydd yn derbyn eu haddysg drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg o fewn y sir yn rhy isel.

Mae'r cwestiwn yn codi hefyd ynghylch sut fydd y sir yn cyrraedd y targedau â osodwyd o fewn y Cynllun Strategol os yw'r argymhelliad yma yn cael ei dderbyn. Mae'r sir wedi datgan eu bod yn awyddus i weld cynnydd o'r 5.7% presennol o blant saith oed sydd yn derbyn eu haddysg trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg i 11.4% erbyn 2015. Er hynny, mae'n fwriad clir gan y sir i dynnu darpariaeth cynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg o ogledd y sir drwy weithredu'r argymhelliad yma.

Mae'r bwriad bod plant yn cael eu cyfeirio at addysg Gymraeg yn Ysgol Gwenffrwd neu Ysgol Y Llys hefyd yn gam-arweiniol wrth gofio bod dosbarthiadau blynyddoedd cynnar yn arbennig yn llawn o fewn o ddwy ysgol. Os bydd Cynghorau Sir Y Fflint a Sir Ddinbych yn gweithredu eu polisiau derbyn yn gywir felly mi fydd disgwyl mai plant o ddalgylch yr Ysgol Mornant presennol fydd yn cael eu gwrthod i'r ysgolion hynny oherwydd pellter mewn sefyllfa lle mae'r ysgolion hynny yn orlawn.

Mae'r cynnig hefyd yn ymddangos yn groes i ganllawiau Côt Trefniadaeth Ysgolion Llywodraeth Cymru â gyhoeddwyd yn Hydref 2013 sydd yn datgan dylai cyrff perthnasol roi sylw i'r ffactorau canlynol:

Lle cynigir cau ysgol, lleihau ei chapasiti neu leihau ei hystod oedran:

a fydd gan ddarpariaeth ysgol amgen ddigon o gapasiti ac a fydd yndarparu adeiladau ac ystafelloedd o ansawdd cystal, man lleiaf, ar gyfer niferoedd disgyblion presennol yr ysgol a'r niferoedd a ragwelir;

Wrth ystyried cynigion, dylai cyrff perthnasol roi sylw i'r Rheoliadau Adeiladu perthnasol a Bwletin Adeiladu cysylltiedig, a chylchlythyr Llywodraeth Cymru 'Mesur capasiti ysgolion yng Nghymru' (Cylchlythyr Rhif: 021/2011). Yn ogystal â hyn, mae Rheoliadau Addysg (Mangreoedd Ysgolion) 1999 yn nodi'r safonau ar gyfer safleoedd ysgolion, gan gynnwys yr ardaloedd lleiaf ar gyfer meysydd chwarae gemau tîm y mae'n rhaid i ysgolion allu manteisio arnynt.

Dylai cynigion statudol sicrhau y caiff y safonau hyn eu bodloni.

• gan gyfeirio at natur yr ysgolion sy'n destun cynigion, a yw'r ddarpariaeth ysgol amgen yn ddigonol i ateb y galw presennol a'r galw a ragwelir am ysgolion o'r un:

a. categori iaith fel yr amlinellir yn "Diffinio ysgolion yn ôl y ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg", dogfen wybodaeth Llywodraeth Cymru Rhif: 023/2007(dogfen

wybodaeth Rhif: 023/2007); ac
b. (os yn berthnasol) cymeriad crefyddol dynodedig;

Dylai cynigion sicrhau bod cydbwysedd y ddarpariaeth ysgolion yn adlewyrchu cydbwysedd y galw. Mae hyn yn golygu, os bydd

darpariaeth ysgol yn cael ei lleihau neu ei dileu, y dylid sicrhau bod darpariaeth ysgol amgen o'r un natur (categori iaith neu, os yn berthnasol, cymeriad crefyddol) ar gael i ddisgyblion yn yr ardal leol, lle bynnag y bo hynny'n bosibl. Fodd bynnag, mewn rhai ardaloedd, efallai na fydd parhau i gynnal mynediad i ysgolion o'r un natur yn gydnaws â darpariaeth addysg gosteffeithiol.

Ym mhob achos, rhaid i ddisgyblion presennol mewn ysgol lle mae'r ddarpariaeth yn cael ei lleihau neu ei dileu allu parhau i dderbyn addysg sy'n darparu o leiaf yr un safonau a chyfleoedd i gamu ymlaen yn eu cyfrwng iaith presennol. Efallai y bydd angen gwneud trefniadau pontio penodol er mwyn cyflawni hyn.

Pan fydd cynigion yn effeithio ar ysgolion lle mae'r Gymraeg yn gyfrwng addysgu (ar gyfer pynciau heblaw Cymraeg) drwy'r amser neu beth o'r amser, dylai awdurdodau lleol gynnal Asesiad o'r Effaith ar y Gymraeg.

- natur siwrneiau i ddarpariaeth amgen ac amseroedd teithio i ddisgyblion, gan gynnwys disgyblion AAA; yn enwedig os bydd disgyblion ysgol gynradd yn gorfod teithio am dros 45 munud un ffordd neu ddisgyblion ysgol uwchradd yn gorfod teithio am dros awr un ffordd;

Dylai trefniadau ar gyfer cael mynediad i ddarpariaeth amgen annogtrafnidiaeth gynaliadwy; a dylent fynd i'r afael ag effaith bosibl unrhyw anawsterau o ran trafndiaeth ar bresenoldeb disgyblion yn yr ysgol a'r graddau y gallant fanteisio arni. Dylid asesu diogelwch a hygyrchedd llwybrau cerdded neu feicio posibl cyn cyflwyno unrhyw gynigion.

Mae'n glir bod niferoedd yn cynyddu yn y ddwy ysgol a enwir ar gyfer plant sydd yn cael eu dadleoli o Ysgol Mornant – nid oes unrhyw ysgolion eraill lleol yn darparu i'r un graddau trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Ni fydd canllawiau Llywodraeth Cymru o ran safonau iaith a chynnydd ieithyddol felly yn cael eu bodloni.

Byddai'r argymhelliad hefyd yn effeithio ar ddarpariaeth cyn-ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg wrth gofio bod y cylch meithrin yn gweithredu o safle'r ysgol ar hyn o bryd.

Yn olaf, o fewn y Cynllun Strategol cafwyd ymrwymiad gan y Cyngor Sir byddai Rhaglen Ysgolion 21ain Ganrif yn diogelu "holl ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg Sir Y Fflint" a bod y sir yn bwriadu "defnyddio'r ddarpariaeth bresennol i gynyddu'r darpariaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg." Mae Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant yn gwasanaethu ardal eang wledig yng ngogledd Sir Y Fflint- ardal sydd efo hanes gyfoethog o ran yr iaith Gymraeg a lle mae 26.2% o drigolion ardal Trelawnwyd/Gwaenysgor a 22.9% o drigolion FFynongroyw o fewn talgylch Ysgol Mornant yn siarad yr iaith. Mae 16% o'r plant o fewn talgylch yr ysgol presennol yn derbyn eu haddysg trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ond mae arolwg diweddar ymysg y rhieni yn mynegi mai dim ond 50% o'r plant fydd yn trosglwyddo i ysgolion Cymraeg a hynny ar y sail bod 'na ddigon o le.

Os yw Cyngor Sir Y Fflint yn gweithredu'r cynllun yma ni fydd unrhyw obaith o ran y Gymraeg o fewn yr ardaloedd dan sylw. Mae tystiolaeth o bob rhan o Gymru erbyn hyn bod nifer cynyddol o rieni ifainc yn awyddus i'w plant ail-afael yn yr iaith Gymraeg. Mae nifer ohonynt yn gwneud y dewis yma ar ôl i'r iaith gael ei cholli o'u teuluoedd am genhedlaeth neu ddwy. Mae angen i'r Cyngor Sir ail-feddwl os ydynt o ddifrif o ran creu sir ddwyieithog i'r dyfodol.

Yn gywir

Aled Roberts



Aled Roberts

Aelod Cynulliad dros Ogledd Cymru | Assembly Member for North Wales

Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru | Welsh Liberal Democrats

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, Bae Caerdydd, CF99 1NA

National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA

0300 200 7267 | 07736 375900

aled.roberts@cynulliad.cymru

Swyddfa Rhanbarthol | Regional Office

18, Stryt Fawr, Johnstown, Wrecsam, LL14 2SN

01978 843300

<http://www.aledroberts.wales/> | [@aledrobertsam](https://www.facebook.com/aledrobertsam) | [facebook.com/aledrobertsam](https://www.facebook.com/aledrobertsam)

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to set out my opposition to Flintshire County Council's recommendation to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant.

I believe that the proposal is contrary to Flintshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-17 which has been reviewed and accepted by the Welsh Government in the summer of 2015. There is no mention within the scheme of any plans to reduce the number of Welsh-medium primary schools within the County. Indeed, the plan states that Flintshire is keen to promote and increase Welsh-medium education in the County. The scheme recently agreed by the Welsh Government's Education Minister acknowledges that the percentage of children who receive their education through the medium of Welsh in the County is too low.

The question also arises as to how the County will reach the targets set in the strategic plan if this recommendation is accepted. The County has stated that it was keen to see the percentage of seven-year-olds who receive their education through the medium of Welsh increase from the current 5.7% to 11.4% by 2015. However, it is clear that the County intends to withdraw the provision of Welsh-medium primary from the North of the County by implementing this recommendation.

The proposal to transfer children to the Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Gwenffrwd and Ysgol y Llys is misleading bearing in mind that the early years classes are particularly full in both schools. If Flintshire and Denbighshire Councils implement their admissions policies appropriately it is the children from the current catchment area of Ysgol Mornant who will be refused admission to those schools when they become oversubscribed, based on the distance criteria.

The proposal also appears to be contrary to School Organisation Code guidance published in October 2013 which states that relevant bodies *should* consider the following factors:

where a school closure, reduction in capacity or age range is proposed:

whether alternative school-based provision will have sufficient capacity and provide accommodation of at least equivalent quality, for existing and projected pupil numbers;

In considering proposals relevant bodies should have regard to the relevant Building Regulations and associated Building Bulletins, and to the 'Welsh Government's circular on 'Measuring the capacity of schools in Wales' (Circular No: 021/2011). In addition, the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 set out the standards for school premises, including minimum areas of team game playing fields to which schools must have access.

Statutory proposals should ensure that these standards are met.

- with reference to the nature of the schools subject to proposals, whether the alternative school-based provision is sufficient to meet existing and projected demand for schools of the same:

- a. language category as set out in "Defining schools according to Welsh medium provision" Welsh Assembly Government Information document No: 023/2007 (Information document No 023/2007); and

- b. (if relevant) designated religious character;

Proposals should ensure that the balance of school provision reflects the balance of demand. This means that where school provision is being reduced or removed, alternative school provision of the same nature (language category or, if relevant, religious character), wherever possible, should remain available and accessible to pupils in the local area.

However in some areas it may not be compatible with the cost effective provision of education to continue to maintain access to schools of the same nature. In all cases, existing pupils at a school where provision is being reduced or removed must be able to continue receiving an education that provides at least equivalent standards and opportunities for progression in their current language medium. Specific transition arrangements may be necessary in order to achieve this.

Where proposals affect schools where Welsh is a medium of instruction (for subjects other than Welsh) for some or all of the time, local authorities should carry out a Welsh Language Impact Assessment.

- the nature of journeys to alternative provision and resulting journey times for pupils, including SEN pupils; in particular whether primary school pupils will have one-way journeys in excess of 45 minutes or secondary school pupils one way journeys of over an hour;

Arrangements for accessing the alternative provision should encourage sustainable transport; and they should address the possible effect of any transport difficulties on pupils' engagement with and attendance at school. Likely walking or cycling routes for safety and accessibility should be assessed prior to bringing forward proposals

It is clear that pupil numbers are increasing in the two schools it is proposed that Ysgol Mornant pupils should transfer—no other local school provide similar Welsh-medium education. The Welsh Government's guidance regarding language standards and linguistic progress will therefore not be met.

The recommendation would also affect pre-school provision bearing in mind that there is a Welsh-medium playgroup on the school site at present.

Finally, within the strategic plan, a commitment was made by the County Council that the 21st Century Schools Programme would safeguard "all Welsh-medium schools Flintshire" and that the County intends to "use the current provision to increase Welsh-medium education." Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant is a rural school which serves a wide area in North Flintshire - an area with a rich history in terms of the language and where 26.2% of the residents of Trelawnyd/Gwaenysgor area and 22.9% of the residents of Ffynongroyw within Ysgol Mornant's catchment area speak the language. 16% of the children within the existing school's catchment area receive their education through the medium of Welsh but a recent survey of the parents suggests that only 50% of these children would transfer to another Welsh-medium schools even if there were surplus places.

If Flintshire County Council implements this scheme, there will be no future for the Welsh language in the areas concerned. There is evidence from all parts of Wales that there is now a growing number of young parents who eager for their children to re-connect with the Welsh language. Many of them make this choice after their families have lost the ability to speak Welsh a generation or two ago. The County Council needs to think again if it genuinely intends to create a bilingual county for the future.

Yours sincerely

Aled Roberts



Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant
21stCenturySchools to: aled.roberts
Sent by: Jennie Williams

12/01/2016 15:54

Pnawn Da Mr Roberts

Diolch am eich e-bost. Mae hyn yn gydnabyddiaeth o dderbyn eich gohebiaeth.

Byddwn yn sicrhau bod pob ymateb yn ystod y cyfnod ymgynghori yn cael eu rhannu gyda Chynghorwyr. Byddwn hefyd yn cynhyrchu adroddiad ymgynghori statudol cyhoeddus yn nodi materion allweddol a godwyd ac ymateb y Cyngor i'r materion hynny.

Bydd yr adroddiad ymgynghori ar gael ar y wefan ac ar gael mewn copi caled ar gais.

Cofion cynnes

Jennie

Good Afternoon Mr Roberts

Thank you for your email. This is acknowledgement of receipt of your correspondence.

We will ensure that all responses during the consultation period are shared with Councillors. We will also produce a public statutory consultation report identifying key issues raised and the Council's response to those issues.

The consultation report will be made available on the website and available in hard copy of request.

Kind Regards

Jennie

School Modernisation Team/Y Tîm Moderneiddio Ysgolion
County Hall/Neuadd y Sir
Mold/Yr Wyddgrug
Flintshire/Sir y Fflint
CH7 6ND
Tel/Ffon: 01352 704015

email/e-bost: 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk



RE: Gwrthwynebiad i gau Ysgol Mornant / Objection to proposed closure to Ysgol Mornant

21stCenturySchools to: Isherwood, Mark (Assembly Member)

06/01/2016 15:42

Sent by: Jennie Williams
Cc: Sarah Thomas

Good Afternoon Mr Isherwood

Thank you for your email. This is acknowledgement of receipt of your correspondence. I can confirm we have received a copy of Syfflag's correspondence.

We will ensure that all responses during the consultation period are shared with Councillors. We will also produce a public statutory consultation report identifying key issues raised and the Council's response to those issues, this includes issues raised by Syfflag.

The consultation report will be made available on the website and available in hard copy on request.

Kind Regards

Jennie

School Modernisation Team/Y Tîm Moderneiddio Ysgolion
County Hall/Neuadd y Sir
Mold/Yr Wyddgrug
Flintshire/Sir y Fflint
CH7 6ND
Tel/Ffon: 01352 704015
email/e-bost: 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

"Isherwood, Mark (Assembly Member)"

Dear Sirs, I have been copi...

22/12/2015 22:57:42

From: "Isherwood, Mark (Assembly Member)" <Mark.Isherwood@assembly.wales>
To: "21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk" <21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk>,
Cc: Bryden Lloyd <bryden.lloyd@gmail.com>, "diana.williams@flintshire.gov.uk" <diana.williams@flintshire.gov.uk>, Albert Leverett <albertleverett@hotmail.co.uk>, "andrea.bower@btinternet.com" <andrea.bower@btinternet.com>, "Anna Braund (BCUHB - Flintshire Locality Office)" <anna.braund@wales.nhs.uk>, "anne.jones999@btinternet.com" <anne.jones999@btinternet.com>, "Aprille Auld (BCUHB - Pathology)" <aprille.auld@wales.nhs.uk>, "avrillarge@hotmail.co.uk" <avrillarge@hotmail.co.uk>, Hugh C B Jones <bryn.jones100@virginmedia.com>, "chrisgunth61@aol.com" <chrisgunth61@aol.com>, Carole <c.speakman423@btinternet.com>, Doli Edwards <doliedwards@hotmail.com>, "gmail@glanrafon.siryfflint.sch.uk" <gmail@glanrafon.siryfflint.sch.uk>, "glyn.banks@flintshire.gov.uk" <glyn.banks@flintshire.gov.uk>, "golden.grove@lineone.net" <golden.grove@lineone.net>, "hannah@hannahblythyn.wales" <hannah@hannahblythyn.wales>, "howard.humble@btinternet.com" <howard.humble@btinternet.com>, Janet Seaton <Janet.Seaton@talacrebeach.co.uk>, Janice Hooper Williams <janicehwilliams150@gmail.com>, "jctgwespyr@tiscali.co.uk" <jctgwespyr@tiscali.co.uk>, Mike Jones <jmjones61@yahoo.co.uk>, "jones.llysyfron@outlook.com" <jones.llysyfron@outlook.com>, john wiltshire <j_wiltshire@live.co.uk>, "laurareesowen@gmail.com" <laurareesowen@gmail.com>, "mgmail@ysgolmaesgarmon.siryfflint.sch.uk" <mgmail@ysgolmaesgarmon.siryfflint.sch.uk>, "michelleebj@aol.com" <michelleebj@aol.com>, "nthomas233@btinternet.com" <nthomas233@btinternet.com>, "Number8Sally@yahoo.co.uk" <number8sally@yahoo.co.uk>, "Ord489@googlemail.com" <Ord489@googlemail.com>, "parry789@btinternet.com" <parry789@btinternet.com>, "penyffordd.c.g@btinternet.com" <penyffordd.c.g@btinternet.com>, "Ian Price Prestatyn Athletic" <prestatynathletic@msn.com>, "Sophie_Louise1990@hotmail.co.uk"

<sophie_louise1990@hotmail.co.uk>, "sue.vardene@yahoo.co.uk"
<sue.vardene@yahoo.co.uk>, "vikhick@aol.com" <vikhick@aol.com>,
"ysgol.gwenffrwd@flintshire.gov.uk" <ysgol.gwenffrwd@flintshire.gov.uk>,
"ysgol.mornant@flintshire.gov.uk" <ysgol.mornant@flintshire.gov.uk>,
"ytmail@terrig.flintshire.sch.uk" <ytmail@terrig.flintshire.sch.uk>, "Sargeant, Carl (Assembly
Member)" <Carl.Sargeant@assembly.wales>, "Mewies, Sandy (Assembly Member)"
<Sandy.Mewies@assembly.wales>, "Griffiths, Lesley (Assembly Member)"
<Lesley.Griffiths@assembly.wales>, "Gruffydd, Llyr (Assembly Member)"
<Llyr.Gruffydd@assembly.wales>, "Haworth, Janet (Assembly Member)"
<Janet.Haworth@assembly.wales>, Kelly hughes <kellyhughes1980@icloud.com>, "Roberts,
Aled (Assembly Member)" <Aled.Roberts@cynulliad.cymru>, "Iola Ysgol Gwenffrwyd"
<ysgol_gwenffrwd@flintshire.gov.uk>, Dafydd Roberts <dafyddiwan@btinternet.com>,
"huwalun@aweelidir.orangehome.co.uk" <huwalun@aweelidir.orangehome.co.uk>, Rhian
Davies <rhian@menteriaithsiryflint.co.uk>, "HELEN ROBERTS"
<talwrn.glas@btinternet.com>, "Webb, Jessica (AM Support Staff, Mark Isherwood)"
<Jessica.Webb@assembly.wales>

Date:

22/12/2015 22:57

Subject:

RE: Gwrthwynebiad i gau Ysgol Mornant / Objection to proposed closure to Ysgol Mornant

Dear Sirs,

I have been copied on the attached correspondence.

The Welsh Government's School Organisation Code includes:

" Local authorities must ensure that there are sufficient schools providing primary and secondary education for their area. Schools are regarded as sufficient if they are sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education.....In the light of the above, relevant bodies should have regard to the following factors: Where a school closure, reduction in capacity or age range contraction is proposed: • with reference to the nature of the schools subject to proposals, whether the alternative school-based provision is sufficient to meet existing and projected demand for schools of the same: a. language category as set out in "Defining schools according to Welsh medium provision" Welsh Assembly Government Information document No: 023/2007 (Information document No 023/2007)".

When consideration is given to the reorganization of Welsh-medium education, only by providing places in school(s) that fall into the same linguistic category (as defined in information document No: 023/2007) or a category where there is a greater degree of Welsh medium provision, can it be ensured that the same standards and opportunities for progression in the Welsh language are provided.

I would therefore be grateful if you could give this your attention and copy me on your response to Syfflag.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

Mark Isherwood AC/AM

From: HELEN ROBERTS [mailto:talwrn.glas@btinternet.com]

Sent: 21 December 2015 23:28

To: 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

Cc: Bryden Lloyd; diana.williams@flintshire.gov.uk; Albert Leverett; andrea.bower@btinternet.com; Anna Braund (BCUHB - Flintshire Locality Office); anne.jones999@btinternet.com; Aprille Auld (BCUHB

- Pathology); avrillarge@hotmail.co.uk; Hugh C B Jones; chrisgunth61@aol.com; Carole; Doli Edwards; glmail@glanrafon.siryfflint.sch.uk; glyn.banks@flintshire.gov.uk; golden.grove@lineone.net; hannah@hannahblythyn.wales; howard.humble@btinternet.com; Janet Seaton; Janice Hooper Williams; jctgwespyr@tiscali.co.uk; Mike Jones; jones.llysyfron@outlook.com; john wiltshire; lauraresowen@gmail.com; mgmail@ysgolmaesgarmon.siryfflint.sch.uk; michelleebj@aol.com; nthomas233@btinternet.com; Number8Sally@yahoo.co.uk; Ord489@googlemail.com; parry789@btinternet.com; penyffordd.c.g@btinternet.com; Ian Price Prestatyn Athletic; Sophie_louise1990@hotmail.co.uk; sue.vardene@yahoo.co.uk; vikhick@aol.com; ysgol.gwenffrwd@flintshire.gov.uk; ysgol.mornant@flintshire.gov.uk; ytmail@terrig.flintshire.sch.uk; Sargeant, Carl (Assembly Member); Mewies, Sandy (Assembly Member); Griffiths, Lesley (Assembly Member); Gruffydd, Llyr (Assembly Member); Haworth, Janet (Assembly Member); Isherwood, Mark (Assembly Member); Kelly hughes; Roberts, Aled (Assembly Member); Iola Ysgol Gwenffrwyd; Dafydd Roberts; huwalun@awelelidir.orangehome.co.uk; Rhian Davies

Subject: Gwrthwynebiad i gau Ysgol Mornant / Objection to proposed closure to Ysgol Mornant

Ynghlwm mae llythyr gwrthwynebiad ar ran Syfflag i'r cynllun i gau Ysgol Mornant. Mawr hyderwn y bydd y Cyngor yn medru gweithio gyda'r ysgol i sicrhau dyfodol llewyrchus.

Please find attached an objection to the proposed closure of Ysgol Mornant on behalf of Syfflag. We sincerely hope that the Council will work with the school to create a successful future.

Raymond Roberts

Ysgrifennydd / Secretary [attachment "Syfflag Mornant consultation response Cymraeg.docx" deleted by Jennie Williams/LifelongLearning/Flintshire/GB] [attachment "Syfflag Mornant consultation response English.docx" deleted by Jennie Williams/LifelongLearning/Flintshire/GB]



**Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton - Re: Ysgol Mornant Action Group
376-49149**

21stCenturySchools to: Mewies, Sandy (Assembly Member)
<Sandy.Mewies@assembly.wales/O
=,/,>

08/01/2016 14:05

Sent by: Jennie Williams
Louise (AM Support Staff, Sandy Mewies)"
Cc: <Louise.Hughes@assembly.wales/O=, Sarah
Thomas/LifelongLearning/Flintshire/GB,/,

Good Afternoon Mrs Mewies

Thank you for your email in relation to the Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton Action Group correspondence. This is acknowledgement of receipt of your correspondence. I can confirm that we received the same information from the Action Group during the consultation period.

We will ensure that all responses during the consultation period are shared with Councillors. We will also produce a public statutory consultation report identifying key issues raised and the Council's response to those issues.

The consultation report will be made available on the website and available in hard copy of request.

Kind Regards

Jennie Williams

Dear Mr Everett,

I have been sent the attached response to Flintshire County Council's consultation regarding Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant by the school's Action Group. This was received at my office on January 7th and I understand the consultation has now closed, however I would be grateful if the attached document could be given full consideration before any decision is taken.

Yours sincerely

Sandy Mewies AM (Mrs)
Delyn Constituency



Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant Action Group.pdf

School Modernisation Team/Y Tim Moderneiddio Ysgolion
County Hall/Neuadd y Sir
Mold/Yr Wyddgrug
Flintshire/Sir y Fflint
CH7 6ND
Tel/Ffon: 01352 704015

email/e-bost: 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

Sandy Mewies

Aelod Cynulliad dros
Delyn

Assembly Member for
Delyn



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales



Mr. Colin Everett
Chief Executive
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
Flintshire
CH7 6NB

Our Ref: Malcolm/376-46688
(please quote reference in all correspondence)

20 July 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

RE. Mrs Susan Malcolm, Bredon, Tyn Y Morfa, Holywell, CH8 9JN

I enclose an email from my constituent Mrs Susan Malcolm who has raised concerns about the proposed closure of Ysgol Mornant.

Mrs Malcolm is the grandparent of two pupils of Ysgol Mornant, one of whom has since left. She has a huge amount of praise for the school as evidenced by her email.

I ask that you take her concerns into consideration when making any decision regarding the future of Ysgol Mornant.

Yours sincerely

Sandy Mewies AM (Mrs)
Delyn Constituency

Enc: (1)

Case: [Ysgol Mornant](#)
Links: [Susan Malcolm](#)
Sent: 07/07/2015 7:19 PM
Received: 07/07/2015 7:18 PM
From: fyr-j2civg7qdb_q733ya7h3egv7l65c2a@writetothem.com
To: sandy.mewies@assembly.wales
CC:
BCC:
Subject: Letter from your constituent Susam Malcolm

Susam Malcolm
Bredon
TYN Y MORFA
Holywell
Flintshire
CH8 9JN

Phone: 01745 854017

Email: sue.vardene@yahoo.co.uk

Tuesday 7 July 2015

Dear Sandy Mewies AM,

RE: PROPOSED CLOSURE OF YSGOL GYMRAEG MORNANT – PICTON

Thank you for your time in reading this letter, it is greatly appreciated.

Being a grandparent to 2 pupils of Ysgol Mornant, I am concerned to hear that Flintshire County Council has proposed to close it in September 2016.

My eldest grandchild has since left the school to become a Chef working alongside a team of Welsh speaking colleagues at a busy holiday park.

He joined the school at the age of 8 yrs old as he was unfortunately being bullied at his previous school Ysgol Gronant and the Headmistress chose to do nothing about it!

Both my daughter and I were then lucky enough to find this lovely village school.

We were welcomed by a lovely lady who, in fact turned out to be the Headmistress Mrs Ann Jones who, alongside Mrs H Williams (both now retired) stayed behind after school to show us around and explain all about Ysgol Mornant.

At that moment we knew that Ysgol Mornant was going to be the place for Sam.

Here he bloomed, he came out of himself with the help of all the staff and pupils and he also picked up the Welsh language and proceeded to go on to Ysgol Maes Garmon to complete his school life in a

Welsh speaking secondary school.

My youngest grandchild is due to start at Ysgol Mornant this September (2015), she is a member of their Ti a Fi, attends Cylch regularly and can speak Welsh to some degree.

If Flintshire County Council close Ysgol Mornant they will be taking away her right to the "Cwricwlwm Cymreig" which gives them a feeling of place, heritage and of belonging.

All the staff at the school aim to create and nurture a happy, FAMILY school, which is totally safe and where each child can develop to their full potential.

I know that she cannot wait to join the school and already has so many little friends there and greets the teachers and other members of staff with such affection - it is lovely to see.

As a grandparent, this makes me feel extremely humble knowing that my grandchild will receive the care and attention that she would normally receive in her family home and indeed my own home.

If this school is to close I know we would not feel the same security for her we feel now!

I know that my daughter won't be putting her on to a school bus at this very young age to be taken to another Welsh school further away from their family home and where she works, my granddaughter will have to attend another village school in this area, which is NOT a WELSH Medium school, therefore Flintshire County Council are taking away my daughters/granddaughters rights of choice for her education!

Surveys in other areas of Flintshire show that parental choice of Welsh Medium education rises when the local school is within 2 miles of the home.

This would be dramatically changed with the closure of Ysgol Gymraeg - Picton Have Flintshire County Council thought about this?

I wonder have Flintshire County Council took the time to actually visit Ysgol Mornant and see what we as parents/grandparents see on a daily basis?

I wonder would they re-consider this ridiculous proposal of closing our beautiful school in September 2016?

I have listed below a few points that I feel need to be looked at:

By closing Ysgol Mornant the following would not be fulfilled in our area -

- There would not be a school to meet the demographic need in this area
- Flintshire County Council endeavours to increase the number of fluent Welsh speakers within its boundaries, with the aim of creating an increasingly bilingual county and country
- Only by receiving education in a designated Welsh Medium school will pupils become fully bilingual
- Outcome 1: More 7 year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh

The question I think we are all asking is "why" does Ysgol Mornant need to close, it is the only Welsh school within our community, a community that is more like an enormous family that believe it or not, want to keep the Welsh language and heritage alive?

I thank you personally for your time.

S. Malcolm
(Mrs)

681b5c75ec74b05fb9ac/43a6699f0bb7ce4d651b

(Signed with an electronic signature in accordance with subsection 7(3) of the Electronic Communications Act 2000.)

Mrs Sandie Mewies AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Your Ref/Eich Cyt
Our Ref/Ein Cyf IB/tg
Date/Dyddiad 10 August 2015
Ask for Gofynner am Ian Budd
Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704010
Fax/Ffacs

Dear Mrs Mewies

Re: Mrs Susan Malcolm, Bredon, Tyn Y Morfa, Holywell, CH89JN

Thank you for your correspondence dated 20 July 2015 regarding the above in which your constituent expresses concerns regarding the possible closure of Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr Picton.

Consultation on options in relation to Ysgol Mornant have yet to start, but is due to commence in the autumn term 2015.

During the period of consultation communities will be able to express their views on options in consultation documentation and offer alternative sustainable solutions for future education delivery in the area. During the review period we will hold meetings with the Staff, Governors and Parents and Careers as well as organising a children's specific consultation event via the school. Other interested parties are able to express their views using the online consultation forms which will also be available in the Autumn.

You have my assurance that officers will act professionally and with empathy give the nature of the proposals. You will be aware that the Local Authority needs to follow the legal process as defined in Welsh Government's School Organisation Code.

The Council will also be required to reflect on capacity issues within our school estate and we will also be conducting impact assessments on issues such as Community, Transport, Equalities, and of course Language.

I can confirm that Mrs Malcolm's correspondence has been formally logged. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making.

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6ND
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug. CH7 6ND
www.siryfflint.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Budd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Ian Budd
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

Sandy Mewies

Aelod Cynulliad dros
Delyn

Assembly Member for
Delyn



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

Mr. Colin Everett
Chief Executive
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
Flintshire
CH7 6NB

Our Ref: Davies/459-47952
(please quote reference in all correspondence)

13 October 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

RE: Mr Bryn Davies, Ffagnallt farm, Rhes-y-cae, Holywell, CH8 8JS

I enclose an email from my constituent Mr Bryn Davies who has raised concerns about the proposed closure of Ysgol Mornant.

Mr Davies feels that the closure of Ysgol Mornant would be a dire blow for the Welsh language and culture in Flintshire. He talks about the recent proclamation ceremony for the Eisteddfod yr Urdd in 2016 and the sense of pride of those that attended that the county would be part of this Welsh youth cultural event. Mr Davies says he appreciates that Flintshire council is facing budget constraints but says it would be shameful if the Urdd National Eisteddfod was to coincide with the closure of a Welsh language primary school.

Can I ask that you take his concerns fully into consideration when making any decision regarding the future of Ysgol Mornant.

Yours sincerely

Sandy Mewies AM (Mrs)
Delyn Constituency

Enc: (1)

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd CF99 1NA
Sandy.Mewies@cynulliad.cymru
www.cynulliad.cymru
0300 200 7132

National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff CF99 1NA
Sandy.Mewies@assembly.wales
www.assembly.wales
0300 200 7132

-----Original Message-----

From: Bryn Davies [mailto:ffagnallt@googlemail.com]
Sent: 04 October 2015 20:31
To: Mewies, Sandy (Assembly Member)
Subject: Letter from your constituent Bryn Davies

Bryn Davies
Ffagnallt farm
Rhes-y-cae
Holywell
Flintshire
CH8 8JS

Phone: +441352780340

Email: ffagnallt@googlemail.com

Sunday 4 October 2015

Dear Sandy Mewies AM,

On Saturday I attended the proclamation ceremony for Eisteddfod yr Urdd Sir Fflint 2016. This exceptional event was held in Flint castle and was a shop window for everything good that the Urdd and Welsh medium education has to offer. In my estimation over a thousand children from different schools and backgrounds across the county attended and not only enjoyed the activities but also gained a sense of pride that their county was an important part of 'the' Welsh youth cultural event of 2016. The ceremony highlighted the importance in an increasingly globalized world of heritage and belonging which can only be good things for any school child to appreciate. Why can't our own council appreciate this?

The closure of Ysgol Mornant due for 2016 will be a dire blow for the Welsh language and culture in Flintshire. Events like the fantastic one on Saturday would not be as successful. I appreciate the council budget has been slashed and the outlook is bleak for services, but are there not other places savings can be made? It will be shameful if Eisteddfod Sir Fflint 2016 coincides with the closure of a Welsh medium primary school. The Urdd has bestowed a great honor on the county of Flint and appreciates the cultural and linguistic values the county has to offer. Can't our county's own council appreciate this as well?

Yours sincerely,
Bryn Davies

0d2928cc6b3844a5bec4/ff5fb787fa25ad5995e3
(Signed with an electronic signature in accordance with subsection 7(3) of the Electronic Communications Act 2000.)

Compliments, Comments and Complaints

Details

Step 1

Reference number	1510 012966	Type	Comment
Title	Mrs	Address 1	
Surname	Mewies	Address 2	
Forename	Sandy	Town	
E-Mail Address		County	
Phone Number		Postcode	
Is this record in relation to the FCC Welsh Language Scheme?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Service this record relates to	School Modernisation / Schools Review
Confidential?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Restrict to ...	Sean Keane/Lifelong Learning hire/GB
Receipt method	Mp/Mep	Language Preference	<input type="checkbox"/> Audio Tape <input type="checkbox"/> Braille <input type="checkbox"/> Disc <input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> Large Print <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh
Received by name	Sean Keane	Received on	19/10/2015
Received by directorate	Community and Enterprise	Received by service	Customer Services

Details

Logged on behalf of Mr Bryn Davies, Ffagnallt Farm, Rhos-y-cae, Holywell, CH8 8 relating to the closure of Ysgol Mornant.



Scanned from a Xerox multifunction device.pdf

Allocated to Directorate Education and Youth
Allocated to Damian Hughes, Jennie Williams, Sarah Thomas

Monitoring Form

This monitoring information is required to ensure that we follow an inclusive, robust and transparent process

All of the information contained in the Monitoring Section will only be used for monitoring purposes.

Information Not Provided

Gender Male Female
Age range Under 25 25-34 35-49 50-54 55+

Disability

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 defines a disability as:

"a person has a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities".

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? Yes No

Ethnicity

Choose ONE section from A to E then tick the appropriate box to indicate your cultural background.

A White or White British

- English
 - Scottish
 - Welsh
 - Irish
 - Any other White background
- Please write in

B Mixed

- White and Black Caribbean
 - White and Black African
 - White and Asian
 - Any other mixed background
- Please write in

C Asian, Asian British, Asian English, Asian Scottish or Asian Welsh

- Indian
 - Pakistani
 - Bangladeshi
 - Any other Asian background
- Please write in

D Black, Black British, Black English, Black Scottish or Black Welsh

- Caribbean
 - African
 - Any other Black background
- Please write in

E Chinese, Chinese British, Chinese English, Chinese Scottish or Chinese Welsh

- Chinese

F Any other background

Any other background

First Language

- English
- BSL
- Welsh
- Other

Please write in
Nature of Complaint

19/10/2015 16:59:13 Sean Keane
Acknowledgement sent today by Customer Services.

23/10/2015 11:20:33 Alan Holden
Reallocated from Damian Hughes/Lifelong Learning/Flintshire/GB to Damian Hughes, Jennie Williams, Sarah Thomas

Last Updated on 23/10/2015

Last updated by Ala

Ian Budd
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



Mrs Sandie Mewies AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Your Ref/Eich Cyl Davies/459-47952
Our Ref/Ein Cyf IB/SMBD
Date/Dyddiad 23 October 2015
Ask for Gofynner am Ian Budd
Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704010
Fax/Ffacs

Dear Mrs Mewies

Re: Mr Bryn Davies, Ffagnallt Farm, Rhes-y-Cae, Holywell, CH8 8JS

Thank you for your correspondence dated 13 October 2015 regarding the above in which your constituent expresses concerns regarding the possible closure of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton.

Consultation on options in relation to Ysgol Mornant have yet to start, but is due to commence in the autumn term 2015.

During the period of consultation communities will be able to express their views on options in consultation documentation and offer alternative sustainable solutions for future education delivery in the area. During the review period we will hold meetings with the Staff, Governors and Parents and Carers as well as organising a children's specific consultation event via the school. Other interested parties are able to express their views using the online consultation forms which will also be available in the Autumn.

You have my assurance that officers will act professionally and with empathy give the nature of the proposals. You will be aware that the Local Authority needs to follow the legal process as defined in Welsh Government's School Organisation Code.

The Council will also be required to reflect on capacity issues within our school estate and we will also be conducting impact assessments on issues such as Community, Transport, Equalities, and of course Language.

I can confirm that Mr Bryn Davies' email correspondence has been formally logged. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making.

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6ND
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug, CH7 6ND
www.siryfflint.gov.uk



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Budd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Ian Budd
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

Sandy Mewies

Aelod Cynulliad dros
Delyn

Assembly Member for
Delyn



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

Mr. Colin Everett
Chief Executive
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
Flintshire
CH7 6NB

Our Ref: Davies/459-47954
(please quote reference in all correspondence)

16 October 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

RE: Ms Susan Davies, Ffagnallt farm, Rhos-y-cae, Holywell, CH8 8JS

I enclose an email from my constituent Ms Susan Davies who has raised concerns about the proposed closure of Ysgol Mornant.

Ms Davies appreciates the financial pressure that the local authority is facing but says that the school fills a real social need in the area. She talks about how the school is actively encouraging the use and growth of the Welsh language and culture. With the recent Urdd National Eisteddfod Proclamation Ceremony being held in Flint, in which local schools took part, including Ysgol Mornant; Ms Davies asks how is it possible for a Welsh county council to propose closing a Welsh medium school in the very year they are hosting Eisteddfod yr Urdd?

I would be grateful for your comments in response to the issues raised by Ms Davies. Can I also ask that you take her concerns fully into consideration when making any decision regarding the future of Ysgol Mornant.

Yours sincerely

Sandy Mewies AM (Mrs)
Delyn Constituency

Enc: (1) Cc. Madeleine Henri-Joy

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd CF99 1NA
Sandy.Mewies@cynulliad.cymru
www.cynulliad.cymru
0300 200 7132

National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff CF99 1NA
Sandy.Mewies@assembly.wales
www.assembly.wales
0300 200 7132

From: Susan Davies <ffagnallt@googlemail.com>
Date: 4 October 2015 at 21:10:10 BST
To: Sandy Mewies AM AM <Sandy.Mewies@assembly.wales>
Subject: Letter from your constituent Susan Davies

Susan Davies
Ffagnallt farm
Rhes-y-cae
Holywell
CH18 8JS

Phone: 01352 780 340

Email: ffagnallt@googlemail.com

Sunday 4 October 2015

Dear Sandy Mewies AM,

I am writing to bring a matter of great concern to me to your attention. The proposed closure of Ysgol Mornant in Picton, Flintshire, a Welsh medium primary school on the edge of the county. This is a small village school serving a rural community with many Welsh speakers. I appreciate the council is under extreme financial pressure but this school fills a real social need.

Life is very different in the rural environment, it is quieter and there is nowhere near the hustle and bustle and movement of people. Small children starting school can be totally overwhelmed by the numbers of pupils and teachers and become lost in the school environment. Unhappy children cannot learn, and do not fulfill their potential. One size does not always fit all.

Ysgol Mornant is a Welsh medium school actively encouraging the use and growth of the Welsh language and culture. This is a cause the Welsh Government actively supports and Flintshire County Council does not seem to care.

The Urdd National Eisteddfod is being held in Flint next year, and last Saturday the proclamation ceremony was held at Flint castle. All the local schools took part, especially the Welsh medium schools including Ysgol Mornant. But there was no apparent input or interest from the County Council.

How is it possible for a Welsh county council to propose closing a Welsh medium school in the very year they are hosting Eisteddfod yr Urdd?

Surely this can't be allowed to happen? It goes against the government policy support for the Welsh language.

Your sincerely
Susan Davies

Ian Budd
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



Mrs Sandie Mewies AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Your Ref/Eich Cyl Davies/459-47954
Our Ref/Ein Cyf IB/SMBD
Date/Dyddiad 23 October 2015
Ask for Gofynner am Ian Budd
Direct Dial Rhif Union 01352 704010
Fax/Ffacs

Dear Mrs Mewies

Re: Ms Susan Davies, Ffagnallt Farm, Rhes-y-Cae, Holywell, CH8 8JS

Thank you for your correspondence dated 16 October 2015 regarding the above in which your constituent expresses concerns regarding the possible closure of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton.

Consultation on options in relation to Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant have yet to start, but is due to commence in the autumn term 2015.

During the period of consultation communities will be able to express their views on options in consultation documentation and offer alternative sustainable solutions for future education delivery in the area. During the review period we will hold meetings with the Staff, Governors and Parents and Carers as well as organising a children's specific consultation event via the school. Other interested parties are able to express their views using the online consultation forms which will also be available in the Autumn.

You have my assurance that officers will act professionally and with empathy give the nature of the proposals. You will be aware that the Local Authority needs to follow the legal process as defined in Welsh Government's School Organisation Code.

The Council will also be required to reflect on capacity issues within our school estate and we will also be conducting impact assessments on issues such as Community, Transport, Equalities, and of course Language.

I can confirm that Ms Susan Davies' email correspondence has been formally logged. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making.

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6ND
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug. CH7 6ND
www.siryfflint.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Budd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Ian Budd
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

Dr James Davies MP
Constituency Office
1 Hanover House
The Roe
St Asaph
Denbighshire
LL17 0LT

Your Ref Ffich Cyl DH/HR.fcc.ed.s
Our Ref Llin Cyf IB/DHYGM
Date Dyddiad 27th October 2015
Ask for Gofymer am Ian Budd
Direct Dial Rhif Union 01352 704190
Fax Ffacs

Dear Dr Davies,

School Organisation Proposals

Thank you for your correspondence dated 26th September 2015 regarding consultation on the proposed statutory closure of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton.

Consultation on the proposal, in relation to Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton has yet to start formally but is due to commence shortly.

During the period of consultation communities will be able to fully express their views on the proposals and offer alternative solutions for future education delivery in the area. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making, which will be made available for communities to view.

You will already be aware that Officers will need to follow the process as defined in Welsh Government's, School Organisational Code.

The Council will also be required to reflect on capacity issues within our school estate and we will also be conducting Impact Assessments on issues such as Community, Transport, Equalities and of course Language.

I can confirm that your correspondence has been formally logged. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making.

Should you have any queries, I am more than happy to discuss through issues with you.

Yours sincerely



Ian Budd
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

County Hall, Mold, CH7 6ND
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug, CH7 6ND
www.sirymflint.gov.uk

Compliments, Comments and Complaints

Details

Step 1

Reference number	1510 012899	Type	Request A Service
Title	Dr	Address 1	
Surname	Davies	Address 2	
Forename	James	Town	
E-Mail Address		County	
Phone Number		Postcode	
Is this record in relation to the FCC Welsh Language Scheme?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Service this record relates to	School Modernisation / Schools Review
Confidential?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Restrict to ...	Sean Keane/Lifelong Learning hire/GB
Receipt method	Mp/Mep	Language Preference	<input type="checkbox"/> Audio Tape <input type="checkbox"/> Braille <input type="checkbox"/> Disc <input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> Large Print <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh
Received by name	Sean Keane	Received on	12/10/2015
Received by directorate	Community and Enterprise	Received by service	Customer Services

Details

Relating to the closure of Ysgol Mornant, Picton. Dr Davies would like his concerns to be logged as part of the current informal consultation exercise:



Ysgol Mornant, Picton.pdf

Allocated to Directorate
Allocated to
Education and Youth
Damian Hughes, Sarah Thomas

Monitoring Form

This monitoring information is required to ensure that we follow an inclusive, robust and transparent process.

All of the information contained in the Monitoring Section will only be used for monitoring purposes.

Information Not Provided

Gender Male Female
Age range Under 25 25-34 35-49 50-54 55+

Disability

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 defines a disability as:

"a person has a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities".

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? Yes No

Ethnicity

Choose ONE section from A to E then tick the appropriate box to indicate your cultural background.

A White or White British

- English
- Scottish
- Welsh
- Irish
- Any other White background

Please write in

B Mixed

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other mixed background

Please write in

C Asian, Asian British, Asian English, Asian Scottish or Asian Welsh

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Any other Asian background

Please write in

D Black, Black British, Black English, Black Scottish or Black Welsh

- Caribbean
- African
- Any other Black background

Please write in

E Chinese, Chinese British, Chinese English, Chinese Scottish or Chinese Welsh

- Chinese

F Any other background

Any other background

First Language

- English
- BSL
- Welsh
- Other

Please write in

Nature of Complaint

12/10/2015 14:20:35 Sean Keane
Acknowledgement sent today from Customer Services.

23/10/2015 14:47:26 Alan Holden
Reallocated from Damian Hughes/LifelongLearning/Flintshire/GB to Damian Hughes, Sarah Thomas

Last Updated on 23/10/2015

Last updated by Ala



26th September 2015

Ian Budd
Director of Education
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold

Dear Ian

Ysgol Mornant, Picton

I have been contacted by a number of people who have raised concerns regarding the potential closure of Ysgol Mornant, Picton and in particular the potential impact on the Welsh language in the area that this would bring.

Whilst Picton falls outside of my constituency it is of course relatively close to the town of Prestatyn which I do represent and where some children might need to travel should the school be closed. Ysgol Mornant is I believe also one of the feeder schools for Ysgol Glan Clwyd in my constituency.

I would appreciate if my comments and concerns can be logged as part of the current informal consultation exercise.

Yours sincerely

Dr James Davies MP

Tel/Ffôn: +44 (0)207 219 4627 or +44(0)1745 583270

E-mail/E-bost: james.davies.mp@parliament.uk

Constituency Address/ Cyfeiriad Etholaeth: 1 Hanover House, The Roe, St. Asaph, LL17 0LT

www.jamesdaviesmp.co.uk

Ian Budd
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



Mrs Sandie Mewies AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Your Ref/Eich Cyl Jones/376-48156
Our Ref/Ein Cyf IB/SMBJ
Date/Dyddiad 9 November 215
Ask for Gofynner am Ian Budd
Direct Dial Rhif Union 01352 704010
Fax/Ffacs

Dear Mrs Mewies

Re: Mr Bryn Jones, Maes Y Coed Farm, Tynymorfa, Gwespyr, Flintshire, CH8 9JN

Thank you for your correspondence dated 23 October 2015 regarding the above in which your constituent expresses concerns regarding the possible closure of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton.

Consultation on options in relation to Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton have yet to start, but is due to commence in the next week.

During the period of consultation communities will be able to express their views on options in consultation documentation and offer alternative sustainable solutions for future education delivery in the area. During the review period we will hold meetings with the Staff, Governors and Parents and Carers as well as organising a children's specific consultation event via the school. Other interested parties are able to express their views using the online consultation forms which will also be available in the next week.

You have my assurance that officers will act professionally and with empathy give the nature of the proposals. You will be aware that the Local Authority needs to follow the legal process as defined in Welsh Government's School Organisation Code.

The Council will also be required to reflect on capacity issues within our school estate and we will also be conducting impact assessments on issues such as Community, Transport, Equalities, and of course Language.

I can confirm that Mr Bryn Jones' correspondence has been formally logged. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making.

County Hall, Mold, CH7 6ND
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug, CH7 6ND
www.siryfflint.gov.uk



The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English
Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Budd". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ian Budd
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

Sandy Mewies

Aelod Cynulliad dros
Delyn

Assembly Member for
Delyn



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

Mr. Colin' Everett
Chief Executive
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
Flintshire
CH7 6NB

Our Ref: Jones/376-48156

(Please quote reference in all correspondence)

23 October 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

Re: Mr Bryn Jones, Maes Y Coed Farm, Ty'n y Morfa, Gwespyr, Flintshire CH8 9JN

I have received the enclosed letter from my constituent Mr H.C. Bryn Jones regarding the future of Ysgol Mornant.

He raises various concerns and says the possible closure goes against both national policy and Flintshire County Council's own policy and will have a detrimental impact on the Welsh language in the area. He says that many parents will reject the option of a Welsh medium school if the closure goes ahead as the alternative may mean children, some as young as 4 years of age being required to take an unsupervised bus journey. He questions whether the nearest alternative Welsh Medium schools, Ysgol Gwenffrwd in Holywell and Ysgol Y Llys in Prestatyn have the capacity to accept pupils from Ysgol Mornant, whether parents will be given a choice on which alternative school their children can attend and whether the Authority will fund 2 buses to take children from the area to two separate schools.

He also points out that other facilities provided at the school, such as toddler groups and breakfast and after school clubs will be affected by the closure and will have a detrimental effect on children, their parents and the Welsh language.

He says the closure of Ysgol Mornant would have a devastating impact on the future of the Welsh language in the area and would be a violation of parental choice,

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Unit 85, Greenfield Business Centre
Greenfield, CH8 7GR
Sandy.Mewies@cynulliad.cymru
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T +44 (0)1352 716 897

National Assembly for Wales
Unit 85, Greenfield Business Centre
Greenfield, CH8 7GR
Sandy.Mewies@assembly.wales
www.assembly.wales
T +44 (0)1352 716 897

REF/HCBJ/YM/AJ/100.
Mrs Anne Jones AM,
25 Kinmel Street,
Rhyl,
Denbighshire.
LL18 1AH.
09 October 2015.

Thank you for letter.
Assembly proposal does not
allow me to intervene
in another Mr's Capthorn
I will ensure that Saini Meiri
receives your correspondence
Maes Y Coed Farm
Tynymorfa
Gwespyr
Flintshire
CH8 9JN
Mob 07884443925
ajones100@virginia.net

Dear Mrs Jones,

Re: - The report on the future of the Welsh primary School 'Ysgol Mornant', Picton, Flintshire & its impact on the Welsh Language

I write to comment on the report that Mr Ian Budd, the Chief Education Officer for Flintshire, has presented to the Labour Cabinet of Flintshire Council and on his recommendation to close the above school.

May I, at the outset, apologise for the length of this letter and for taking up your valuable time. However it's essential that you are made aware of the strength of feeling that the report has aroused. The Welsh communities in North Wales are appalled by this proposal, as it is an unavoidable fact that the closure of Ysgol Mornant will have a **detrimental impact on the Welsh language**. This is totally against National policy, you will be well aware of the statutory 'School Organisation Code' which was issued by the Welsh Assembly in July 2013, underpinned by the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, which stipulates that **"where any school affected provides teaching through the medium of Welsh, the consultation document must include information regarding the impact of the proposals on the Welsh language"**. The code states that the local authorities should carry out a **"Welsh language impact assessment"** where proposals affect schools where Welsh is a medium of instruction. It also flies in the face of **"Flintshire's own Vision & Aim for Welsh-Medium Education, which is to increase the number of fluent Welsh speakers within its boundaries, with the aim of creating an increasingly bilingual County & country"**.

I was therefore extremely disappointed at not seeing any reference to the **impact on the Welsh language** in the report to the cabinet or even to the fact that Ysgol Mornant was a Welsh medium school, except for the two words 'Welsh Language' tucked away in appendix A. Obviously school reorganisation is necessary and obtaining 21st century schools programme capital would appear to be critical, however it should not be at the expense of the Welsh language. I believe the county has a statutory duty to protect it in this community. Only providing two Welsh medium primary schools over 12 miles apart is bound to have a detrimental effect on parent's decisions regarding whether they consider the Welsh medium option.

The report to Cabinet alludes to 5 key 'drivers' together with other criteria in the Estyn report which have led to the drafting of these latest proposals. Many of these factors are disputed by members of the action group who are now scrutinising them and will make their observations to the Council in due course. I have highlighted the following extracts taken from the Estyn report which indicates that **"the education provided at 'Mornant' is good"** and comprehensive plans are underway for all round improvements, including the distribution of leaflets extolling the benefits of a bilingual education in this predominantly English speaking community, (see attached). **"The teachers are dedicated and the children feel safe and happy in a very caring and inclusive community"**. It is important to emphasise that the report also made it clear that the school is in a deprived area with both a **"higher than National average number of pupils obtaining free school meals"**, and a **"higher than average having additional learning needs"**, this will inevitably have been reflected in the schools results. Moreover the closing of the school would have a much greater impact on the families in these two categories. Estyn reports that **"The school has many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement"**. It manages its limited resources very well and gives **"value for money"**. The leadership is **"robust and purposeful"**. The attendance record for the school is **over 94%** even when a proportion of pupils from **"Traveller families"** are included. They incidentally have embraced the language and contribute generously to the school. **"Almost all the pupils come from non-Welsh speaking homes"** which has been found to initially slow down the pupils progress, however one can see that this is eventually reversed as their fluency improves, and they enter the secondary system at similar

levels to those from English medium schools and go on to flourish, as proved by the support our campaign has received from successful ex pupils from not only in Wales but literally all over the world.

The attractive traditionally designed school building is described by Estyn as *"of good quality,"* soundly constructed of dressed Gwespwr sandstone with a Welsh slate roof requiring much less maintenance than the many flat-roofed schools which are constantly undergoing remedial repairs at a colossal cost. It has a large play area, surrounded by secure and attractive stone walls topped with railings. *"The school is a happy, very caring and inclusive community"*. It has extensive playing fields and is situated in a beautiful position with panoramic views overlooking the sea, *"which enriches pupils learning experiences and complements work done in the classroom"*. I would respectfully suggest that before you condemn the school to history all the members of the Council and particularly those of you in the Cabinet should visit the school and discover for themselves the pleasant surroundings and tranquil environment, *with contented children being educated in a school which crucially for parents is situated close to their homes.*

You will no doubt be aware of the pioneering work done by one of Flintshire's past visionaries, Dr. Hayden Williams, Wales will forever be indebted for his courageous initiative in implementing a revolutionary change in the Counties education policy, making it the first to provide full time education for primary school children through the medium of Welsh, *ironically this was at Ysgol Mornant*. This policy has since been emulated by all the other counties throughout the Principality. In fact some authority's make this policy compulsory in all their primary schools. Like it or not you are now the custodians of Dr. Williams's precious legacy, the baton of that pioneering work has now passed into your hands. If the Cabinet recommends the closure of Ysgol Mornant it will in most local people's honest opinions lead to the complete demise of the language in the catchment area covering the nine villages, Ffynnongroyw, Penyffordd, Gwespwr, Mostyn, Llanasa, Trelogan, Gronant, Talacre and Tyn-y-Morfa, *for which Ysgol Mornant forms the hub.*

Some Councillors have, I believe, suggested the school was *"out of the way"*, it is true, it is not situated in the centre of a village, it was however originally deliberately built to be within walking distance of the above nine local communities. This advantage is still borne out by the fact that *94% of Ysgol Mornant's children are attending their nearest school*. I would please ask you to check on a map and see for yourself that the average distance from those villages to Ysgol Mornant is only just over 3 miles, compared to nearly 9 miles if the school closes and they are required to attend Ysgol Gwenffrwd. This is notwithstanding the many extra miles a bus would be required to travel meandering around the villages. Even when my daughters attended Ysgol Mornant a distance from our house to the school of less than 2.5 miles, it required them to be ready at the bus stop by 8.05 am in order to arrive at school by 8.50 am.

It is unfortunately inevitable that if the school closes most parents will totally reject the Welsh medium option, particularly when they realise that their children, some as young as 4 years of age, will be required to endure an hour or more's journey starting as early as 7.30 to 7.45 am on an unsupervised bus winding its way around the various communities being picked up or dropped off at Ysgol Gwenffrwd in Holywell. *Would you honestly accept this for your own children?* This scenario is in stark contrast to school children in England where I believe 60 % of them are still able to walk to their primary schools.

For parents, particularly if they are English speaking, to allow their Children to attend a Welsh medium school requires a major leap of faith on their behalf, not only in the expectation that they learn two languages and so enjoy two distinct cultures, but also in the hope that it will increase their future employment prospects and prevent any possible discrimination against them if they seek employment in Wales, and more particularly in Flintshire a County which *'purportedly'* supports a bilingual recruitment policy.

At a recent meeting kindly attended by Mr Ian Budd, he suggested that parents could alternatively allow their children to travel to 'Ysgol Y Lllys' in Prestatyn which is in the next county, where unfortunately your authority would have a great deal less control, and incidentally where it has been impossible to obtain numbers of available pupil places. I have asked Mr Budd if he is now in a position to provide accurate information as to available places in both the alternative schools and how and who will allocate them.

I have also asked if he was able to confirm at this point if parents will be given a choice as to whether it would be Holywell or Prestatyn that their children will be allowed to attend. In the event of them being given a free choice, will the County be prepared to fund two buses both picking up children possibly from the same villages but taking them to two separate schools twelve miles apart? Most people would consider this a logistical and financial nonsense. If, on the other hand, all the local children from Mornant were forced to go to Gwenffrwd we are advised that there would be insufficient room for them all.

In the event of the closure of Ysgol Mornant the majority of parents having weighed up the alternatives and considered the negative aspects I have outlined, will sadly but understandably send their children to the more conveniently situated English medium schools less than two miles away. This will ring the death knell on the language in an area which has provided some of the greats in Welsh culture, like actor/writer Emlyn Williams, composer, teacher, broadcaster Rhys Jones, David Lloyd (the silver voice from the Land of song), and countless others.

The loss of Ysgol Mornant would be particularly detrimental for working parents due to the inevitable closure of the other allied facilities provided at the school, as these don't come directly under the Counties control. At present they benefit from convenient access to projects like *'Ti a Fi'* (You & I), a toddler group where parents and children up to the age of three are gently introduced to both the language and education. *'Cylch Meithrin'* (Infant Crèche) a play group open every day from 11.30 am to 03.00 pm for children between the ages of 2 and 4 years, this provides a gentle but vital introduction to the Welsh language, particularly for those from English speaking families. There is also *'Clwb Hwyr'* (late Club) an after school group from 3.15 to 6.00 pm, where families can rely on safe and responsible care of their children until they finish work. This facility cannot be over emphasized as it allows mums in particular to return to work sooner, thus preventing their dependence on the local authority. Finally there is *'Clwb Brecwast'* (breakfast Club) from 08.15 am which provides a safe haven and a free breakfast for children whose parents leave early for work. These *four facilities* are indispensable to many families, particularly if both parents are working and also for single parents. Notwithstanding the detriment to the language if they closed, the loss of these convenient arrangements on their door step will inevitably lead to one parent having to give up work, and thus increase the financial strain and stress on families within a deprived community, already struggling, during this period of Government austerity. It will also undoubtedly restrict opportunities for children to participate in after school activities due to the fact that parents would require more time and extra cost to travel to Holywell.

I myself am most grateful to the County that my four children were given the benefit of a bilingual education at Ysgol Mornant. My two eldest and I successfully operate 'Granaries Business Park' and 'Bridlewood Riding Centre' where the ability to speak Welsh has been an enormous advantage. My middle daughter graduated from University this summer, and my youngest is happily attending Ysgol Glan Clwyd.

I was born into a Welsh speaking family barely able to speak a word of English until I attended an English medium infant school at the age of five. Unfortunately I was too old to attend the first Ysgol Mornant which opened in the village of Ffynnonogyw. I still regret not having been given the same opportunity of a formal Welsh education that children enjoy today. Nevertheless having learnt the language in the home, I also benefited from a then thriving Welsh community in the village with its Sunday schools in each chapel, choirs and Welsh activities including local 'Eisteddfodau' where I came to love the poetry, songs, traditions and heritage of our great little Nation. Even in this predominantly English speaking area the ability to communicate in Welsh has been of enormous benefit in my personal and business life.

It is however vital that I also emphasise to you *my enormous esteem and respect for the English language* with its colossal vocabulary, talented, passionate poets, writers and its prodigious literary heritage. I probably share with you, and countless others, an immense gratitude to our English literature teachers who have instilled in us that passion for language. The choice that children of Wales must be given is not whether they learn Welsh or English but that they should be allowed an *unobstructed choice and opportunity* to receive a comprehensive education in their native tongue giving them *two Languages and therefore double the opportunity*.

Next year you may attend and hopefully enjoy the talents displayed by both the young English and Welsh children performing at the "*Urdd*" *Welsh National Youth Festival* in Flint. This will be sponsored by the County at considerable cost but also aided by a local appeal generously supported by teachers and parents in our community. The children's efforts will not represent a superior culture but a different culture, and *let us continue to celebrate that difference and allow it to flourish.*

Over hundreds of years the Welsh language has endured suppression and discrimination but has miraculously survived against all odds to the present day. You will no doubt have sensed the passion of the rugby crowd in the Millennium Stadium singing our National Anthem, the last sentence is "*o budded i'r hen iaith barhau*" which roughly translated is "*O please allow our old language to survive*". This fervour represents more than a language, it exemplifies an extremely proud independent culture, content to live in peaceful symbiotic harmony with the rest of the population. *We shouldn't have to plead for our language to be supported, it should be given unequivocally as a right in our own country.*

I believe that the per capita spend on pupils in Wales is less than those in England and that of Flintshire is the lowest in Wales. This is a very worrying statistic which will apparently get worse with further cuts being envisaged. It has been well publicised that the council is under intense financial pressure to make savings, this should not however be at the expense of our Countries unique and possibly greatest heritage, the language (*Yr iaith*). It would be irresponsible to allow it to die and I would respectfully suggest that the survival of the language should not be considered as purely a financial matter. The *impact on the language* of closing this Welsh school has not been properly investigated. The closing of an English school however traumatic to children and upsetting to parents will not have any impact on the English language, however the closing of Ysgol Mornant will have a devastating effect on the future of the language in this corner of the County. The pill is made even harder to swallow in this historically and fiercely loyal Labour former mining community when they realise its proposed by a Labour led Council.

Many consider the closing of Ysgol Mornant as *a violation of local parents' choice* presenting them with no realistic alternative but an English education. This is absolutely guaranteed to reduce the number of children learning Welsh in the area. Again, I respectfully suggest that it is beholding on both yourself and the council to reconsider this closure, possibly by exploring its federation with Ysgol Maes Garmon in Mold.

I believe the report is now in a period of consultation, one would hope that this is so local people can contribute to discussion and possibly *influence any decision making*. Unfortunately the feedback we are getting is that some members of the Council have already decided the school must close. Past experience has also shown that consultation rarely changes anything, I hope I'm proved wrong on this occasion.

Parents are finding it extremely difficult to accept how the Welsh government is prepared to provide full funding for three years for the "London Welsh primary school" in Hanwell, West London, who only have 30 pupils and also how resources are made available for schools in Patagonia. Commendable as these projects are, would it not be equitable for the children at Mornant to receive the same support?

For taking the time from your busy schedule to read my letter *I really am extremely grateful* and can only apologise once more for its length. I hope I've conveyed to you not only the obvious concerns of parents for their children's education in the language of their choice, but also to the backlash that the report has aroused throughout the Welsh communities in the Principality. Unfortunately there is a strong perception that the language is not been given the respect it should by Flintshire Council, and that in the haste for making savings it has obscured the negative impact that this misguided proposal will undoubtedly have on our precious language.

Yours faithfully,




H. C. Bryn Jones. Past Parent & Governor of Ysgol Mornant.

Compliments, Comments and Complaints

Details

Step 1

Reference number	1510 013056	Type	Request A Service
Title	Mrs	Address 1	
Surname	Mewies AM	Address 2	
Forename	Sandy	Town	
E-Mail Address	Sandy.Mewies@assembly.wales	County	
Phone Number		Postcode	
Is this record in relation to the FCC Welsh Language Scheme?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Service this record relates to	School Modernisation / Schools Review
Confidential?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Restrict to ...	Alan Holden/Corporate Services/GB
Receipt method	Mp/Mep	Language Preference	<input type="checkbox"/> Audio Tape <input type="checkbox"/> Braille <input type="checkbox"/> Disc <input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> Large Print <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh
Received by name	Alan Holden	Received on	29/10/2015
Received by directorate	Community and Enterprise	Received by service	Customer Services
Details	On behalf of Mr Bryn Jones, Maes Y Coed Farm, Ty'n y Morfa, Gwespyr CH8 9JN regarding the future of Ysgol Mornant:  Bryn Jones.pdf		
Allocated to Directorate	Education and Youth		
Allocated to	Jennie Williams, Sarah Thomas, Damian Hughes		

Monitoring Form

This monitoring information is required to ensure that we follow an inclusive, robust and transparent process.

All of the information contained in the Monitoring Section will only be used for monitoring purposes.

Information Not Provided

Gender Male Female
Age range Under 25 25-34 35-49 50-54 55+

Disability

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 defines a disability as:

"a person has a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities".

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? Yes No

Ethnicity

Choose ONE section from A to E then tick the appropriate box to indicate your cultural background.

A White or White British

- English
 - Scottish
 - Welsh
 - Irish
 - Any other White background
- Please write in

B Mixed

- White and Black Caribbean
 - White and Black African
 - White and Asian
 - Any other mixed background
- Please write in

C Asian, Asian British, Asian English, Asian Scottish or Asian Welsh

- Indian
 - Pakistani
 - Bangladeshi
 - Any other Asian background
- Please write in

D Black, Black British, Black English, Black Scottish or Black Welsh

- Caribbean
 - African
 - Any other Black background
- Please write in

E Chinese, Chinese British, Chinese English, Chinese Scottish or Chinese Welsh

- Chinese

F Any other background

Any other background

First Language

- English
- BSL
- Welsh
- Other

Please write in

Nature of Complaint

29/10/2015 15:18:15 Alan Holden
Email acknowledgement sent.

29/10/2015 15:20:49 Alan Holden
Reallocated from Alan Holden/CorporateServices/Flintshire/GB to Damian Hughes

02/11/2015 12:01:29 Claire Thomas
Reallocated from Damian Hughes/LifelongLearning/Flintshire/GB to Jennie Williams, Sarah Thomas, Damian Hughes

Last Updated on 02/11/2015

Last updated by Claire

Sandy Mewies

Aelod Cynulliad dros
Delyn

Assembly Member for
Delyn



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

Colin Everett
Chief Executive
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
Flintshire
CH7 6NB



Our Ref: Brooks-Jones/459-47004
(Please quote reference in all correspondence)

10 August 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

Re: Mrs Michelle Brooks-Jones, Lllys-y-Nant, Penyffordd, Holywell CH8 9HH

I write on behalf of my constituent, Mrs Michelle Brooks-Jones of the above address who has contacted me regarding the possible closure of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant.

As a former pupil of the school and a member of the school's Governing Body, Mrs Brooks-Jones is concerned that should the closure go ahead, children aged from 4 to 11 would have to travel to either Prestatyn or Holywell to continue their education through the medium of Welsh. She feels this would mean more parents sending their children to a local English medium school, thus having an impact on the Welsh language.

Can I ask that Mrs Brooks-Jones' concerns are taken fully into account before any decision is taken? I would be grateful for your comments in response to these concerns.

Yours sincerely

Sandy Mewies AM (Mrs)
Delyn Constituency
Enc: (1)

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Unit 85, Greenfield Business Centre
Greenfield, CH8 7GR
Sandy.Mewies@cynulliad.cymru
www.cynulliad.cymru
T +44 (0)1352 716 897

National Assembly for Wales
Unit 85, Greenfield Business Centre
Greenfield, CH8 7GR
Sandy.Mewies@assembly.wales
www.assembly.wales
T +44 (0)1352 716 897

From: michelleebj@aol.com [mailto:michelleebj@aol.com]
Sent: 23 July 2015 13:40
To: Mewies, Sandy (Assembly Member)
Subject: Re: Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant

Pnawn da

Thank you for acknowledging my email so promptly, I am sorry I realized that I didn't explain who I was in my email, I am an ex pupil, and parent of two former pupils, I have been on the Governing body of Ysgol Mornant for the past 16 years, and I have been the leader (and Assistant) of Cylch Meithrin Mornant for the past 20 years, My Mother was one of the very first pupils of Ysgol Mornant when it opened as a Welsh Medium school in Ffynnongroyw in 1953, so as you can see Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant has been constantly in my life for most of my 51 years, this is why I feel so passionately about this beautiful school and our beautiful language, the greatest gift my parents have given me is the ability to converse in our language, sadly and disgracefully this is what Flintshire County Council will be taking from our future generations.

I look forward to receiving your response, and can pass on your response to our next governors meeting. We have created an Action group and I would like to invite you to attend one of our meetings or a meeting with the Governors, at your convenience of course.

My address is Mrs Michelle Brooks-Jones

Llys-y-Nant, Penyffordd, Holywell Flintshire, CH8 9HH

Yours sincerely

Michelle Brooks-Jones

Sent from Windows Mail

From: Sandy.Mewies@assembly.wales
Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2015 10:51
To: 'michelleebj@aol.com'

Dear Ms Brooks-Jones

This is to acknowledge receipt of your email sent on Thursday July 23. A further response will follow.

Can you also please send me your full address and postcode.

Yours sincerely

Sandy Mewies AM
Delyn Constituency

From: michelleebj@aol.com [micheileebj@aol.com]
Received: Thursday, 23 Jul 2015, 4:30am
To: Mewies, Sandy (Assembly Member) [Sandy.Mewies@assembly.wales]

Bore Da Sandy,

I write to ask you for your help and support to our Little Welsh medium primary school, Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, which Flintshire County Council are proposing closing.

Should our school be unsuccessful in our fight to stay open Flintshire would expect our little children (aged 4 years up to 11) to travel by bus at least 7 miles at least, each way to school in Prestatyn or Holywell to continue their education through the medium of Welsh. Some of our parents have already told us that this would not be an option and that their children would have to go to the local English medium schools. This would mean that not only would these children lose their Welsh language but so would our community, this would be a travesty for our community, and would be going against Flintshire's own Welsh language policy, it is disgusting that they should even think of closing a Welsh medium primary school (1 of only 5 in Flintshire).

Please help us to remain open and keep the Welsh language alive in rural north Wales.

I look forward to your response, I will be writing to all our AM's and the first minister bringing this to everyone's attention.

Dioch yn fawr iawn

Michelle Brooks-Jones

Sent from Windows Mail

Mrs Sandie Mewies AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Your Ref/Eich Cyl Brooks-Jones/459-47004
Our Ref/Ein Cyf IB/SMMBJ
Date/Dyddiad 26 August 2015
Ask for/Gofynner am Ian Budd
Direct Dial Rhif Union 01352 704010
Fax/Ffacs

Dear Mrs Mewies

Re: Mrs Michelle Brooks-Jones, Llys-y-Nant, Penyffordd, Holywell, CH8 9HH

Thank you for your correspondence dated 10 August 2015 regarding the above in which your constituent expresses concerns regarding the possible closure of Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr Picton.

I can confirm that I have met with Mrs Michelle Brooks-Jones, along with the Local Councillor and representation from the school Governors on the 2 July 2015. At this meeting I provided insight into the rationale for review, explained the process around consultation and provided the group with indicative timescales.

Consultation on options in relation to Ysgol Mornant have yet to start, but is due to commence in the autumn term 2015.

During the period of consultation communities will be able to express their views on options in consultation documentation and offer alternative sustainable solutions for future education delivery in the area. During the review period we will hold meetings with the Staff, Governors and Parents and Careers as well as organising a children's specific consultation event via the school. Other interested parties are able to express their views using the online consultation forms which will also be available in the Autumn.

You have my assurance that officers will act professionally and with empathy give the nature of the proposals. You will be aware that the Local Authority needs to follow the legal process as defined in Welsh Government's School Organisation Code.

The Council will also be required to reflect on capacity issues within our school estate and we will also be conducting impact assessments on issues such as Community, Transport, Equalities, and of course Language.

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I can confirm that Mrs Brookes-Jones' correspondence has been formally logged. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making.

Yours sincerely



Ian Budd
Chief Officer, Education & Youth



Fw: Ysgol Mornant

Damian Hughes to: Sarah Thomas, Jennie Williams, Claire Homard

06/07/2015 15:37

History: This message has been forwarded.

FYI

Damian Hughes

Programme Co-Ordinator - School Modernisation | Rhaglen Cydlynnydd - Moderneiddio Ysgolion
Capital Projects | Prosiectau Cyfalaf
Education and Youth | Addysg ac Ieuenctid
Flintshire County Council | Cyngor Sir y Fflint

Tel | Ffôn | 01352 704135

Email | Ebost | damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk> | <http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk>

<http://www.twitter.com/flintshirecc> | <http://www.twitter.com/csyfflint>

----- Forwarded by Damian Hughes/LifelongLearning/Flintshire/GB on 06/07/2015 15:38 -----

From: Ian Budd/LifelongLearning/Flintshire/GB
To: "Gruffydd, Llyr (Assembly Member)" <Llyr.Gruffydd@assembly.wales>,
Cc: Damian Hughes/LifelongLearning/Flintshire/GB@Flintshire, Kim Brookes/LifelongLearning/Flintshire/GB@Flintshire
Date: 06/07/2015 15:35
Subject: Re: Ysgol Mornant
Sent by: Amanda Davidson

Dear Mr Gruffydd,

Please see reply attached from Ian Budd, to your email dated 29 June 2015:



IB06LAB Llyr Gruffydd - Proposed closure of Ysgol Mornant.pdf



Unfilled Places Primary using January 2015 PLASC.pdf

Regards
Amanda

on behalf of:

Ian Budd

Chief Officer Education and Youth | Prif Swyddog Addysg ac Ieuenctid
Flintshire County Council | Cyngor Sir y Fflint

Tel | Ffôn | 01352 704010

Email | Ebost | ian.budd@flintshire.gov.uk

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk> | <http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk>

<http://www.twitter.com/flintshirecc> | <http://www.twitter.com/csyfflint>

From: "Gruffydd, Llyr (Assembly Member)" <Llyr.Gruffydd@assembly.wales>
To: "ian.budd@flintshire.gov.uk" <ian.budd@flintshire.gov.uk>,
Date: 29/06/2015 10:36
Subject: Ysgol Mornant

Dear Mr Budd

I'm writing with regard to the proposed closure of ysgol Mornant, the Welsh-medium school that serves a large part of the north of Flintshire. More significantly it serves an area with a relatively high proportion of Welsh speakers.

Parents and supporters of the school have raised their concerns at the loss of the school, which will mean pupils wishing to have a Welsh-medium education having to travel to Prestatyn or Holywell. Flintshire was known as a pioneering county in terms of Welsh-medium schools at one time, yet the provision of such education is now languishing far behind many other counties. Your own Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-17 recognises the need for Welsh-medium schools to increase in terms of numbers. The WESP also admits the numbers are static. How will the desired increase happen if you are taking short-term decisions to close provision? Forcing parents to travel further to receive Welsh-medium education is not an incentive.

I understand there are currently surplus places at the school and there is pressure from the Welsh Government to reduce those places across the county. Can you confirm that this is driving this particular recommendation or are there other matters?

Can you explain what steps you have taken as a county to promote Welsh-medium education and why that has failed to increase numbers at Mornant?

Can you also provide a list of schools in the county including surplus places and how you have decided on which are to close?

If Mornant was to close, are there sufficient places in other Welsh-medium schools within the county?

The WESP also cites work with other stakeholders – what work are you undertaking to increase nursery and pre-school provision in Welsh?

Yours

Llyr

Llyr Gruffydd AC/AM

Plaid Cymru the Party of Wales

Rhanbarth Gogledd Cymru

North Wales Region

Gweinidog Cysgodol ar yr Amgylchedd a Chynladwyedd

Shadow Minister for the Environment and Sustainability

Ebost/Email: Llyr.Gruffydd@wales.gov.uk

✉ *69a Heol Clwyd, Rhuthun, LL15 1HN*

☎ *01824 703 593*



@LlyrGruffydd

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Ian Budd
Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



Llyr Gruffydd AM
National assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Your Ref/Eich Cyt
Our Ref/Ein Cyf IB/AD
Date/Dyddiad 6 July 2015
Ask for/Gofynner am Ian Budd
Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704190
Fax/Ffacs

Dear Llyr,

Ysgol Mornant- Gwespwr Picton, School Organisation Review

Thank you for your email correspondence dated 29th June 2015 regarding the above. Consultation in relation to the current review of provision at Ysgol Mornant has yet to start formally, but is due to commence in the autumn term 2015.

During the period of consultation communities will be able to fully express their views on the proposals and offer alternative solutions for future education delivery in the area. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making.

You have my assurance that officers will act both professionally and with empathy given the nature of the proposals. You will be aware that we will need to follow the process as defined in Welsh Government's School Organisational Code.

The Council will also be required to reflect on capacity issues within our school estate and we will also be conducting impact assessments on issues such as Community, Transport, Equalities, and of course Language.

In terms of the rationale for the proposals, the Council has had a School Modernisation Strategy since 2010, which was refreshed recently in 2015. The fundamental principles of this policy have remained consistent. Ysgol Mornant meets the following criteria for review:

- Small School trigger & diminishing resources – low pupil numbers/Community population insufficient to sustain a viable school
- Unfilled places – 57% unfilled places
- School Standards – Welsh Government school standards categorisation 4

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The Council's WESP 2014-2017 is an underpinning policy of the Schools Modernisation Strategy, through which you correctly point out, Flintshire will:

- endeavour to increase the number of fluent Welsh speakers within its boundaries
- support, expand, and promote Welsh-medium education within the whole community, increasing the number and percentage of pupils receiving Welsh-medium education.

Commissioned research (ORS) suggests that demand for Welsh Medium provision is rising in some areas of the County but diminishing in others.

If Ysgol Mornant was to close there are sufficient unfilled places at Ysgol Y Lllys, Prestatyn and Ysgol Gwenfrwd, Holywell to accommodate demand for Welsh medium provision in the area. The trend of decreasing numbers at Ysgol Mornant is an indication that parents in the area are not actively choosing the school for their children. The school is currently in Estyn Monitoring and is in Standards Category 4 in the Welsh Government categorisation model which is published on the 'My Local School' website. Like all schools, Ysgol Mornant has a responsibility for promoting itself within its local community to try and encourage parents to attend or consider alternative models of delivery to make it sustainable.

In direct response to the ORS survey Flintshire County Council has opened new Welsh medium primary provision in Shotton, Deeside, under federal leadership of the next nearest Welsh medium primary school in Flint. The Council, supported by Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint and Mudiad Meithrin, conducted a huge publicity campaign for Welsh medium education across the whole area including extensive media coverage, leaflet drops, poster campaigns, pop ups at supermarkets etc. After just one year the numbers entering the new provision have more than doubled and the expectation is that this will continue to grow.

I am at a loss to understand the comment in relation to our Welsh language education programme. External evaluations of our work in promoting Welsh medium education have been consistently positive and recognised as innovative. If you are in any doubt on this I would like to invite you to visit with local provision and partners to see how vibrant provision is in Sir y Fflint.

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan is delivered and monitored through the Flintshire WESP Forwm. This is made up of a range of strategic partners including Mudiad Meithrin, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint, Syfflag, Coleg Cambria and Twf as well as Welsh and English medium primary and secondary school headteachers. It is chaired jointly by the Chief Officer and Lead Member for Education and Youth and is supported by a range of officers with responsibility for education, youth, inclusion and admissions. The work of this group has been commended to other Authorities.

The Local Authority has actively engaged with its key partners and the Welsh Government to promote Welsh medium education in a variety of ways. The Flintshire County Council website hosts a number of key documents promoting Welsh medium education as an option for parents including a booklet commissioned by Mudiad Meithrin titled "Best of Both Worlds" which outlines the benefits of being bilingual and provides reassurance to


parents through individual case studies that they do not need to be Welsh speakers themselves to use Welsh medium education for their children. The Local Authority has also paid for these books to be printed and placed in Booktrust Cymru's Bookstart packs which are given free to babies to encourage parental engagement in Welsh medium early childcare and early educational provision. The Authority is not aware that any other Council took this innovative approach.

In April 2015, Flintshire was chosen to be the next recipient of the Welsh Government's 'Pethau Bychain' campaign to promote the Welsh language and Welsh medium education. Flintshire was chosen by Welsh Government as a direct result of its commitment and efforts to promote Welsh medium education as well as to support the opening of the new provision in Shotton. The day was a huge success with hundreds of people accessing the event, which was very well supported by all the key partners in the WESP forum and the Welsh medium secondary school. As a direct result of this event there have been increased numbers applying for the Cylch and school based provision in the Deeside area.

Flintshire has an excellent working relationship with Welsh medium early years providers e.g. Twf and Mudiad Meithrin and in 2014/15 has expanded the number of cylchoedd registered to deliver the part time education for three year olds. The number of approved settings delivering this services has risen from 5 to 7.

Naturally, partners and governors will be working during the period of review to see if there are resilient ways of reinvigorating provision at Ysgol Mornant to generate additional demand or sustainability through closer co-working with neighbouring schools. As requested attached is the data on school capacity and unfilled places in the primary sector.

Yours sincerely



Ian Budd
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

PRIMARY SCHOOLS PLACES DATA 2015

LA No: 664

LA Name: Flintshire

School Number	School Name	Welsh Indicator	Type of School: Community/ VC/VA/ Foundation	Age Range	NOR (exc. Nursery and exc Early Ent)	MCSW Capacity	Surplus capacity	AN for Sept	Surplus %
2237	Gronant C.P.	EM	C	3-11	55	144	89	20	61.81
2078	Saltney Ferry C.P.	EM	C	3-11	93	236	143	33	60.59
2021	Gwespyr Picton (Ysgol Gymraeg Momant C.P.)	WM	C	3-12	48	111	63	15	56.76
2027	Llanfynydd C.P.	EM	C	3-11	42	80	38	11	47.50
3002	Nannerch Controlled	EM	VC	3-11	59	111	52	15	46.85
2051	Treuddyn (Ysgol Terrig C.P.)	WM	C	3-11	51	93	42	13	45.16
3308	Mold (St.David's R.C.)	EM	VA	3-11	89	144	55	20	38.19
2056	Gwermynydd C.P.	EM	C	3-11	53	81	28	11	34.57
2004	Buckley (Westwood CP)+	EM	C	3-11	180	273	93	39	34.07
2081	Gwemaffield (Ysgol y Waun C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	85	128	43	18	33.59
2064	Cilcain (Ysgol y Foel C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	57	84	27	12	32.14
2013	Flynngroew (Ysgol Bryn Garth C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	85	119	34	17	28.57
2022	Holywell (Ysgol y Fron Juniors C.P.)	EM	C	7-11	139	194	55	48	28.35
2094	Northop (Ysgol Owen Jones C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	100	138	38	19	27.54
3303	Caerwys (Ysgol yr Esgob Aided)	EM	VA	3-11	63	86	23	12	26.74
2044	Trelogan C.P.	EM	C	3-11	54	72	18	10	25.00
2026	Llwyn C.P.	EM	C	3-11	54	71	17	10	23.94
2015	Flint Gwynedd C.P.	EM	C	3-11	379	492	113	70	22.97
2032	Northop Hall C.P.	EM	C	3-11	164	210	46	30	21.90
2040	Saltney (Wood Memorial C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	169	216	47	30	21.76
2082	Holywell (Ysgol Gwanffrwd C.P.)	WM	C	3-11	202	256	54	36	21.09
3331	Penrobin Aided	EM	VA	3-11	87	110	23	15	20.91
3316	Trelawnyd Aided	EM	VA	3-11	87	109	22	15	20.18

2092	Leeswood (Ysgol Derwenfa C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	127	159	32	22	20.13
2002	Baglilt (Ysgol Glan Aber C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	112	140	28	20	20.00
2043	Sychdyn C.P.	EM	C	3-11	143	177	34	25	19.21
2266	Treuddyn (Ysgol Parc y Llan C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	86	106	20	15	18.87
2041	Sealand C.P.	EM	C	3-11	175	215	40	30	18.60
2046	Mostyn (Ysgol Bryn Pennant C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	106	129	23	18	17.83
2050	Rhosesmor (Rhos Helyg C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	140	168	28	24	16.67
3307	Holywell (St. Winefride's R.C.)	EM	VA	3-11	157	187	30	26	16.04
2068	Mold (Ysgol Bryn Gwalla C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	197	233	36	33	15.45
2052	Connah's Quay (Bryn Deva C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	245	283	38	40	13.43
2288	Broughton Primary	EM	C	3-11	413	476	63	68	13.24
2017	Flint Mountain (Ysgol Maes Edwin C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	66	76	10	10	13.16
	Shotton (Wellhouse Primary School)	EM	C	3-11	238	270	32	49	11.85
2269	Connah's Quay (Ysgol Cae'r Nant)	EM	C	3-11	320	360	40	51	11.11
2061	Queensferry C.P.	EM	C	3-11	160	180	20	25	11.11
2003	Baglilt (Merilyn C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	157	176	19	25	10.80
2049	Carmel (Ysgol Bro Carmel C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	161	180	19	25	10.56
3320	Whitford Aided	EM	VA	3-11	99	109	10	15	9.17
2270	Penyffordd County Primary School	EM	C	3-11	236	259	23	37	8.88
2053	Sandycroft C.P.	EM	C	3-11	292	320	28	45	8.75
3330	Shotton (St. Ethelwold's Aided)	EM	VA	3-11	98	107	9	15	8.41
2257	Flint (Ysgol Croes Allt C.P.)	WM	C	3-11	190	207	17	29	8.21
2023	Holywell (Perth y Terfyn Infants C.P.)	EM	C	3-7	101	110	9	36	8.18
2024	Hope (Ysgol Estyn C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	199	216	17	30	7.87
2084	Abermorddu Juniors and Infants C.P.	EM	C	3-11	190	206	16	29	7.77
5200	Higher Kinnerton	EM	F	3-11	186	201	15	28	7.46
2018	Greenfield C.P.	EM	C	3-11	212	228	16	32	7.02
3333	Hawarden Village Primary School	EM	VA	3-11	404	429	25	60	5.83
2085	Buckley (Southdown C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	362	382	20	54	5.24
2267	Ysgol Mynydd Isa	EM	C	3-11	488	513	25	67	4.87
2091	Flint Cornist C.P.	EM	C	3-11	275	289	14	41	4.84
2028	Mold (Ysgol Glanrafon C.P.)	WM	C	3-11	275	287	12	41	4.18
2077	Connah's Quay (Golflyn C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	389	404	15	57	3.71

3312	Shotton (Venerable Edward Morgan R.C.)	EM	VA	3-11	271	281	10	40	3.56
3311	Sallney (St.Anthony's R.C.)	EM	VA	3-11	147	152	5	21	3.29
3306	Flint (St.Mary's R.C.)	EM	VA	3-11	309	317	8	45	2.52
2062	Mold (Ysgol Bryn Coch C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	584	599	15	85	2.50
2083	Hawarden (Ysgol Penarlag C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	192	198	4	28	2.04
2086	Cornah's Quay (Wevre Lane C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	302	307	5	43	1.63
2063	Buckley (Mountain Lane C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	405	409	4	58	0.98
2065	Brynford C.P.	EM	C	3-11	63	58	-5	8	-8.62
2089	Drury C.P.	EM	C	3-11	129	124	-5	17	-4.03
2012	Elwice Green C.P.	EM	C	3-11	362	349	-13	49	-3.72
3332	Nercwys Voluntary Aided	EM	VC	3-11	49	42	-7	6	-16.67
66	= Total number of schools				12,207	14,174	1,967		17.15
									0

Based on January 2015 PLASC



THE RT HON DAVID HANSON MP

Member of Parliament for Delyn

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7219 5064

Fax: 020 7219 2671

Our Ref: DH/HR.fcc.ed.s

Mr Colin Everett
Chief Executive
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
Flintshire CH7 6NR

25th June 2015

RE: Flintshire County Council – School Modernisation

Further to my previous correspondence, I continue to be approached by concerned constituents, in relation to the above matter, and its impact on Ysgol Mornant, in particular

You will recall I wrote to you on the 19th and 25th June, and I await an update, following the meeting of the 16th June.

In the meantime, please find enclosed further copy correspondence from constituents. You will see that they have raised real concerns with me, and I have advised them to submit those concerns to the County Council, as part of the consultation process.

I look forward to an update on this matter, so that I may respond to my constituents accordingly.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

David Hanson MP
Delyn

c.c. Cllr Glyn Banks

Constituency Office:

64 Chester Street, Flint, Flintshire CH6 5DH Tel: 01352 763159 Fax: 01352 730140

E-Mail: david.hanson.mp@parliament.uk Website: www.davidhanson.org.uk

Twitter: David Hanson MP Facebook: David Hanson

ROBBINS, Helen

From: Susan Malcolm <fyr-hxpanrjyjp_qjntgpxwavlc4lm6scq@writetothem.com>
Sent: 07 July 2015 19:55
To: HANSON, David
Subject: Letter from your constituent Susan Malcolm

Susan Malcolm
Bredon
TYN Y MORFA
Holywell
Flintshire
CH8 9JN

Phone: 01745 854017

Email: sue.vardene@yahoo.co.uk

Tuesday 7 July 2015

Dear David Hanson,

RE: PROPOSED CLOSURE OF YSGOL GYMRAEG MORNANT – PICTON CH8 9JQ

Thank you for your time in reading this letter, it is greatly appreciated.

Being a grandparent to 2 pupils of Ysgol Mornant, I am concerned to hear that Flintshire County Council has proposed to close it in September 2016.

My eldest grandchild has since left the school to become a Chef working alongside a team of Welsh speaking colleagues at a busy holiday park.

He joined the school at the age of 8 yrs old as he was unfortunately being bullied at his previous school Ysgol Gronant and the Headmistress chose to do nothing about it!

Both my daughter and I were then lucky enough to find this lovely village school.

We were welcomed by a lovely lady who, in fact turned out to be the Headmistress Mrs Ann Jones who, alongside Mrs H Williams (both now retired) stayed behind after school to show us around and explain all about Ysgol Mornant.

At that moment we knew that Ysgol Mornant was going to be the place for Sam.

Here he bloomed, he came out of himself with the help of all the staff and pupils and he also picked up the Welsh language and proceeded to go on to Ysgol Maes Garmon to complete his school life in a Welsh speaking secondary school.

My youngest grandchild is due to start at Ysgol Mornant this September (2015), she is a member of their Ti a Fi, attends Cylch regularly and can speak Welsh to some degree.

If Flintshire County Council close Ysgol Mornant they will be taking away her right to the "Cwricwlwm Cymreig" with gives them a feeling of place, heritage and of belonging.

All the staff at the school aim to create and nurture a happy, FAMILY school, which is totally safe and where each child can develop to their full potential.

I know that she cannot wait to join the school and already has so many little friends there and greets the teachers and other members of staff with such affection - it is lovely to see.

As a grandparent, this makes me feel extremely humble knowing that my grandchild will receive the care and attention that she would normally receive in her family home and indeed my own home.

If this school is to close I know we would not feel the same security for her we feel now!

I know that my daughter won't be putting her on to a school bus at this very young age to be taken to another Welsh school further away from their family home and where she works, my granddaughter will have to attend

another village school in this area, which is NOT a WELSH Medium school, therefore Flintshire County Council are taking away my daughters/granddaughters rights of choice for her education!
Surveys in other areas of Flintshire show that parental choice of Welsh Medium education rises when the local school is within 2 miles of the home.

This would be dramatically changed with the closure of Ysgol Gymraeg - Picton Have Flintshire County Council thought about this?

I wonder have Flintshire County Council took the time to actually visit Ysgol Mornant and see what we as parents/grandparents see on a daily basis?

I wonder would they re-consider this ridiculous proposal of closing our beautiful school in September 2016?

I have listed below a few points that I feel need to be looked at:

By closing Ysgol Mornant the following would not be fulfilled in our area -

- There would not be a school to meet the demographic need in this area
- Flintshire County Council endeavours to increase the number of fluent Welsh speakers within its boundaries, with the aim of creating an increasingly bilingual county and country
- Only by receiving education in a designated Welsh Medium school will pupils become fully bilingual
- Outcome 1: More 7 year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh

The question I think we are all asking is "why" does Ysgol Mornant need to close, it is the only Welsh school within our community, a community that is more like an enormous family that believe it or not, want to keep the Welsh language and heritage alive?

I thank you personally for your time.

S. Malcolm
(Mrs)

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(Signed with an electronic signature in accordance with subsection 7(3) of the Electronic Communications Act 2000.)

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J C Thompson

The hermitage

Gwespyr

Holywell

Flintshire

David Hansen M.P.

House of Commons

London SW1

26/06/2015

Re Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant Picton.

Dear David,

I am writing to express my dismay at the decision of Flintshire County Council to consider the closure of Ysgol Mornant. As you are no doubt aware Ysgol Mornant offers the choice of an education through the medium of Welsh to the 8 villages in the surrounding area, and also the chance for local families to immerse themselves in the Welsh culture and community, even today children from Mornant are singing and dancing in Mold.

There is no viable alternative as the Welsh School primary School in Hoywell, Ysgol Gwenffro and Ysgol Y Llys in Prestatyn would be unable to accommodate the present pupils let alone any future starter pupils so all children in our area would probably end up going to English primary schools. This would mean that no children from our area will ever be likely to rise to the top of any public service profession in Wales where the ability to speak and understand the Welsh culture is increasingly seen to be very important which is evident when you read the Evening Leader and Daily Post career pages.

The buildings of Ysgol Mornant are in good condition and will still be standing in 100 years and with minimum investment and promotion the school could go on to become a thriving hub of Welsh Language and Culture serving the coastal strip.

I also believe when a thorough cost / benefits assessment is done the savings raised by closing Ysgol Mornant will be negated by the cost of transporting the children to other Welsh speaking primary schools either in Flintshire or Denbighshire nevermind the Health and Safety implications of transporting 5 to 11 year olds long distances .

I could go on and on but would finish with the thought that how ironic / farcial it would be if Flintshire Council closed the only Welsh Primary in our area whilst funding the Urdd Eisteddford 150K to to come to Flint.

Please use all your influence to ask The Flintshire Education Scrutiny Committee members to call this decision in for more extensive scrutiny.

Yours Sincerely

J C Thompson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J C Thompson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ROBBINS, Helen

From: Julie Thompson <JTscientist@gmail.com>
Sent: 07 July 2015 23:46
To: HANSON, David
Subject: Letter from your constituent Julie Thompson

Julie Thompson
56 Cathedral Bluffs
Corman Park
Saskatoon
CH8 9J5

Email: JTscientist@gmail.com

Tuesday 7 July 2015

Dear David Hanson,

I am writing to express my concern about the possible closure of the Ysgol Mornant Welsh medium primary school, in Picton, Flintshire. As an ex-pupil, who then went on to complete her education through the medium of Welsh, a qualified educator and as a scientist, I can't stress enough how important it was to have the start that Ysgol Mornant gave me. Having access to local bilingual education, has had significant impact on many aspects of my life, including in my work with Canadian First Nations groups, who have had their language and culture, and in some cases their society destroyed. Wales is held up in the world as the standard of how to revitalise indigenous language and culture, and having seen firsthand what taking the language and culture away has done to first nations communities here in Canada, it seems like closing Welsh medium school is taking an ugly step back into the past. If the school is closed there will be significant impact on the number of Welsh speakers in the area, with children not continuing into Welsh Medium High schools, and not having the noted educational and societal benefits of being bilingually educated.

It also seems ironic, that Flintshire is rightly proud of sponsoring the URDD in 2015, to the amount of One hundred and fifty thousand pounds, whilst contemplating closing the only Welsh medium primary school in that area. Therefore I humbly ask, as a teacher, educator, scientist, that you support keeping Ysgol Mornant open, and support the Welsh language in Flintshire.

Yours Sincerely

Dr. Julie Thompson, Educator, Scientist.
Saskatoon, Canada.

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(Signed with an electronic signature in accordance with subsection 7(3) of the Electronic Communications Act 2000.)

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ROBBINS, Helen

From: Janet Seaton <janet.seaton@talacrebeach.co.uk>
Sent: 05 July 2015 11:22
To: HANSON, David
Subject: Letter from your constituent Janet Seaton

Janet Seaton
Sea View
Main Road
FFYNNONGROYW
Flintshire
CH8 9SN

Phone: 01745 586619

Email:
janet.seaton@talacrebeach.co.uk

Sunday 5 July 2015

Dear David Hanson,

First of all thank you for your time in reading this letter.

I am a parent of 2 pupils at Ysgol Mornant.

My eldest is now working within the Welsh community at Talacre Beach Holiday Home Park as a Commis Chef having joined Ysgol Mornant at the age of 8 years old.

He joined the school at this age as he was being bullied at his previous school Ysgol Gronant and NOTHING was being done about it by the head at the time; Claire Homnard!

I took matters in to my own hands and found this lovely village school.

Here he bloomed, he came out of himself with the help of all the staff here, and he picked up the Welsh language and proceeded to go on to Ysgol Maes Garmon to complete his school life in a Welsh speaking secondary school.

My youngest child is due to start with Ysgol Mornant this September (2015), she is already a member of their Ti a Fi and Cylch. She cannot wait to join the school, she already has so many little friends there and greets the teachers and other members of staff with such affection - it is lovely to see.

As a parent, this makes me feel extremely humble knowing that my child will receive the care and attention that she would receive at home.

If this school is to close I know I would not feel the same security for her I feel now!

I wonder if Flintshire County Council took the time to actually visit this school and see what we as parents see, they would re-consider this ridiculous proposal of closing our beautiful school in September 2016?

We, as parents cannot believe nor understand this absurd decision.

Why close a Welsh school in a community that is trying its best to keep the Welsh language alive within this area?

Yours sincerely,

Janet Seaton

(Mrs)

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(Signed with an electronic signature in accordance with subsection 7(3) of the Electronic Communications Act 2000.)

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1506 012137

THE RT HON DAVID HANSON MP

Member of Parliament for Delyn

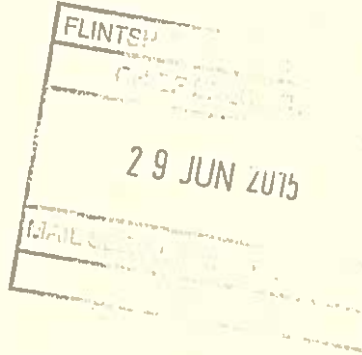


HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7219 5064
Fax: 020 7219 2671

Our Ref: DH/HR.fcc.ed.s

Mr Colin Everett
Chief Executive
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
Flintshire CH7 6NR



25th June 2015

RE: Flintshire County Council – School Modernisation

Further to my letter of the 19th June 2015, I continue to be approached by concerned constituents, in relation to the above matter, and its impact on Ysgol Mornant, in particular

I have been approached by a number of constituents, with regard to the above matter. Please find attached copy correspondence. You will see that they have raised real concerns with me, and I have advised them to submit those concerns to the County Council, as part of the consultation process.

I look forward to an update on this matter, so that I may respond to my constituents accordingly.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

David Hanson MP
Delyn

c.c. Cllr Glyn Banks

ROBBINS, Helen

From: Bryden Lloyd <bryden.lloyd@gmail.com>
Sent: 24 June 2015 13:44
To: HANSON, David
Subject: Proposed School Closure of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton

Dear Mr Hanson,

I don't know if you recall that our children attended Ysgol Croes Atti together, many years ago, and indeed I am sure you will agree that the Welsh Medium-Bilingual system of education has provided tremendous opportunities for all children in Flintshire, who have progressed through their education using the Welsh schools.

I also note that Flintshire's policy relating to Welsh Medium education, is a commitment to the growth and sustainment of it, throughout the region.

In September last year, my family and I moved out of Northop, where we had lived since 2009. Prior to this, we had lived in Flint, Bagillt and Connah's Quay, with all six of our children attending Ysgol Croes Atti in Flint.

When we moved, we even considered trying to keep our youngest and only remaining primary school aged child in Ysgol Croes Atti, but as we were moving out to Trelogan, we realised this was wholly impractical. Having looked into all the other schools (all of whom stated they had no places available) we found Ysgol Mornant.

Very small, very rural, but of a standard which (I have to say) has left the others in the shade.

And yet, here I am, several months later, writing this e-mail to you because Flintshire County Council is now proposing the closure of the school.

Now, you can sit there and give me dozens and dozens of reasons why this might be prudent and I don't doubt that these will form the battle lines in the coming weeks and months, but I would ask you, here and now, where do the 50+ children from Ysgol Mornant go? Why is it suddenly viable to open a brand new school in Shotton, which will not run at capacity for several years, and which the local community have not embraced, and allow a school which serves a large number of small communities - very ably - to be lost?

Flintshire has a supposed commitment to the Welsh language, and yet they want to get rid of the only Welsh Medium-Bilingual school covering a large area of the west of the county.

This is a nonsense which will disadvantage the local area and I ask that you personally look into this as a matter of urgency.

If you want to make cuts, perhaps you should be looking at the interest payments on an unnecessary school.

If you want to take the Welsh education provision away from these communities, perhaps you should first consider where those same children will have to go based on these actions.

In short, this is an ill-judged, uninformed proposal... which, I might add, has been intentionally timed to limit the possible actions that could be taken against it.

I invite you to attend one of our meetings, visit the school, come and meet the children and parents.

You always came across to me, as a man who understood the little things that made the difference between right and wrong in the community.

I cannot possibly comprehend how anyone would view this proposal as being for the good of ANY community, least of all one where this school provides the only viable, central provision for primary Welsh education.

I look forward to your reply, and hope you will be able to find a little time to look into this.

Yours,

J Bryden Lloyd
Parent - Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton

--

J Bryden Lloyd

ROBBINS, Helen

From: Sally Thompson <fyr-jfkk5mitkh_ost325eofesrjppixne@writetothem.com>
Sent: 25 June 2015 10:37
To: HANSON, David
Subject: Letter from your constituent Sally Thompson

Sally Thompson
Mandalay House
Gwespyr
holywell
flintshire
CH8 9JS

Phone: 07793115368

Email: Number8Sally@yahoo.co.uk

Thursday 25 June 2015

Dear David Hanson,

I am writing this letter as a parent and ex pupil of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, and request your support in our fight against the proposed closure of the school. I was truly shocked and saddened by the proposal from Flintshire County Council and feel that they are looking at it purely from a business sense. Education is not a business and I feel an education through the medium of Welsh in Wales should be available to anyone who wants it.

Ysgol Mornant is more than just a school, it's a family and an important part of the community. Generations of family's have attended this school. I am an ex pupil after being sent to the school by English parents. They chose the school because of its ethos, its close knit family feel and it gave me the opportunity to become bilingual. I have since gone on to gain a degree and secured a job within the Emergency Services. Ysgol Mornant gave me that start. After returning to the area to bring up my own family I have chosen the school for my daughter.

At 7 years of age I am proud to say she is already bilingual and thriving at a high level in the School. She's one of many who has competed for the past 2 years in the local Eisteddfod as a soloist in singing and recital. She's a confident and happy little girl, the school having played a massive part in that. We are also able to walk to and from the school, keeping her active and healthy and giving us a special opportunity to have a daily catch up on her school day. For me to maintain her Welsh Education if the school closes, I will either have to travel 20 minutes by car each journey or send her to a school in a different county and that's providing there is space available.

Ysgol Mornant is the only Welsh school surrounded by 4 English primary schools! How is it right to close the Welsh school?

Flintshire's "Welsh in Education policy" states "that it endeavours to increase the number of fluent Welsh speakers within its boundaries, with its aim to creating an increasingly bilingual county and country" and that "their aim is to have more 7yr old children being taught through the medium of Welsh"

By closing Ysgol Mornant they aren't being true to their own policy.

Closing the school would not only have an impact on my daughter's education but an impact on her future. More and more job vacancies in Wales require the applicants to be a Welsh speaker and rightly so.

Please support and assist us to do what's right for the children of Wales. Let them be well and truly Welsh.

Kind regards.

Sally Thompson

Ex pupil, Parent to a current pupil, and member of the local community.
SAVE YSGOL MORNANT!

Yours sincerely,

Sally Thompson

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(Signed with an electronic signature in accordance with subsection 7(3) of the Electronic Communications Act 2000.)

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ROBBINS, Helen

From: Aprille Auld (BCUHB - Pathology) <Aprille.Auld@wales.nhs.uk>
Sent: 24 June 2015 14:46
To: HANSON, David
Subject: Please can you help save Ysgol Cymraeg, Picton
Attachments: mornant.doc

Importance: High

Hi David,

Sorry to trouble you, I wondered whether I could ask for your support regarding the intended closure of the above junior school in 2016.

It has come as a great surprise to many that the Authorities have the intention of closing yet another welsh school. This school provides a great start to infants and juniors, it is a feeder school for Ysgol Glan Clwyd (St Asaph) and Ysgol Maes Garmon (Mold)

My son Tomos is an ex pupil of Ysgol Mornant and is now in Ysgol Glan Clwyd we as a family are very passionate about this issue, we wanted the best for our son and Mornant delivered the best, Tomos is a fluent welsh speaker, although Mornant is a small school, Tomos has settled into a large secondary without any difficulties he is now in year 10.

I feel the Authorities should be very proactive in keeping these schools open instead of closing them they should conduct massive advertising schemes to encourage parents to have their children educated in the medium of Welsh Education.. My suggestion in last weeks meeting was to write to all the local nurseries/ have an open day at the school, also invite the headmasters of Glan Clwyd & Maes Garmon to get involved, as the closure of schools like Mornant will have an impact of future figures for pupils attending their schools, also the local authorities should be asked why there are no signs anywhere to show there is a school in Picton again this might help.

There was another meeting last evening to set up an action group, which I couldn't attend, but have volunteered my services, any help from high profile individuals would be appreciated, I know we are governed by the Welsh Assembly which I hope will be contacted by the action group.

I attach a letter from Tomos

kindest regards

Aprille

Aprille M Auld
Bereavement Services Co ordinator
Ysbyty Glan Clwyd
Tel; 01745 534147

Cymraeg

Rhybudd Ebost (2010) - Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr

Fe'ch cynghorir i ddarllen rhybudd ebost Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr (a1 argraffu er mwyn cyfeirio ato yn y dyfodol). Gellir dod o hyd iddo yn y lleoliad canlynol

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/861/tudalen/47230>

English

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board - Email Notice (2010)

You are advised to read (and print for future reference) the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board e-mail notice which can be found at this location

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/861/page/47229>

**2 Lloyds Crescent,
Tremostyn
Holywell,
Flintshire
CH8 9AY**

17th June, 2015

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Re: SAVE YSGOL MORNANT- Achub Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant

I am Tomos Auld age 14yrs. I am a former pupil of Ysgol Mornant, (2003-2011)

Please please DO NOT close this School....WHY!!

Y - You the Authorities

S - Shouldn't YOU be keeping WELSH SCHOOLS OPEN! -NOT CLOSE THEM!

G - Great education is provided at this school, isn't that important, I think so

O - Once its gone its GONE

L - Look at the bigger picture not just MONEY !!!!!!!!!!!!!

M - Mornant is more than a school, my parents wanted the best for me

) - Our community needs this SCHOOL!

R - Reverse this decision please please

N - NOW!

A - Advertise the school, to recruit more children, promote WELSH EDUCATION!

N - Never once did I think I would be campaigning at my age....its disgraceful

T - Thank you for hopefully reading my letter, I hope you take it seriously

Diolch

Tomos M Auld



Member of Parliament for Delyn

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7219 5064
Fax: 020 7219 2671

Our Ref: DH/HR.fcc.ed.s

Mr Colin Everett
Chief Executive
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
Flintshire CH7 6NR



19th June 2015

RE: Flintshire County Council – School Modernisation

Thank you for the copy of the School Modernisation Report, from Damian Hughes, which was to be presented to the Cabinet on the 16th June 2015.

I have been approached by a number of constituents, with regard to the above matter. Please find attached copy correspondence. You will see that they have raised real concerns with me, and I have advised them to submit those concerns to the County Council, as part of the consultation process.

In the meantime, I would welcome an update on this matter, now that the cabinet meeting has taken place.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

David Hanson MP
Delyn

ROBBINS, Helen

From: GarethR2006@aol.com
Sent: 10 June 2015 15:42
To: HANSON, David
Subject: (no subject)

just read the[sepp blatter] flintshire council are destroying fine village primary schools on your patch and on your watch why? do they want to put incinerators on the sites ?

ROBBINS, Helen

From: HANSON, David
Sent: 10 June 2015 13:16
To: ROBBINS, Helen

- Michelle Brooks-Jones

Hi David I dont know if you aware but we had devistating news yesterday, our lovely homely WELSH medi regarding this, our school is the first (oldest) Welsh medium primary school, and must be saved, our childre



.13:14

David Hanson

thanks michelle im only just picking up details which I understand are going to council next week for discuss consultation and ill be happy to discuss then-- in the meantime ill be looking at now

Ian Budd
 Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
 Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid)



David Hanson MP
 Constituency Office
 64 Chester Street
 Flint
 Flintshire
 CH6 5DH

Your Ref/Eich Cyl DH/HR.fcc.ed.s
 Our Ref/Ein Cyf IB/DHYM
 Date/Dyddiad 26 August 2015
 Ask for/Gofynner am Ian Budd
 Direct Dial Rhif Union 01352 704190
 Fax/Ffacs

Dear Mr Hanson,

School Organisation Proposals

Thank you for your correspondence dated 25th June and 19th June regarding consultation on the proposed statutory closure of Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr Picton. Apologies for the delay in responding to your correspondence.

Consultation on the proposal, in relation to Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr Picton has yet to start formally but is due to commence in the autumn term 2015.

During the period of consultation communities will be able to fully express their views on the proposals and offer alternative solutions for future education delivery in the area. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making, which will be made available for communities to view.

You have my assurance that officers will act both professionally and with empathy given the nature of the proposals. You will already be aware that we will need to follow the process as defined in Welsh Government's, School Organisational Code.

The Council will also be required to reflect on capacity issues within our school estate and we will also be conducting Impact Assessments on issues such as Community, Transport, Equalities and of course Language.

I can confirm that the constituents' correspondence has been formally logged. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making.

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6ND
www.flintshire.gov.uk
 Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug. CH7 6ND
www.siryfflint.gov.uk

Should you have any queries, I am more than happy to discuss through issues with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Budd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Ian Budd
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

Mrs Sandie Mewies AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Your Ref/Eich Cyt
Our Ref/Ein Cyf
Date/Dyddiad
Ask for Gofynner am
Direct Dial Rhif Union
Fax/Ffacs

IB/JCT
25 August 2015
Ian Budd
01352 704135

Dear Mrs Mewies

Re: Mr J C Thompson, The Hermitage, Gwespyr, Holywell, Flintshire

Thank you for your correspondence dated 4th August 2015 in which your constituent expresses concerns regarding the possible closure of Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr Picton. Apologies for the delay in responding.

Consultation on options in relation to Ysgol Mornant have yet to start, but is due to commence in the autumn term 2015.

During the period of consultation communities will be able to express their views on options in consultation documentation and offer alternative sustainable solutions for future education delivery in the area. During the review period we will hold meetings with the Staff, Governors and Parents and Careers as well as organising a children's specific consultation event via the school. Other interested parties are able to express their views using the online consultation forms which will also be available in the Autumn.

You have my assurance that officers will act professionally and with empathy give the nature of the proposals. You will be aware that the Local Authority needs to follow the legal process as defined in Welsh Government's School Organisation Code.

The Council will also be required to reflect on capacity issues within our school estate and we will also be conducting impact assessments on issues such as Community, Transport, Equalities, and of course Language.

I can confirm that Mr Thompson's correspondence has been formally logged. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making.

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6ND
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug, CH7 6ND
www.siryfflint.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Budd". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ian Budd
Chief Officer, Education & Youth

Sandy Mewies

Aelod Cynulliad dros
Delyn

Assembly Member for
Delyn

Electronic
Signature



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

Mr. Colin Everett
Chief Executive
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
Flintshire
CH7 6NB

Our Ref: Thompson/459-46586
(please quote reference in all correspondence)

04 August 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

RE: Mr J C Thompson
The Hermitage, Gwespyr, Holywell, Flintshire

I enclose a letter received from my constituent, Mr J C Thompson of the above address. Mr Thompson has contacted me regarding the possible closure of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant Picton.

He says that if the closure were to go ahead there are no viable alternatives as Ysgol Gwenffro in Holywell and Ysgol Y Llys in Prestatyn would be unable to accommodate the present pupils, or any future pupils of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant Picton. He is concerned that this would have an effect on the future career's of children from the area given the increasing requirement of the ability to speak and understand the Welsh language. He also believes that the savings raised by closing the school would be negated by the cost of transporting children to other Welsh speaking schools.

I would be grateful for your comments in response to Mr Thompson's concerns. Can you also confirm that his comments will be taken fully into account before any decision regarding the school is taken?

Yours sincerely

Sandy Mewies AM (Mrs)
Delyn Constituency

Enc: (1)

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd CF99 1NA
Sandy.Mewies@cynulliad.cymru
www.cynulliad.cymru
0300 200 7132

Page 466

National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff CF99 1NA
Sandy.Mewies@assembly.wales
www.assembly.wales
0300 200 7132



RECEIVED
29 JUN 2015

J C Thompson
The Hermitage
Gwespyr
Holywell
Flintshire

Sandy Mewies A M.

Welsh Assembly

Cardiff

26/06/2015

Re Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant Picton.

Dear Mrs Mewies,

I am writing to express my dismay at the decision of Flintshire County Council to consider the closure of Ysgol Mornant. As you are no doubt aware Ysgol Mornant offers the choice of an education through the medium of Welsh to the 8 villages in the surrounding area, and also the chance for local families to immerse themselves in the Welsh culture and community, even today children from Mornant are singing and dancing in Mold.

There is no viable alternative as the Welsh School primary School in Hoywell, Ysgol Gwenffro and Ysgol Y Llys in Prestatyn would be unable to accommodate the present pupils let alone any future starter pupils so all children in our area would probably end up going to English primary schools. This would mean that no children from our area will ever be likely to rise to the top of any public service profession in Wales where the ability to speak and understand the Welsh culture is increasingly seen to be very important which is evident when you read the Evening Leader and Daily Post career pages.

The buildings of Ysgol Mornant are in good condition and will still be standing in 100 years and with minimum investment and promotion the school could go on to become a thriving hub of Welsh Language and Culture serving the coastal strip.

I also believe when a thorough cost / benefits assessment is done the savings raised by closing Ysgol Mornant will be negated by the cost of transporting the children to other Welsh speaking primary schools either in Flintshire or Denbighshire nevermind the Health and Safety implications of transporting 5 to 11 year olds long distances .

I could go on and on but would finish with the thought that how ironic / farcial it would be if Flintshire Council closed the only Welsh Primary in our area whilst funding the Urdd Eisteddford 150K to to come to Flint.

Please use all your influence to ask The Flintshire Education Scrutiny Committee members to call this decision in for more extensive scrutiny.

Yours Sincerely

J C Thompson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J C Thompson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs Sandie Mewies AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Your Ref/Eich Cyl
Our Ref/Ein Cyf IB/tg
Date/Dyddiad 10 August 2015
Ask for Gofynner am Ian Budd
Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704010
Fax/Ffôn

Dear Mrs Mewies

Re: Mrs Janet Seaton, Sea View, Main Road, Ffynnongroyw, Flintshire. CH8 9SN

Thank you for your correspondence dated 10 July 2015 regarding the above in which your constituent expresses concerns regarding the possible closure of Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr Picton.

Consultation on options in relation to Ysgol Mornant have yet to start, but is due to commence in the autumn term 2015.

During the period of consultation communities will be able to express their views on options in consultation documentation and offer alternative sustainable solutions for future education delivery in the area. During the review period we will hold meetings with the Staff, Governors and Parents and Careers as well as organising a children's specific consultation event via the school. Other interested parties are able to express their views using the online consultation forms which will also be available in the Autumn.

You have my assurance that officers will act professionally and with empathy give the nature of the proposals. You will be aware that the Local Authority needs to follow the legal process as defined in Welsh Government's School Organisation Code.

The Council will also be required to reflect on capacity issues within our school estate and we will also be conducting impact assessments on issues such as Community, Transport, Equalities, and of course Language.

I can confirm that Mrs Seaton's correspondence has been formally logged. All views from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet, in the form of a consultation report, in order that the Cabinet may consider the views of the communities in their decision making.

County Hall, Mold, CH7 6ND
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug, CH7 6ND
www.siryfflint.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Budd". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ian Budd
Chief Officer, Education & Youth



Sandy Mewies

Aelod Cynulliad dros
Delyn

Assembly Member for
Delyn



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

Colin Everett
Chief Executive
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
Flintshire
CH7 6NB

Our Ref: Seaton/376-46663
(Please quote reference in all correspondence)

10 July 2015

Dear Mr Everett,

Re: Mrs Janet Seaton, Sea View, Main Road, Ffynnongroyw, Flintshire CH8 9SN

I enclose a letter received from my constituent, Mrs Janet Seaton of the above address. She has contacted me regarding the possible closure of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant.

I am therefore writing to ask that Mrs Seaton's comments are taken fully into account when any decision on the school's future is taken?

Yours sincerely

Sandy Mewies AM (Mrs)
Delyn Constituency
Enc: (1)

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
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Hughes, Louise (AM Support Staff, Sandy Mewies)

From: Janet Seaton <janet.seaton@talacrebeach.co.uk>
Sent: 05 July 2015 11:06
To: Mewies, Sandy (Assembly Member)
Subject: Letter from your constituent Janet Seaton

Categories: Filed to Sage CRM

Janet Seaton
Sea View
Main Road
FFYNNONGROYW
Flintshire
CH8 9SN

Phone: 01745 586619

Email:
janet.seaton@talacrebeach.co.uk

Sunday 5 July 2015

Dear Sandy Mewies AM,

First of all thank you for your time in reading this letter.

I am a parent of 2 pupils at Ysgol Mornant.

My eldest is now working within the Welsh community at Talacre Beach Holiday Home Park as a Commis Chef having joined Ysgol Mornant at the age of 8 years old.

He joined the school at this age as he was being bullied at his previous school Ysgol Gronant and NOTHING was being done about it by the head at the time; Claire Homnard!

I took matters in to my own hands and found this lovely village school.

Here he bloomed, he came out of himself with the help of all the staff here, and he picked up the Welsh language and proceeded to go on to Ysgol Maes Garmon to complete his school life in a Welsh speaking secondary school.

My youngest child is due to start with Ysgol Mornant this September (2015), she is already a member of their Ti a Fi and Cylch. She cannot wait to join the school, she already has so many little friends there and greets the teachers and other members of staff with such affection - it is lovely to see.

As a parent, this makes me feel extremely humble knowing that my child will receive the care and attention that she would receive at home.

If this school is to close I know I would not feel the same security for her I feel now!

I wonder if Flintshire County Council took the time to actually visit this school and see what we as parents see, they would re-consider this ridiculous proposal of closing our beautiful school in September 2016?

APPENDIX I

DRAFT



Pennaeth – Doli A Edwards B.Ed - Headteacher

Tel/Fax: 01745 560433

Ffôn/Ffacs: 01745 560433

e-bost/e-mail: ysgol.mornant@flintshire.gov.uk

21st December 2015

Annwyl Mr Ian Budd

Atodaf gopi o Ymateb y Llywodraethwyr Ysgol Gymrag Mornant i Gyngor Sir y Fflint fel ymateb i'r argymhelliad o gau Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton.

Buasem yn hynod o ddiolchgar pe gallech ddarllen y ddogfen yma ac ystyried obligiadau y Cyngor i gau'r ysgol hon. Efallai y gallwch hefyd ddylanwadu eraill os nad ydych yn cytuno gyda'r argymhelliad i gau Ysgol Mornant.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir,

Carole Speakman
Cadeirydd y Llywodraethwyr

Dear Mr Ian Budd

Please find enclosed the Governing Body's response to Flintshire County Council's Consultation Document concerning the proposed closure of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton.

I would be most grateful if as a member of the County Council you could take a few minutes to read the document concerning Ysgol Mornant, before you come to any conclusion regarding the future of the school and the Governing Body would be grateful for any influence you can bring to bear to stop the misguided closure of such a local asset.

Yours sincerely,

Carole Speakman

Carole Speakman
Chair of Governors



Cyfeirir pob gohebiaeth i'r Pennaeth
Please address all communications to the Headteacher





**Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant Governing
Body's Response
to the Formal Consultation Document.**

December 21st 2015

Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant Governing Body's response to the Flintshire County Council Consultation document.

This report is a response to the school consultation document produced by Flintshire County Council (FCC) recommending closure of Ysgol Mornant against a background of FCC policy of supporting, expanding and promoting **Welsh** medium education in Flintshire and also the Welsh Assembly Government policy on promoting and supporting Welsh medium education.

The consultation document produced by FCC has a number of errors, suppositions and misleading facts and we go through the subjects that are incorrect with the appropriate response numbered in an orderly and corresponding manner, as per the Consultation Document.

At the end of this response the governors have produced a plan of action to demonstrate our continuing commitment to the provision of **Welsh** education in North East Flintshire.

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2. Response to issues raised within the FCC document

- 2.1 Comment on proposal background (P3)
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- 2.4 Benefits and Disadvantages (P14)
- 2.5 Transportation Disadvantages (5.3)
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- 3.2 Federation
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- 4.1 Impact on the Welsh language
- 4.2 Impact of the proposal on pupils
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6. School and Governors plan of action to demonstrate our continuing commitment to the provision of Welsh education in North East Flintshire.

7. Attachments – 1. Letter from MP David Hanson

- 2. Transport Document from A.N.Andrew Coaches
- 3. Response from Head of Governors of Ysgol Maes Garmon

1. Introduction

Ysgol Mornant was established over 60 years ago to accommodate the need for a Welsh medium education on the coastal strip of Flintshire. This need remains.

The relatively recent fall in pupils receiving an education through the medium of Welsh is largely the responsibility of Flintshire County Council through its lack of foresight and failure to invest and sustain the culture that the school represents. It is ironic that Flintshire County Council's response to its own failures is to remove this outpost of Welsh language and culture. It is further difficult to understand the proposed closure of Ysgol Mornant when its pupils come from areas that are among the highest percentage of Welsh speakers within Flintshire, with the Trelawnyd/Gwaenysgor, and Ffynongroyw (both Ysgol Mornant catchment areas) being at 26.2% and 22.9 % respectively. Please note these numbers were taken from the Welsh Education Flintshire website, maintained by FCC.

2. Response to issues raised within the FCC document

Comment on proposal background (P3)

page 3 of the consultation document, it states that FCC are:

“committed to Supporting, Expanding, and Promoting Welsh-Medium education within the whole community of Flintshire “

If this **Statement of Policy** is to be believed how can the removal of the nearest Welsh medium primary school from the seven communities of – Llanasa, Trelogan, Gronant, Gwespyr, Talacre, Ffynongroyw, and Pen y Ffordd be at all justified?

Are these villages not considered true parts of Flintshire?

2.2 School Capacity numbers (P5, item 4.2)

The maximum capacity of Ysgol Mornant is repeatedly quoted throughout the document as 111 pupils. Yet;

- It is also acknowledged within this document, that this is an **outdated number**, and the true capacity is 81.
- This real capacity number of 81 is quoted on page 9 item 4.7 in the first paragraph after the table.

It is the **inaccurate number** that is used in the comparison tables (page 6 item 4.5 and on page 9 item 4.7), making the calculations over 15% in error and making any actual comparisons both inaccurate and misleading.

Using the inaccurate number obviously paints Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant in a negative way.

2.3 Alternative school locations (Map P8)

This map on page 8 is **totally misleading** in that it gives the impression that the only alternative schools available to pupils should Ysgol Mornant be closed, are the Welsh Medium Schools Ysgol Gwenffrwd in Holywell and Ysgol y Llys in Prestatyn.

This totally ignores the fact, that there are English Speaking Primary schools in the following villages, Pen y Ffordd, Gronant, Trelogan, Mostyn, Whitford, Greenfield, Trelawnyd and Prestatyn.

- Table 1 shows the English Language Medium schools that are nearer to the home villages of Ysgol Mornant pupils, than both Ysgol Gwenffrwd, and Ysgol y Llys.
- Table 1. English Medium schools closer to Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant catchment villages, than the nearest Welsh Medium School.

Location /Village	English schools closer than nearest Welsh School
Trelogan	Trelogan, Trelawnyd, Carmel, Mostyn, Whitford
Mostyn	Mostyn, Pen-y-Ffordd, Greenfield, Trelogan, Whitford
Pen-y-Ffordd	Pen-y-Ffordd, Mostyn, Gronant, Trelogan, Greenfield
Gronant	Gronant, Prestatyn
Ffynnongroyw	Pen-y-Ffordd, Trelogan, Gronant, Mostyn
Llanasa	Trelogan, Trelawnyd, Gronant
Talacre	Pen-y-Ffordd; Gronant, Prestatyn
Gwespyr	Pen-y-Ffordd, Trelogan, Prestatyn, Trelawnyd, Gronant
Trelawnyd	Trelawnyd, Trelogan, Gronant

For clarity, we have added the locations of the alternate English Medium Primary schools, to the map presented in the consultation document, and have labelled it figure 1. The LEA appear to believe that all the present pupils and any future pupils will bypass these nearer primary schools and travel excessive distances for a Welsh medium education. The data displayed in Table 1 and Figure 1 become even more important when discussing the long term impact on Welsh Language and culture. The Governing Body have conducted a survey with parents of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant and the survey shows that;

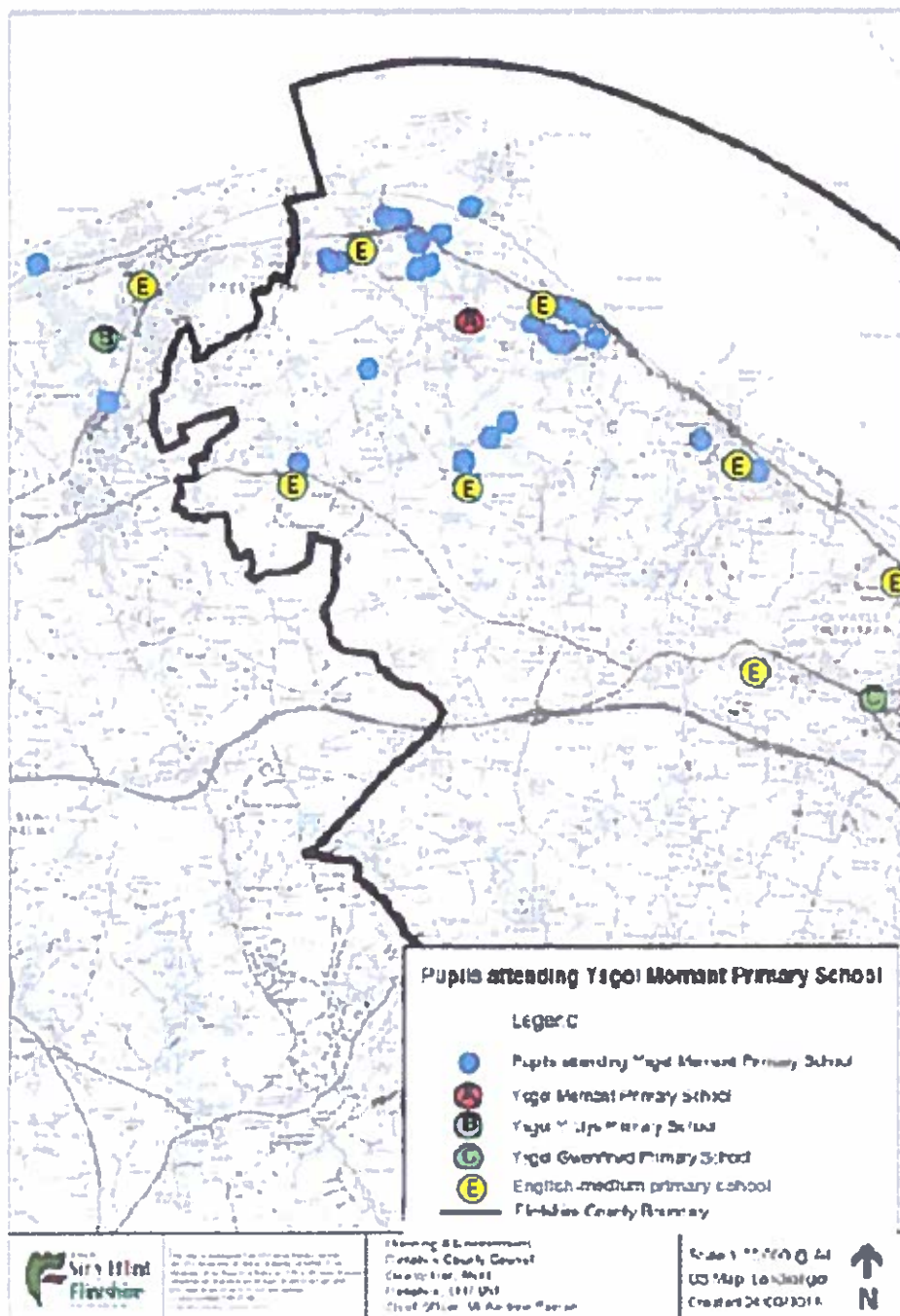
- 50% of parents would move their children to the nearest English Medium School
- 25% of parents would carry on Welsh Medium Education in Flintshire.
- 25% of parents would carry on Welsh Medium Education in Denbighshire.

The reasons given;

- The 50% of parents electing to move their children to the nearest English Medium School stated that the reason being transport issues and also the accessibility.
- The 50% of parents who are prepared to continue in Welsh Education have also expressed their concern with regard to transition in a new Welsh Medium School because of travelling and difficulty of becoming part of the new school community.

We believe that the councils view is misguided and possibly wishful thinking and the long term end result would be severe damage to the Welsh language and culture in this area.

Figure 1. A Location of Ysgol Mornant, Green dots Ysgol Gwenffrwd (B) and Ysgol y Llys (C). Yellow dots- English Medium Primary Schools. Blue dots -Ysgol Mornant Pupils.



2.4 Benefits and Disadvantages (P14)

Table 5.1 lists benefits that the LEA believe would be realised should the proposed closure of Ysgol Gymreag Mornant go ahead. It states that as a benefit - the current standards would at least be maintained, and the current standards of Welsh Education actually improved.

We find this to be utterly false.

How can this be possibly be true when the proposal calls for shutting down the Welsh Medium school along with its ancillary facilities?

It is a fact that the catchment areas of Ysgol Mornant contains the 2 out the top 4 districts in terms of percentage of Welsh speakers, as stated by the LEA on addysggymraegsiryfflint.co.uk under the section heading Welsh Education in Flintshire and in recent Census 2011.

We, as a Governing Body would like the percentage of Welsh speakers to actually increase in this area. Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant has underpinned a pivotal and vital role in the amount of Welsh speakers and will continue to do so in the future.

We believe this goal is perfectly achievable if Ysgol Mornant receives the same support and encouragement from the LEA with regard to the Welsh language and culture as other communities.

In addition, whilst quoting the disadvantages to closing Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, it lists the removal of Welsh medium education in Gwespyr and Picton **only, conveniently omitting the other 7 more populous villages** to which Ysgol Mornant offers the opportunity of a Welsh medium education.

This omission of the other villages served by Ysgol Mornant is a continuing theme throughout the consultation document.

2.5 Transportation Disadvantages (5.3)

Under the disadvantages reported in section 5.3, it also states that most pupils would be required to travel further to the nearest Welsh Medium schools, conveniently skating over the fact that travelling an extra 6 miles twice a day is highly significant for a 4/5 year old.

It also states, that free transport will provided to both Ysgol Gwenffrwd and Ysgol Y Llys, but stresses that transport to Ysgol Y Llys would be dependent on it being geographically closer, which could force some pupils to go to Ysgol Gwenffrwd against their parents wishes, which may well result in them abandoning Welsh medium education altogether.

2.6 School Standards (P17)

These paragraphs on School Standards (beginning on Page 17) show that the quality of education currently provided at Ysgol Mornant is adequate and the schools prospects for improvement are good.

It also acknowledges, that due to small cohort numbers, children with special educational needs or deprivation, can have an adverse affect on the percentage outcomes. Comparing small school numbers to large school numbers cannot give a true reflection.

However, it proceeds to compare the three Welsh Medium schools performances side by side, but again continues to use the incorrect numbers for Ysgol Mornant. Again, this obviously results in an inaccurate, unfair and untrue picture of the present situation.

Furthermore, the data presented concerning the Estyn inspections used is out of date. The Estyn inspection dates for the three schools are as follows:

Ysgol Mornant - October 2014
Ysgol Gwenffrwd - January 2011
Ysgol y Llys - December 2012

How can this be a fair comparison using out of date information which appears to be deliberately slanted to disadvantage Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant?

Furthermore, in section 6.19 it is stated that Ysgol Mornant does not offer “wrap around” care by its Cylch Meithrin unlike Ysgol Gwenffrwd.

This fails to highlight that on the school site Ysgol Mornant and Mudiad Meithrin operate the following “wrap around” care;

- the breakfast club (8.15-8.45)
- the Cylch Meithrin – Transferring from Nursery school to the Cylch (11.30-3.00)
- the Ti a Fi group (Parent and Toddler Group) (Tuesday Morning’s 9.00-11.00)
- the after school club (3.15-6.00)

2.7 Impacts on the Quality and Standard of Education (P32)

It is apparently the view of the authority that the proposed closure will improve the standard and quality of Welsh medium education within the area, and more specifically for the pupils of Ysgol Mornant. This is highly debatable and leaves much to supposition and personal viewpoints, without providing any actual evidence or data to support this position.

We believe it is very likely that there will have the exact opposite effect, resulting in degrading standards and quality.

We offer as facts the extra

- Distances - the pupils will have to travel to get a Welsh medium education, should they not choose to attend closer English Medium schools.
- It's a fact that the Estyn reports are outdated and do not give a true picture of the current situation.

It can also be argued forcibly, that the long term effect will be that the majority of English speaking parents, although wanting their children to have a Welsh Education, will take the easy route and choose to send their children to a closer and more accessible English School. Where it is easier for parents to support their children, and participate in the school community via after school clubs and activities, rather than make the tortuous journey to Holywell.

This cannot fail to have a negative impact both on the Welsh Language but also a negative impact on Ysgol Maes Garmon, Mold and Ysgol Glan Clwyd, St Asaph through the **resulting fall in pupils learning via the Welsh medium.**

Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant educates approximately 16% of the area's primary children through the Welsh medium compared to Flintshire County Council average of 6.5% (Welsh Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017 Outcome 1 Section 2 Page 4).

The proposed closure of the school and the resulting move of majority of the pupils to English Medium Education will have a detrimental impact on the Flintshire County Council's failing policy to increase the number of children in Welsh Medium Education (Please see the Welsh Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017 Outcome 1 Section 2 Page 4).

2.8 Adequacy of school accommodation (P37)

The report states that Ysgol Mornant is in better overall condition than Ysgol Gwenffrwd, with Ysgol Mornant rated B, indicating that the school building is performing as expected, but exhibiting minor deterioration. Meanwhile Ysgol Gwenffrwd is rated C, indicating that it is exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended. Meanwhile both schools are rated a C for their suitability.

On necessary future expenditure the report points out that Ysgol Mornant will only need **£19,402** in investment whilst Ysgol Gwenffrwd needs at least **£422,468 investment over the next six to ten years.**

2.9 Financial impacts

There can be little argument that closing Ysgol Mornant might save some money, however we believe that the consultation does not reflect the true financial cost of transporting the present and possible future pupils from seven different villages to Holywell.

The consultation document does not in any way take into account the **extra cost in time and money for parents to support their children and support the school in extra activities.** It does not at all address how the children will attend the breakfast club and after school activities, or how parents with no private transport can attend school functions without extra cost and time.

Is it the intent of the LEA to subsidize, or even fully pay for, private transport in these cases?

3. Issues Considered in development of proposal

3.1 Retaining the Status Quo

Only disadvantages to this scenario have been developed in the Consultation Document, making it clear that the LEA intent is proposed closure of the school - despite the many wrong and misleading facts that this consultation document contains.

No possible advantages to retaining the status quo have been put forward within this document. There has been no proposal or discussion with regards to developing the school as a **hub of Welsh language and culture**, by using similar efforts and investments to that used to promote Welsh medium education in Deeside.

The Staff and Governors are more than willing to commit to proposals to widen Ysgol Mornant's appeal by more intensive promotion in the locality, to not only attract Welsh speaking families but further encourage English speaking parents to take up the benefits of Welsh Medium Education.

In addition, we have already begun and continue to develop the Cylch Meithrin to provide more community activities and attract more parents to the benefits a Welsh medium education can provide in their child's future.

Surely the imminent arrival of the Urdd Eisteddfod in Flint is a golden opportunity to promote Welsh Medium Education throughout **Flintshire**, especially in neglected **North East Rural Flintshire!**

3.2 Federation

The Governors have considered this measure and are open minded about the possibility, they can see a possible benefit in some cost savings whilst still providing and expanding the provision of Welsh Medium education. The Governors have had numerous discussions with the LEA and potential partnerships.

We would like to engage with the LEA and these potential partners in a serious discussion about this possibility, with hard facts and workable scenarios presented, to determine if this is the best way of moving forward.

3.3 Closure

The obvious benefit for FCC in closing Ysgol Mornant is some small cost saving, but this is at a great cost to the **social and emotional wellbeing** of the present pupils with much longer journeys to and from school. We believe it will result in longstanding damage both to the local Welsh Culture and Heritage and also damage to Flintshire County Council's image and commitment to supporting, expanding, and promoting Welsh Medium Education.

There will also certainly be un-quantifiable damages both to the children, and their parents present and future. Some of these have been previously mentioned, such as;

- Inability to attend breakfast club.
- Inability to attend after school activities.
- Inability of parents to attend school functions and become part of the school family.

The consultation document also only seems to consider the present pupils and the availability of places for them at Ysgol Gwenffrwd, what about future siblings? Will there be room for them or will they go to the back of the queue for places based on the distance they live from the school they choose?

What guarantees can FCC give that a parent who chooses Ysgol Y Llys will be able to send future children there, given that the present popularity of the school?

The end result is that future prospective **parents /pupils will more likely choose an English school closer**, and more convenient with better prospects for their sibling's attendance. This will result in the slow death of the Welsh language and culture in this area.

4. Impact of the proposed closure

4.1 Impact on the Welsh language

Given the evidence already submitted, together with the enclosed parental survey we have undertaken, there can be little doubt that there will be both a short and long term negative impacts on the Welsh Language

Please also refer to the attached copy of the letter from **David Hanson, M. P.** (Attachment 1) who also agrees that closing Ysgol Mornant will have a negative impact on the Welsh Language.

The **LEA consultation report and the Welsh Educational Strategic Plan** highlights the danger, parents and future parents may well turn away from Welsh medium education.

We believe that this is highly likely.

4.2 Impact of the proposal on pupils (P58)

There can be little doubt that the proposal will have a **negative** impact on the pupils, some may well thrive in a bigger more competitive environment, however many parents have chosen Ysgol Mornant because of its small family community ethos and fear for their children's ability to cope in a larger unfamiliar atmosphere. It is also acknowledged within the consultation document that closing Ysgol Mornant would have an even greater **negative** impact on pupils with additional learning needs, and vulnerable learners. We agree with this, and suggest that creating extra burdens and challenges to those already struggling to succeed and prosper is unacceptable.

The recent survey of the school council undertaken by LEA points to the fact that many of the children feel they will suffer with the possible closure of Ysgol Mornant and transition to another school. The report states words such as **SAD, DEPRESSED, HEART BROKEN, LONELY, PITIFUL, CONFUSED, WORRIED, FRIGHTENED and UNCOMFORTABLE**. Not one council member had a positive view.

4.3 Impact of the proposal on Parents and guardians.

Many people have chosen to send their children to Ysgol Mornant because of its nearby location, with parents, grandparents and other family members becoming part of the Ysgol Mornant family. In this they offer significant support not only to their children but also to the school. There can be no doubt the shared responsibilities undertaken to support the school will not continue in the same vein, and certainly become more onerous, if it becomes more difficult for them to interact with their children's school.

The negative impact of closing Ysgol Mornant and the resulting impact on parents and guardians is largely ignored in the consultations document.

4.4 Impact of the proposal on Secondary provision (P63, 19.1)

We believe the proposal to close Ysgol Mornant will have a negative impact on the Welsh Medium Secondary schools (Ysgol Maes Garmon and Ysgol Glan Clwyd), in that it is highly likely in the future that parents will opt for the easier route of choosing a much more local English primary thus denying future pupils the opportunity to attend a Welsh Medium High school.

4.5 Transportation Impacts

The consultation report on transport does not give a true picture of the situation on the ground. The transport time to Ysgol Gwenffrwd would greatly extend the school day, with children as young as 5 possibly having to leave the house at 7.30am and not returning to drop off points at bus stops near their home in the region of 4.30pm.

This becomes an 8 hour school day for young children.

Please remember for a school bus to drop off on the correct side of the road at Ysgol Gwenffrwd it would need to circle the town past Tesco etc. possibly adding 5 to 10 minutes to any journey at peak times.

There is no discussion within the consultation document regarding the cost of providing transport to both Ysgol Gwenffrwd and Ysgol Y Llys, almost certainly with buses passing each other in opposite directions.

It is highly possible that a parent from Gronant could choose Ysgol Gwenffrwd whilst a parent from Ffynnongroyw could choose Ysgol Y Llys which would result in the above scenario.

This raises the question as to whether FCC is going to remove parental choice despite making great

play of the alternatives available in the consultation document. Table 2 illustrates the distance between the pupils villages and the distances from both Ysgol Gwenffrwd and Ysgol Y Llys.

Table 2. The following table highlights the transport issues that need much further consideration. (Taken from Google Maps)

Village	No of children	Ysgol Y Llys	Ysgol Gwenffrwd
Trelogan	5	5.83 miles	5.97 miles
Mostyn	3	7.73 miles	5.2 miles
Penyffordd	12	6.39 miles	6.49 miles
Gronant	3	2.51 miles	9.83 miles
Ffynnongroyw	7	5.48 miles	6.49 miles
Llanasa	3	4.6 miles	7.05 miles
Talacre	3	4.66 miles	8.95 miles
Tyn Y Morfa	7	3.66 miles	8.45 miles
Gwespyr	4	4.44 miles	8.16 miles
Trelawnyd	1	4.02 miles	6.68 miles

Also enclosed with this response, is a table of bus pick up times for the present Ysgol Mornant pupils and an estimate from the current transport supplier of times and pickups to travel to Ysgol Gwenffrwd and Ysgol Y Llys It can be seen that using the current route but travelling on to Holywell will result in the children leaving home before 7.25am for 1st pickup in Gronant and travelling the opposite way to Prestatyn they will have to leave home at 7.35 am. (Attachment 2)

This cannot be regarded as a reasonable start and finish to a child's school day.

5. Conclusion.

All the evidence points out, that the best and most sustainable outcome from this misguided and flawed consultation document that Flintshire County Council should retain Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant in its present form, or work with the Governing Body and Staff to promote and support Federation in a timely and orderly manner.

We believe that Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant should be given the same investment in time and support by Flintshire County Council, that has been given to the new Welsh Medium school in Shotton and make Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant a **beacon of Welsh Language and Culture in North East Flintshire for the next 60 years and into the far future as it has been for the past 60 years.**



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 5064
Fax: 020 7219 2671

Our Ref: DH/HR.fcc.ed.s

J C Thompson
The Hermitage
Gwespyr
Holywell
Flintshire

8th July 2015

Thank you very much for your letter, dated 26th June 2015, about Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, and the proposed closure of the School.

As you may know, this matter was to be presented to the County Council Cabinet on the 16th June 2015. I have since written to the County Council, requesting an update, following that meeting. I will keep you informed.

In the meantime, you may wish to submit your concerns to the County Council, as part of the consultation process, which I understand ends on the 19th October 2015.

I, personally, think it is particularly important, however, that the County focus on the fact that for Ysgol Mornant the issue of Welsh language is critical. Many people in the North of Flintshire would either have to send their children out of the County or travel some distance to Holywell to maintain the Welsh language for their children. This is likely to lead, in my view, to a reduced use of Welsh, when Flintshire's own policy is to increase the use of the Welsh.

I have spoken to Cllr Glyn Banks also about this matter. He is the local councillor for the ward, and is now Chairman of the Action Committee.

If you are not involved in the Action Committee, I would be happy to pass your details on to Cllr Banks, should you so wish.

In the meantime, I have forwarded your concerns to Flintshire County Council, as part of the Consultation.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

David Hanson MP
Delyn

Constituency Office:

64 Chester Street, Flint, Flintshire CH6 5DH Tel: 01352 763159 Fax: 01352 730140

E-Mail: david.hanson.mp@parliament.uk www.davidhanson.org.uk

Twitter: David Hanson MP Facebook: David Hanson

A N Andrew Coaches

Tel: 01745 560853 or
07885 251101

Halendy Garage
Rhewl
Mostyn
Flintshire
CH8 9HW

Gronant Estate	7.50 a.m.
Tyn Y Morfa	8.00
Talacre	8.10
Gwespyr	8.20
Tan Lan	8.25
Ffynnongroew	8.30
Llinigar Hill	8.35
Pen Y Ffordd	8.40
Ysgol Mornant	8.45

N.B. Individual stops in each village are not included e.g. Ffynnongroew 3 stops etc. Also note that this route covers some narrow road's that have to be driven with extreme caution and delays (up to 10min's) in the various village's can be frequent due to caravan transporters, farm machinery and articulated scrap wagons etc.

If this route was to include an "existing route" to Ysgol Gwenffrwd, I would estimate the arrival time at the school at 9.10 a.m. due to a large coach having to negotiate Halkyn Street, Fron Park Road and Whitford Street, Holywell to arrive at the school on the correct side of the road.

I have also calculated a route to Ysgol Y Llys, Prestatyn, based on the above pick up point's as follows:

Pen Y Ffordd	7.40 a.m.
Llinigar Hill	7.45
Ffynnongroew	7.50
Tan Lan	7.55
Gwespyr	8.00
Talacre	8.10
Tyn Y Morfa	8.20
Gronant Estate	8.30
Ysgol Y Llys	8.45

1/2

This may not be relevant but we have operated this route at cost price for the last 5 years. Far less that it was worth 10 to 15 years ago.

Hope this is of use.

Yours faithfully



Alun N Andrew

Action Plan in Response to Consultation of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant

The Governing Body have discussed at length the consultation and have identified the following points of action to improve and consolidate Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant provision of Welsh Medium Education.

School Partnership/Federation

After consulting the Robert Hill report – the future delivery of educational services in Wales, WG18518 – Chapter 4, pages 53 to 74, as a Governing Body we feel this is the way forward for Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant and Welsh Medium education.

Contact has been made with four Welsh medium schools, three in Flintshire and one in Denbighshire regarding a working partnership. We are awaiting a response from one Welsh primary school following a Governor's meeting in January. Following several meetings with the Chairman of Ysgol Maes Garmon Governing Body (see letter attachment 1), we feel, this is the most appropriate way forward with reference to the above Robert Hill document. We discussed the continuity of life long learning from the age of 3 to 18. A new Governing body with Ysgol Maes Garmon, would include a "community body" to support and represent Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, which would create a more effective school management and enhance school outcomes.

We would like to request time, guidance and assistance from the LEA to further explore the opportunities and present a detailed plan of partnership with Ysgol Maes Garmon in accordance with the Robert Hill document. This would mean staff restructuring leading to financial savings.

Increasing Pupil Numbers

- Cylch Meithrin Mornant has reduced the age of entry which has already shown an increase in numbers attending Cylch and further interest in attending Ysgol Mornant.
- Greater promotion of the school in the community, through leaflet drops and community events.
- Ongoing enquiries about sponsored transport for Cylch and Nursery children from local industries who already support the Welsh language.
- The Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA), has been re-established to support the children, parents and the community.

Increasing pupil numbers would mean a decrease in pupil costs per head.

Raising School Standards

The Governing Body since the last Estyn Inspection have been working closely with the Head Teacher, staff and LEA to raise school standards. The Governors constantly continue to monitor the schools progress. We recognise there has been significant improvement and we continue to monitor the raising of school standards on a regular basis.

Raising School standards will also raise the schools profile.

School Future

We believe the above actions will consolidate the schools position in the local community and further promote the Welsh language and culture in the future. We are working closely with outside agencies including Mudiad Meithrin, Menter Iaith, Twf and other Welsh language organisations.

We do recognise that this is not a "quick fix" and the planning we are putting in place to raise pupil numbers will take three to five years to implement.

Over the long term these measures taken together with the financial benefits of federation will give the school a long and successful future.

Wrth edrych ymlaen i'r dyfodol, bydd y camau uchod, yn diogelu addysg cyfrwng cymraeg yn Ysgol Mornant a'r gymuned am flynyddoedd i ddod.

School Modernisation: Review of Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr-Picton

Consultation response – Ysgol Maes Garmon

While we understand the rationale for FCC's policy of school review, and accept that the policy must apply to all schools that trigger a review, it is unfortunate, to say the least, that a Welsh medium school should find itself in this situation at a time when both Welsh Government, through its Welsh Education policy, and FCC, through its consequential Welsh Education Strategic Plan, are seeking to extend and develop Welsh medium education (cf. para. 13.4) – as evidenced by the recent opening of Ysgol Croes Atti @ Glannau Dyfrdwy.

As governors of Flintshire's only Welsh-medium High School, we are concerned at the likely impact of closure on the Welsh language, in what is, at 22.9%, the pre-eminent Welsh-speaking area in the county. As the consultation document recognises, the risk is that, if Ysgol Mornant is closed, parents will opt to send their children to the nearest school – which in almost all cases would be an English-medium school. This accords with recent research in the Shotton area, where a significant proportion (some 30%) of parents indicated that they would choose Welsh medium education for their child **provided it were available locally**. Clearly, and understandably, the primary concern for parents of nursery-age children is that their school should be as close as possible to their home. Given that only 6.25% of current pupils speak Welsh at home, the role of the school in maintaining and developing their linguistic capacity is clearly crucial.

While the viability or otherwise of a school is ultimately a matter for the community it serves, we should wish to do whatever we can to support Welsh-medium provision across the county, and would be willing to engage in further discussion with governors of Ysgol Mornant and LA officers to explore ways in which Welsh-medium provision could be sustained in the area, and what support we could offer to achieve this.

D. M. Hýtch

Chair of Governors, Ysgol Maes Garmon



Re: Governors Response Documentation 
21stCenturySchools to: Ysgol Mornant
Sent by: Jennie Williams

23/12/2015 11:25

Good Morning Sarah

I can confirm we have received the documents sent at 23/12/2015

We will ensure that all responses during the consultation period are shared with Councillors. We will also produce a public statutory consultation report identifying key issues raised and the Council's response to those issues.

The consultation report will be made available on the website and available in hard copy of request.

Kind Regards

Jennie

School Modernisation Team/Y Tim Moderneiddio Ysgolion
County Hall/Neuadd y Sir
Mold/Yr Wyddgrug
Flintshire/Sir y Fflint
CH7 6ND
Tel/Ffon: 01352 704015

email/e-bost: 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

Ysgol Mornant

From: Ysgol Mornant/School/LifelongLearning/Fli...

23/12/2015 10:54:35

From: Ysgol Mornant/School/LifelongLearning/Flintshire/GB
To: 21stCenturySchools@Flintshire,
Date: 23/12/2015 10:54
Subject: Governors Response Documentation

[attachment "Attachments for Response.pdf" deleted by Jennie Williams/LifelongLearning/Flintshire/GB] [attachment "Response with Action Plan PDF.pdf" deleted by Jennie Williams/LifelongLearning/Flintshire/GB]

RECEIVED
22 DEC 2015

Tim Moderneiddio Ysgolion
Cyngor Sir y Fflint
Neuadd y Sir
Yr Wyddgrug
Sir y Fflint
CH7 6ND
Rhagfyr 16eg, 2015

Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenffrwd
Stryd Chwitffordd
Treffynnon
Sir y Fflint
CH8 7NJ

Annwyl Swyddogion,

Rydym yn ysgrifennu atoch mewn ymateb i'r ddogfen ymgynghori ffurffiol ar y cynnig i gau Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton.

Fel staff, rydym wedi syfrdanu bod syniad o'r fath yn cael ei gynnig eto, ac hynny o fewn sir sydd ag un o'r canrannau isaf o ddysgwyr sydd yn derbyn addysg drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yng Nghymru. Yn ogystal â hynny, dyma'r trydydd tro o fewn y 5 mlynedd diwethaf ceir fygythiad i ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg yn Sir y Fflint.

Drwy gau Ysgol Mornant, bydd rhieni yr ardal yn naturiol yn dewis anfon eu plant i ysgolion cyfagos a fydd, mwy na thebyg, yn ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg, yn hytrach na theithio dros 5 milltir i'r ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg cyfagos. Bydd colli addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn yr ardal hon yn golygu gostyngiad yn y nifer o blant sydd yn medru yr iaith Gymraeg yn Sir y Fflint. Dyma golled mewn niferoedd na all ein sir ganiatáu pe baent eisiau cyrraedd targedau Llywodraeth Cymru.

Mae'r bygythiad diweddar yn cwestiynu unwaith eto eich gweledigaeth a'ch agwedd tuag at addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Gweler bod yr ymgynghoriad diweddar yn digwydd ers sefydlu y grŵp strategaeth addysg Cymraeg, sef y grŵp roedden ni fel staff yn gobeithio oedd yn mynd i hybu a chefnogi addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y Sir o'r diwedd. Fel staff, rydym yn cyd-weithio yn agos iawn fel clwstwr o ysgolion ac mae bygythiad i un o'n hysgolion yn fygythiad i ni gyd.

Os oes gan Sir y Fflint unrhyw weledigaeth tuag at addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg, rhaid cadw Ysgol Mornant ar agor. Mae'n hen bryd i ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg Sir y Fflint dderbyn y buddsoddiad a'r gefnogaeth rydym yn ei haeddu. Ni fyddem yn y sefyllfa yma unwaith eto pe bai hyn yn wir. Trist hefyd yw nodi bod yr ymgynghoriad yma yn digwydd ar drothwy ein cyfnod o groesawu Eisteddfod yr Urdd i Sir y Fflint. Sut allwn ni fel staff edrych ymlaen at groesawu'r ŵyl arbennig gyda fath gwmwl uwch ein pennau?

Felly, swyddogion a chynghorwyr Sir y Fflint, dyma eich cyfle i ddangos eich gweledigaeth a chefnogaeth i ni fel staff drwy gadw Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant ar agor.

Yn gywir,



Andrew Evans

ar ran Staff Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenffrwd,
Treffynnon.

School Modernisation Team
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
Flintshire
CH7 6ND
16 December 2015

Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenffrwd
Whitford Street
Holywell
Flintshire
CH8 7NJ

Dear Officers,

We write to you in response to the formal consultation document on the proposal to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton.

As staff, we are stunned that such an idea is being proposed again, within a county with one of the lowest percentages of learners receiving their education through the medium of Welsh in Wales. In addition, this is the third time in the last 5 years that a Welsh medium school in Flintshire has faced threat.

Closing Ysgol Mornant would mean that the area's parents would naturally choose to send their children to nearby schools which are more than likely to be English medium schools, rather than travelling over 5 miles to the nearest Welsh medium school. Losing Welsh medium education in this area will lead to a reduction in the number of children who are able to speak Welsh in Flintshire. This will be a loss in numbers that our county cannot allow if it is to reach the Welsh Government targets.

The recent threat questions once again your vision and your attitude towards Welsh medium education. The recent consultation has been held since establishing a Welsh education strategy group, which we as staff were hoping at last would promote and support Welsh medium education in the County. As staff, we collaborate closely as a cluster of schools and a threat to one of our schools is a threat to all of us.

If Flintshire has any vision towards Welsh medium education, Ysgol Mornant must remain open. It is about time that Flintshire Welsh medium schools receive the investment and support we deserve. We would not be in this situation once again if that was true. It is also sad to note that this consultation is being held just as we approach the period where we welcome the Urdd Eisteddfod to Flintshire. How can we as staff look forward to welcoming this special festival with such a cloud over our heads?

So, officers and councillors of Flintshire, this is your opportunity to show your vision and support to us as staff by keeping Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant open.

Yours truly,

On behalf of Ysgol Gwenffrwd staff,
Holywell.



Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant
21stCenturySchools to: Ysgol Gwenffrwd
Sent by: Jennie Williams
Bcc: Sarah Thomas

12/01/2016 15:17

Pnawn Da

Diolch am eich llythyr. Mae hyn yn gydnabyddiaeth o dderbyn eich gohebiaeth.

Byddwn yn sicrhau bod pob ymateb yn ystod y cyfnod ymgynghori yn cael eu rhannu gyda Chynghorwyr. Byddwn hefyd yn cynhyrchu adroddiad ymgynghori statudol cyhoeddus yn nodi materion allweddol a godwyd ac ymateb y Cyngor i'r materion hynny.

Bydd yr adroddiad ymgynghori ar gael ar y wefan ac ar gael mewn copi caled ar gais.

Cofion cynnes

Jennie

Good Afternoon

Thank you for your letter. This is acknowledgement of receipt of your correspondence.

We will ensure that all responses during the consultation period are shared with Councillors. We will also produce a public statutory consultation report identifying key issues raised and the Council's response to those issues.

The consultation report will be made available on the website and available in hard copy of request.

Kind Regards

Jennie

School Modernisation Team/Y Tim Moderneiddio Ysgolion
County Hall/Neuadd y Sir
Mold/Yr Wyddgrug
Flintshire/Sir y Fflint
CH7 6ND
Tel/Ffon: 01352 704015/4134

email/e-bost: 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

School Modernisation: Review of Ysgol Mornant, Gwespyr-Picton

Consultation response – Ysgol Maes Garmon

While we understand the rationale for FCC's policy of school review, and accept that the policy must apply to all schools that trigger a review, it is unfortunate, to say the least, that a Welsh medium school should find itself in this situation at a time when both Welsh Government, through its Welsh Education policy, and FCC, through its consequential Welsh Education Strategic Plan, are seeking to extend and develop Welsh medium education (cf. para. 13.4) – as evidenced by the recent opening of Ysgol Croes Atti @ Glannau Dyfrdwy.

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D. M. Hÿtch

Chair of Governors, Ysgol Maes Garmon



Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton Consultation

21stCenturySchools to: David Hytch

Sent by: Jennie Williams

Cc: Sarah Thomas

06/01/2016 14:05

Good Afternoon David

Thank you for your email and letter. This is acknowledgement of receipt of your correspondence.

We will ensure that all responses during the consultation period are shared with Councillors. We will also produce a public statutory consultation report identifying key issues raised and the Council's response to those issues.

The consultation report will be made available on the website and available in hard copy of request.

Kind Regards

Jennie

Pnawn Da David

Diolch am eich e-bost a llythyr. Mae hyn yn gydnabyddiaeth o dderbyn eich gohebiaeth.

Byddwn yn sicrhau bod pob ymateb yn ystod y cyfnod ymgynghori yn cael eu rhannu gyda Chynghorwyr. Byddwn hefyd yn cynhyrchu adroddiad ymgynghori statudol cyhoeddus yn nodi materion allweddol a godwyd ac ymateb y Cyngor i'r materion hynny.

Bydd yr adroddiad ymgynghori ar gael ar y wefan ac ar gael mewn copi caled ar gais.

Cofion cynnes

Jennie

From: David Hytch <DHytch@n-wales.atl.org.uk>
To: "ian.budd@flintshire.gov.uk" <ian.budd@flintshire.gov.uk>, "damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk" <damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk>,
Date: 19/12/2015 15:00
Subject: Ysgol Mornant

Dear Ian/Damian,

Please find attached a statement on behalf of Ysgol Maes Garmon governors, to be read in conjunction with my response to the consultation.

With best wishes for Christmas,

David

Moved house? Changed jobs? Update your details at www.atl.org.uk/update or email membership@atl.org.uk

ATL Confidentiality Note

If you are the recipient of this communication please be aware that this communication contains information that is confidential and may also be legally privileged. It is for the exclusive use of the intended recipient(s). If you are the

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School Modernisation Team/Y Tim Moderneiddio Ysgolion
County Hall/Neuadd y Sir
Mold/Yr Wyddgrug
Flintshire/Sir y Fflint
CH7 6ND
Tel/Ffon: 01352 704015

email/e-bost: 21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk



Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton
21stCenturySchools to: dafyddiwan
Sent by: Jennie Williams
Cc: Sarah Thomas

06/01/2016 10:25

Bore Da Dafydd

Diolch am eich e-bost. Mae hyn yn gydnabyddiaeth o dderbyn eich gohebiaeth.

Byddwn yn sicrhau bod pob ymateb yn ystod y cyfnod ymgynghori yn cael eu rhannu gyda Chynghorwyr. Byddwn hefyd yn cynhyrchu adroddiad ymgynghori statudol cyhoeddus yn nodi materion allweddol a godwyd ac ymateb y Cyngor i'r materion hynny.

Bydd yr adroddiad ymgynghori ar gael ar y wefan ac ar gael mewn copi caled ar gais.

Cofion cynnes

Jennie

Good Morning Dafydd

Thank you for your email. This is acknowledgement of receipt of your correspondence.

We will ensure that all responses during the consultation period are shared with Councillors. We will also produce a public statutory consultation report identifying key issues raised and the Council's response to those issues.

The consultation report will be made available on the website and available in hard copy of request.

Kind Regards

Jennie

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Annwyl Mr Budd,

Ysgrifennaf ar ran llywodraethwyr Ysgol Terrig, Treuddyn i wrthwynebu'r ymgynghoriad presennol ar gau arfaethedig Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant Picton er gwaethaf pob addewid a wnaed i'r gwrthwyneb yn ystod y blynyddoedd diweddar. Mae Cynllun Strategol Addysg Gymraeg 2014-2017 y cyngor yn cyfeirio'n glir at annog ac ehangu'r ddarpariaeth addysg Gymraeg yn ein sir. Mae cau un o'r pum ysgol Gymraeg yn amlwg yn gwbl groes i'r bwriad hwnnw. Yn ein barn ni mae'r argymhelliad yma'n anghydnaws ag ymrwymiad y cyngor i hyrwyddo'r Gymraeg.

Yn ein barn ni mi fydd unrhyw ymdrechion i hyrwyddo'r Gymraeg mewn ysgol Saesneg yn fethiant llwyr oherwydd na fydd yr iaith leiafrifol yn derbyn y sylw angenrheidiol. Nid oes unrhyw bosibilrwydd y bydd ysgol Saesneg yn medru cynnig darpariaeth gystal

ag ysgol Gymraeg fel Mornant.

Byddai cau'r unig ysgol Gymraeg yng ngogledd y sir yn ergyd ofnadwy i'r iaith ac i ddiwylliant yr ardal, gan amddifadu Cymry Cymraeg, Cymry di-Gymraeg a mewnfudwyr sydd o blaid yr iaith o'r cyfle i gynnig y Gymraeg i'w plant. Mae'r argymhelliad yma'n gwbl groes i feddylfryd a chanllawiau Llywodraeth Cymru. Dim ond pum ysgol gynradd Gymraeg sydd yn Sir y Fflint ar hyn o bryd. Nid oes unrhyw gyfiawnhad i gau'r un ohonynt; i'r gwrthwyneb, dylid bod yn agor mwy.

Mae darpariaeth addysg Gymraeg o Fôn i Fynwy'n rhan ganolog o gynllun strategol Llywodraeth Cymru, a phob un o'i pholisïau. Ni ddylid gwadu neb yng Nghymru rhag manteisio ar addysg Gymraeg. Dyma'n union yr hyn sy'n mynd i ddigwydd os ydi Cyngor Sir y Fflint yn cau drysau Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant.

I write on behalf of the governors of Ysgol Terrig, Treuddyn to object to the current consultation regarding the proposed closure of Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant Picton, in spite of all the undertakings to the contrary made by the Council in recent years. The 'Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for Flintshire 2014-2017' makes a very clear case for encouraging and expanding Welsh-medium education in Flintshire, which clearly goes against the proposed closure of one of what is only five Welsh-medium primary schools in Flintshire. Our firm view is that this proposal is in direct contradiction to the commitment made by Flintshire County Council to promote the Welsh language.

Any attempt to promote the Welsh language within the confines of an English-medium school is doomed to failure in our view, with the inevitable dilution of a minority language that would result from such a proposition. How can an English-medium school possibly accommodate the Welsh language – its traditions and heritage – to anything approaching the degree to which this is achieved in a Welsh-medium school such as Mornant?

The closing of the only Welsh-medium school in north Flintshire would be a catastrophic blow to the Welsh language and culture in the area and deprive parents of access to Welsh-medium primary education within the child's community. Flintshire County Council's proposal will be in complete opposition to Llywodraeth Cymru's Strategic Plan for Welsh education. In what way is the local authority strengthening the provision of Welsh-medium education by closing 20% of the County's Welsh-medium primary schools?

The provision of Welsh-medium education in all parts of Wales is an integral part of the Strategic Plan and of all Welsh Assembly Government policies. No one in Wales should be denied the opportunity to access Welsh medium education, and yet this is precisely what Flintshire County Council is proposing to do in closing Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant.

Yn Gywir/ Yours,

Dafydd I. Roberts

Cadeirydd/Chairman,

Llywodraethwyr Ysgol Terrig Governors.

Estyn response to the proposal to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton from 31st of August 2016 with existing pupils transferring to other Welsh medium schools in the local area, subject to parental preference.

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

The proposal is by Flintshire County Council.

The proposal is to close Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton from 31st of August 2016 with existing pupils transferring to other Welsh medium schools in the local area, subject to parental preference.

Summary/ Conclusion

It is likely that the current proposal will at least maintain education provision and outcomes for pupils in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer has set out a clear and very detailed rationale for the proposal. The proposal is set appropriately in context of the council's revised school modernisation strategy, particularly in relation to its objectives in addressing the challenges faced by small schools and the comparatively high numbers of unfilled places within the council. The proposer provides a useful summary of the challenges and triggers that lead the council to making this proposal. It identifies the majority of the school's pupil places as surplus and the proposal appropriately places this information in the wider context of the council's challenges around sustaining high quality education during a period of significant austerity.

The proposer clearly outlines the principal benefits and disadvantages of the proposal. They reasonably state that the reduction in surplus places and the associated savings would result in a more efficient use of resources for teaching and

learning across the council. Appropriately, the proposal claims this will improve the quality of Welsh medium education in the area and protect pupils across Flintshire from reduced resources.

The proposal provides a suitably detailed analysis of how the change will affect surplus places. It provides useful and clear data to demonstrate that over half of the places at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant are currently surplus and these are predicted to rise to over 70% in the next five years. This would only reduce to 40%, in the current year, if the school's full-time admissions capacity was reduced, thereby still triggering a review within its school modernisation strategy. It would appear that the two nearest Welsh-medium schools have enough surplus places and gradually increasing pupil projections to provide suitable alternative provision for pupils at Ysgol Gymrag Mornant.

The proposal fairly identifies three disadvantages and provides a comprehensive summary of the measures the council will need to make to minimise their impact on pupil travel times, staff redeployment or redundancies and the local community. Detailed consultation and impact assessment documents provide important information to support the proposal's risk management statements. Firstly, to reduce the proposal's negative impact on travel times, the proposer reasonably states that the council's school transport policy would provide free transport to all pupils required to travel further to school as all travel times fall within the Welsh Government Transport Measure. Secondly, the proposer correctly identifies that the council will need to support and work with the current members of staff at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton, should they wish to seek redeployment or retirement opportunities. It raises the possibility of staff redeployment within the local primary network. The proposal reasonably refers the governing body of the school to its own organisational change and redundancy policy, which will apply to all staff directly implicated in the proposal.

Finally, the council acknowledges the impact the proposal may have on the local community. The supporting Community Impact Assessment document provides an open and honest analysis of the positive, neutral and negative potential and residual impact on families and the local community.

The proposer has carefully considered and clearly summarised the advantages and disadvantages of three alternatives to the proposal. Option 1 and 3 refer to retaining the status quo and closure, which the proposer properly considers in earlier sections of the document. The proposal suggests that the disadvantages of option 2, to federate two or more schools, outweigh the advantages and do not address the existing challenges of surplus places, pupils taught in mixed aged classes of more than two age ranges and the reduced cost effectiveness of financing and resourcing two or more schools.

The proposal has considered in detail the likely impact of each option on Welsh medium provision in the local authority. It is fair in pointing out, that the closure of the school may result in parents and pupils choosing an English medium school nearer to their home. This may reduce the numbers of pupils taught and assessed through the medium of Welsh. However, it reasonably suggests that parents and pupils who are committed to continuing to receive a Welsh-medium education may choose another Welsh-medium school accordingly.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposal thoroughly considers the potential impact on pupils with additional learning needs. This includes useful information about the level of need in the three schools implicated in the proposal and the recent inspection evaluations about the quality of their provision for additional learning needs. It appropriately recognises that a change in learning environment could be more challenging for pupils that are more vulnerable and provides clear assurances about how the council and schools will support them. Importantly, the proposer states that, for pupils with needs that require physical adaptations to be made to the learning environment, the council will 'work closely with parents/carers and other relevant professionals to secure a smooth transition'.

The proposer reasonably asserts that the proposal will at least maintain education provision and outcomes for pupils in the area. It makes good use of the outcomes of recent inspection reports for Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant and the nearest Welsh-medium schools to support its view that the proposal will benefit pupil outcomes, provision and leadership and management. The proposal makes effective use of performance data for each school. It appropriately acknowledges that year on year comparisons of performance data in a small school is statistically unreliable. However, it reasonably suggests that the current pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant would benefit from provision in alternative schools where pupils achieve standards generally higher than the local and national averages.

The proposer properly refers to Estyn's report on 'School size and educational effectiveness' to justify its argument that the constraint on resources, in a small school, provides challenges for curriculum delivery. Therefore, it is acceptable for the proposer to state that the changes will not negatively affect the quality of pupils' learning experiences. The proposal reasonably suggests that larger alternative schools are able to provide leadership teams that are able to provide effective staff development to deliver the curriculum well.

The proposal identifies a limited number of factors, which may negatively affect learners and provides the assurance that the council will plan appropriate transition arrangements to mitigate these. The proposal sets out in detail the implications for pupils' travel times and its commitment to providing free transport for pupils where appropriate.

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<p align="center">Revised (November 2015) Anticipated Timetable for Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton Statutory Proposals Amserlen arfaethedig ddiwygiedig (Tachwedd 2015) i ymdrin â'r cynigion statudol ar gyfer Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant, Picton</p>		
DATES	School Terms	KEY MILESTONES
13/5/2015	Spring 2015 Gwanwyn 2015	Project Board approve shortlisted Primary Schools Bwrdd y Prosiect yn cymeradwyo rhestr fer o ysgolion cynradd
16/6/2015	Summer 2015 Haf 2015	Cabinet approval obtained to commence consultation Y Cabinet yn cymeradwyo cynnig i ddechrau'r ymgynghoriad
Start/Dechrau 14/5/2015 finish/ Gorffen 21/10/2015	Spring/Summer Term 2015 Gwanwyn/Haf 2015	Preparation of Impact Assessments: Transport, Equality, Welsh Language, Buildings fit for purpose, Community Paratoi asesiadau o effaith: Cludiant, Cydraddoldeb, y Gymraeg, Adeiladu'n Addas i'r Diben, y Gymuned
Start/Dechrau 14/5/2015 finish/Gorffen 21/10/2015	Spring/Summer Term 2015 Gwanwyn/Haf 2015	Preparation of Consultation document (including young person's version) Paratoi'r ddogfen ymgynghori (gan gynnwys fersiwn i bobl ifanc)
Start/Dechrau 11/11/2015 Finish/Gorffen 23/12/2015	Autumn/Winter Term 2015 Hydref / Gaeaf 2015	Consultation document published Must be published on a school day (42 days with 20 school days) Cyhoeddi'r ddogfen ymgynghori Rhaid ei chyhoeddi ar ddiwrnod ysgol (42 diwrnod a 20 diwrnod ysgol)
27/11/2015	Winter Term 2015 Gaeaf 2015	School Council Children's Consultation Ymgynghori â disgyblion y Cyngor Ysgol
7/12/2015	Winter Term 2015 Gaeaf 2015	Governors/Teachers and Support Staff Consultation Event Cyfarfod Ymgynghori â'r Llywodraethwyr/Athrawon/ Staff Cymorth

7/12/2015	Winter Term 2015 Gaeaf 2015	Parents/Carers/Guardian Consultation Event Cyfarfod ymgynghori â Rhieni/Gofalwyr/Gwarcheidwaid
Between 11/11/2015 and 23/12/2015 Rhng 11/11/2015 a 23/12/2015	Autumn/Winter Term 2015 Hydref/Gaeaf 2015	School Council Children's Consultation with nearby affected Primary Schools Disgyblion y Cyngor Ysgol i ymgynghori â'r ysgolion cynradd perthnasol cyfagos
Between 11/11/2015 and 23/12/2015 Rhng 11/11/2015 a 23/12/2015	Autumn/Winter Term 2015 Hydref/Gaeaf 2015	Meeting with Headteachers and Chair of Governors with nearby affected Primary Schools Cyfarfod â Phenaethiaid a Chadeiryddion Cyrff Llywodraethu'r ysgolion cynradd perthnasol cyfagos
Deadline 23/12/2015 Dyddiad cau 23/12/2015	Winter Term 2015 Gaeaf 2015	Consultation Ends Diwedd yr ymgynghoriad
Deadline by 27/1/2016 Dyddiad cau 27/1/2016	Winter Term 2016 Gaeaf 2015	Consultation Report must be published within 3 months Rhaid cyhoeddi'r adroddiad ymgynghori cyn pen 3 mis
16/2/2016	Winter Term 2016 Gaeaf 2015	Cabinet – Seeking Approval to go to next phase (Statutory Proposals) Cabinet – ceisio cymeradwyaeth i symud ymlaen i'r cam nesaf (cynigion statudol)
Start/Dechrau 26/2/2016 Finish/Gorffen 25/3/2016	Spring Term 2016 Gwanwyn 2016	Statutory Notice (28 days, with 15 school days) Must be issued on a school day Hysbysiad Statudol (28 diwrnod, a 15 diwrnod ysgol) Rhaid ei gyhoeddi ar ddiwrnod ysgol
Deadline 25/3/2016 Dyddiad cau 25/3/2016	Spring Term 2016 Gwanwyn 2016	End of Objection Period Diwedd y cyfnod gwrthwynebu
Deadline 25/3/2016 – 22/4/2016 Dyddiad cau	Spring Term 2016 Gwanwyn 2016	Objection Report published within 28 days and with Cabinet with 35 days Cyhoeddi Adroddiad Gwrthwynebu cyn

25/3/2016 – 22/4/2016		pen 28 diwrnod, ac yn y Cabinet am 35 diwrnod
17/5/2016	Spring Term 2016 Gwanwyn 2016	Cabinet Decision Penderfyniad y Cabinet
April - May 2016 (latest) Ebrill - Mai 2016 (diweddaraf)	Spring Term 2016 Gwanwyn 2016	Workforce Collective Consultation Ymgynghori â'r gweithlu cyfan
May 2016 Mai 2016	Spring Term 2016 Gwanwyn 2016	Individual HR Consultation with Teachers/Staff Ymgynghori ag athrawon/gweithwyr unigol
31/08/2016	Autumn 2016 Hydref 2016	Implementation of School Closure Gweithredu'r penderfyniad i gau'r ysgol

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 16 February, 2016
Report Subject	The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Social Services
Report Author	Chief Officer (Social Services)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act, comes into force on the 6th April 2016, when the formal implantation period for this new legislation will begin. The majority of regulations and codes of practice have now been consulted upon and we are at the final stages of this post legislative process.

The Act will provide us with a legal framework for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and their carers, and will play a critical role in transforming how we deliver services over the next two years.

The process of implementation will take a phased approach which will be built on a foundation of training and cultural development. In Flintshire, we are working collaboratively to support the development and implementation of regional training plans which are aligned to the national learning and development strategy. We are making sound progress in transforming and modernising our services in preparation for the delivery of the Act, building key mechanisms into our practice and processes which are centered upon the key principles of the Act, such as the What Matters Assessment, SPoA Programme and linking to the new regional DEWIS Portal.

It has been outlined by the Minister for Health and Social Services that training and cultural change is vital to the success of the Act for not only those working in social care but also for practitioners in the whole local authority, health, housing and any other fields that can contribute to the well-being of people in Wales.

It is acknowledged that these changes will require years of continued work and commitment and there are key areas in which as a “whole council” we must consider as we move forward, for example:

- Learning how to share power with citizens – as a key step for **Voice and Control**
- Learning how to reduce wasteful bureaucracy and to focus resources on what matters to people – as a key step for **Outcomes**
- Learning how to trust each other (from side to side and from top to bottom) – as a key step for **Partnership**

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet approves the Council's preparation and response to the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
2	Cabinet receives a further report in 6 months to report on the progress to implement actions in response to the Act.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE PROGRESS OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING (WALES) ACT 2014 AND THE KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
1.01	<p>The purpose of this report is to ensure that elected members are kept informed about fundamental changes in the policy and legislative framework which underpins the work of the local authority.</p> <p>The report has previously been presented to Social and Health Care Overview and Scrutiny on the 17th December, 2015</p>
1.02	<p>The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act, comes into force on the 6th April 2016. Flintshire has responded and presented the views of the Authority on Parts 2 to 11 of the Act during the formal consultation period. On completion of the formal consultations referenced above, the following key proposed changes are to be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating proportionate and accessible assessments to establish people's needs and are eligible for support. <i>(This links to the "What Matters Assessment" and the "Integrated Assessment" already in place and being further developed in Flintshire Adult Services together with the Single Assessment currently being developed for Children's Services).</i> • Carers will be treated in the same way as persons in need of care and support. The Act removes the requirement that a carer must be providing "a substantial amount of care on a regular basis" before they can be assessed; instead it places a single duty on local authorities to undertake carers assessments. <i>(Flintshire has collaborated regionally with providers and local</i>

authorities to review the Carers Assessment in line with the Act and has further supported in the development of SPoA Operative - Guidance for Carers).

- *Assessments will focus on the outcomes people want to achieve, promoting independence and control. (Flintshire is working co-productively with providers in a number of areas to establish new outcomes focused services, this is a way of ensuring internal and external assessments focus on what really matters to the people in our communities. Flintshire has been part of the SSIA (Social Services Improvement Agency) pilot to change the way we engage with services users and their families. The Outcome Focused Framework training has been delivered to 57 front line Social Workers and OTs in Adult Services and their respective Team Managers and our reporting systems now reflect this Outcome Focused approach.)*
- *There will be a duty for Local Authorities and LA partners to provide information, advice and assistance to help people understand how the care and support system works, what services are available locally, and how to access the services. (Flintshire is working closely with the SPoA regional programme and the DEWIS Information Portal to ensure we are making it easier for people to access relevant up to date information)*
- *The Introduction of a portable assessment of need so that if people move from one local authority area to another, they will still be entitled to similar services until the new authority can review their situation. Carers are exempt from this portability, primarily because services are generally provided to the person they look after. (Flintshire currently has a procedure in place which is in line with the Act and as part of the Act training programme this procedure will be highlighted.)*
- *The creation of National Independent Safeguarding Board. (The National Independent Safeguarding Board is currently being developed and will work alongside the regional Safeguarding Adults' and Safeguarding Children's Boards to secure improvements in safeguarding policy and practice throughout Wales).*
- *A new national eligibility framework, meaning the level at which people are entitled to receive support from social services will be consistent across Wales. (Flintshire expressed the view during the consultation that the referenced 'can and can only test' was potentially misleading or could be misunderstood, the phrase "can and can only" has been removed from the code of practice. Flintshire's view is that messages around eligibility will be linked to the capacity building of the care economy and not to gate-keeping).*
- *Extended duties on social services and their partners to collaborate in the delivery of integrated services, including the use of pooled budgets, partnership working and working with*

	<p>others to reduce bureaucracy. <i>(Flintshire is working with partners to establish the regional partnership board which is aligned strongly to the Act and will be responsible for a number of key areas, for example the joint population needs assessment)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New provisions for 'Adult Safeguarding.' Local Authorities can now make enquiries where there is suspected risk and also apply to the court for 'Adult protection & support orders'. <i>(Flintshire is awaiting some further legal clarity with regard to this section of the Act prior to the review of the implementation. The training strategy moving forward will set a specific module on this area)</i> • There will be a greater focus on preventative services. <i>(Flintshire is developing its commissioning plans with the third sector in response to this section of the Act and has begun the process of restructuring children's services prioritising preventative provision).</i> • Charging for services, including preventative services and for the provision of information, advice and assistance. <i>(Flintshire has stated it has no intention of charging for these specific areas. Social services departments have begun reviewing other areas of charging at present).</i>
1.03	<p>The core principles of The Act remain:</p> <p>The Act is about everything and everyone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People and communities should be seen as assets & strengths • Social networks are really important • We are all assets with contributions to make • Everything around us, from leisure to work, is a well-being resource <p>The Act is about identifying solutions together:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is about all of us and how we can support each other • Co-production (power-sharing) between citizens and professionals • Collaboration and co-operation - not competition <p>The Act is about putting citizens and communities centre-stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focusing on what matters to the person and their network • Valuing and nurturing community resources • Preventing unnecessary dependency on the state
1.04	<p>The Key Messages of the Act are:</p> <p>We Value the Core Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to build community and social capital • Preventative services are much more than commissioned services • Currently there is unused and undervalued capacity

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People and organisations want to contribute • The third sector is a huge resource of citizen assets <p>We value all participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are all stakeholders in the change. • All organisations can promote the messages of change, thus supporting implementation. • We need to identify champions throughout organisations and in the community to promote understanding and awareness • Working together, we can help build momentum and breakdown us-and-them barriers.
1.05	<p>The key working implications of the Act are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce pressure on finite state resources • Avoid citizens being pulled upwards towards acute provision • Use state resources positively: • Capacity building • Specialist assistance • Promoting well-being outcomes
1.06	<p>Flintshire’s progress in response to the Act</p> <p>Flintshire is working collaboratively with the other North Wales authorities to deliver a national training programme commissioned by Care Council for Wales. We have already delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Awareness training open to all staff • An Introduction to the Act for Social Workers, OTs and Managers • Strategic Awareness and Implementation Training for Directors / Chief Officers and Heads of Service / Senior Managers • Members Training • Together with the promotion of support material available to all through the care Council for Wales “Getting in on the Act” learning hub <p>Starting in February ’16 we will be delivering classroom sessions on the 4 core modules of the national training programme:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction and General Function – a general oversight of the Act 2. Assessing and Meeting the Need – detailing the new eligibility criteria 3. Safeguarding – delivered to both Adults and Children’s Services staff 4. Looked After Children <p>In Flintshire we scheduled to deliver over a 100 workshops during the next 12 months as well as a series of Reflective Practice sessions which will give front line professional the opportunity to share knowledge gained to reach solutions to practical questions regarding the legislative changes.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>The Welsh Government has provided some financial support to the 6 regional implementation collaboratives for the past 3 years, through the Delivering Transformation Grant in an effort to enable capacity for implementation planning and preparations to deliver the new duties contained within the Act from 6 April 2016. Each regional collaborative is developing detailed implementation plans, working together, with the support of the Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru and the Welsh Local Government Association to ensure consistent national approaches in key delivery areas.</p> <p>The key resource implication beyond implementation and training costs is the cost which the Act has in part been developed to manage and that it the rising cost of need, which cannot easily be met with finite state funds. It is important that we embrace this financial reality and newly renew our focus on how the Act will support the positive development of new more sustainable ways of providing services and better enabling citizens and communities to help themselves, with professionals as enablers and partners.</p>

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Staff and relevant third Sector partners have support Flintshire in developing formal responses to the national consultations.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Key risks and mitigation measures are managed by the Social Services Programme Board.
4.02	The intention of this Act is to promote Equality. If the Act is successful, then a number of provisions (see above) when implemented will have a positive impact on equalities. However, there are concerns that local authorities will need to be mindful of Equality matters when undertaking population needs assessments.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	N/A

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>SSWB Overview EN Draft</p> <p>Care Council for Wales – Getting In On The Act Learning Hub</p>

<http://www.ccwales.org.uk/getting-in-on-the-act-hub/>

The DEWIS Portal - <http://www.dewis.wales/>

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7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Adult Protection & Support Orders The introduction of an Adult Protection and Support Order supports professionals to be able to gain access to premises in order to make an assessment to determine whether an adult alleged to be at risk is making decisions freely and if any action is required
7.02	Can and Can Only Test As part of the Welsh Governments National Eligibility Criteria, Under the new framework , people will become eligible for a care and support package if their needs ‘can and can only’ be met by social services intervention. – This Test has now been removed.
7.03	Coproduction Coproduction is a key principle highlighted within the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act and is defined as not just a word, it’s not just a concept, it is a meeting of minds coming together to find a shared solution. In practice, it involves services and people who use them being consulted, included and working together from the start to the end of any project that affects them.
7.04	Core Economy Is the economy of family, neighbourhood, kith and kin. Recently more and more economists acknowledge that something like 40-50% of productive economic activity takes place outside of the market and is not measured by traditional indicators but instead the key contributions are none financial and are made in communities and with local assets.
7.05	DEWIS Portal <u>A new website</u> providing information on wellbeing in North Wales has launched, offering information on sources of advice and support. DEWIS Cymru also offers advice to local authorities about their obligations under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act.
7.06	Integrated Assessments A new assessment process developed for Adults Social Services which simplifies the assessment process to minimise administrative burdens and

	improve service delivery. Currently being developed in Flintshire.
7.07	<p>SPoA - Single Point of Access</p> <p>Joint first point of contact system for Adults Health and Social Care Services, providing information and advice and referral and assessment. Currently being developed across North Wales.</p>
7.08	<p>What Matters Assessment</p> <p>New early assessment, which is undertaken at the first point of contact with services. The assessment is proportionate, accessible and has been developed in line with person centred practice models. It uncovers what the person actually wants and avoids citizens being pulled upwards towards acute provision</p>



CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 16 February 2016
Report Subject	Report back from the Environment Overview & Scrutiny's consideration of the Hope Household Recycling Centre call in
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure
Report Author	Member Engagement Manager
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A decision made at cabinet on 15th December relating to the Hope Household Recycling Centre (HRC) in Hope was called in. That call in was considered by the environment Overview & Scrutiny committee at its meeting on 13th January.

The decision of the committee was that the explanations given by the decision makers were accepted. The decision, which was to approve an extension of the 'weekend only' and 'recycling only' arrangement until 31st January, to allow additional time for the business case to be approved and to allow the local community representative sufficient time to mobilise resources to operate the site from this date was therefore implemented.

The result of the call in was not submitted to the last meeting of the Cabinet as the extension period was still running. That deadline has now passed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the Cabinet notes that the resolution of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny that it was satisfied with the explanations given (option one) and that the decision regarding Hope HRC could be implemented immediately.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	THE CALL IN MEETING
1.01	At the meeting of the Cabinet which was held on 15 th December 2015, a decision was made to extend the existing 'weekend only' and 'recycling only' arrangement at Hope until 31 st January 2016 to allow additional time for the business case to be approved and to allow the local community representative to mobilise resources to operate the site from this date (31 st January).
1.02	That decision was called in by Cllrs Newhouse, Roney, David Williams and Lightfoot. The basis of the call in was that:
1.03	'We call on Cabinet to authorise Flintshire Council to continue to run the site until 20 March 2016. This will allow enough time for a more cohesive and robust business plan to be presented to Flintshire Council by 9 March 2016, with a view to the community bidders taking over the site from 21 March 2016.'
1.04	At the call in, the decision makers were represented by the Deputy Leader, the Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure, the Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation) and the Waste & Ancillary Services Manager.
1.05	Cllr Newhouse, as lead for the initiators, announced that a short term extension had been agreed with the Cabinet Member and Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation) to the deadline to allow time for a more cohesive and robust business plan to be presented to the Authority by 31 January 2016.
1.06	As a result of this information and the subsequent response from the decision makers, the committee resolved that it was satisfied with the explanations given and that the decision could be implemented. This is option one of the four options which are available to an Overview & Scrutiny Committee to make at a call in.
1.07	The deadline was passed without the business plan being received.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None arising directly from this report back.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Not applicable.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Not applicable

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Cabinet report http://cyfarfodyddpwyllgor.siryfflint.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=142&Mid=3493&Ver=4&LLL=undefined</p> <p>Contact Officer: Robert Robins, Member Engagement Manager Telephone: 01352 702320 E-mail: Robert.robins@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Call in. After each meeting of the Cabinet, the record of decisions is published to Members. This record includes all of the decisions which were made by the Cabinet. Any decision can be called in by a group of four members acting together or by the Chair of an Overview & Scrutiny Committee. This must be done within five working days of the record of decision being published. A call in meeting of the relevant Overview & Scrutiny committee is then held, at which the initiators of the call in and the decision makers are both able to present their respective cases. The Overview & Scrutiny committee must then decide whether it accepts the explanations given, in which case the decision may be implemented, or to refer the decision back to the decision making body (the Cabinet) or to Council.</p> <p>Decision Makers: those Cabinet Members and officers who have been invited to attend a call in meeting and explain the rationale for the decision being made.</p> <p>Initiators: the initiators are those who have signed the call in notice. This is either a Chair of an Overview & Scrutiny Committee or a minimum of four members of the Council.</p>

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 16 February 2016
Report Subject	Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 8)
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager
Type of Report	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 8, and projects forward to year-end.

The projected year end position is as follows:

Council Fund

- Net in year expenditure forecast to be £0.743m lower than budget
- Projected contingency reserve balance at 31 March 2016 of £4.379m

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 st March 2016.
2	Note the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	THE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING POSITION FOR MONTH 7 - 2015/16																																																																											
1.01	<p><u>Council Fund Latest In Year Forecast</u></p> <p>The table below shows the projected position by portfolio.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>TOTAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME</th> <th>Original Budget</th> <th>Revised Budget</th> <th>Projected Outturn</th> <th>In-Year Over/ (Under) spend</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Social Services</td> <td>59.696</td> <td>59.031</td> <td>59.116</td> <td>0.085</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community & Enterprise</td> <td>12.598</td> <td>12.792</td> <td>12.542</td> <td>(0.250)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Streetscene & Transportation</td> <td>27.782</td> <td>28.427</td> <td>29.402</td> <td>0.975</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Planning & Environment</td> <td>4.887</td> <td>5.331</td> <td>5.485</td> <td>0.154</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education & Youth</td> <td>13.760</td> <td>13.120</td> <td>13.071</td> <td>(0.049)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Schools</td> <td>82.670</td> <td>83.272</td> <td>83.272</td> <td>0.000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>People & Resources</td> <td>4.595</td> <td>4.617</td> <td>4.487</td> <td>(0.130)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Governance</td> <td>8.689</td> <td>8.715</td> <td>8.851</td> <td>0.136</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Organisational Change</td> <td>9.569</td> <td>9.546</td> <td>9.085</td> <td>(0.461)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chief Executive</td> <td>3.296</td> <td>3.177</td> <td>2.989</td> <td>(0.188)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Central & Corporate Finance</td> <td>23.915</td> <td>23.429</td> <td>22.414</td> <td>(1.015)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>251.457</td> <td>251.457</td> <td>250.714</td> <td>(0.743)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Projected Outturn	In-Year Over/ (Under) spend		£m	£m	£m	£m	Social Services	59.696	59.031	59.116	0.085	Community & Enterprise	12.598	12.792	12.542	(0.250)	Streetscene & Transportation	27.782	28.427	29.402	0.975	Planning & Environment	4.887	5.331	5.485	0.154	Education & Youth	13.760	13.120	13.071	(0.049)	Schools	82.670	83.272	83.272	0.000	People & Resources	4.595	4.617	4.487	(0.130)	Governance	8.689	8.715	8.851	0.136	Organisational Change	9.569	9.546	9.085	(0.461)	Chief Executive	3.296	3.177	2.989	(0.188)	Central & Corporate Finance	23.915	23.429	22.414	(1.015)						Total	251.457	251.457	250.714	(0.743)
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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>Significant budget movements between original and revised budget</p> <p>There have been three significant budget movements in month 8. £0.111m was transferred from the Education & Youth portfolio to Schools in relation to Additional Learning Needs which has moved from the Inclusion Service. £0.073m was realigned from the Organisational Change portfolio to Community & Enterprise which relates to premises budget for Flintshire Connects. £0.048m relating to Capital Accounting Feasibility Study was transferred from People & Resources portfolio to Education & Youth. All of the above were accounting adjustments, the purpose for which the budget was intended has not changed, only the service area in which the budget is reported has changed.</p>																																																																											

1.04	<p>Streetscene and Transportation</p> <p>The overall overspend within Streetscene & Transportation has decreased from a projected £0.998m overspend at Month 7 to £0.975m as at Month 8. 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>Programme of Efficiencies</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 £10.702m (83%) will be achieved resulting in a net underachievement of £2.172m. 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>Inflation</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	<p>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.</p>
1.11	<p>It is anticipated that the £0.064m for food inflation will not be required. In addition to this there is a surplus of £0.046m remaining relating to inflation set aside for pay. Therefore £0.110m is now projected to underspend. This is in addition to the previous year's underspend of £0.240m which is being considered as part of the Corporate Finance options in the 2016/17 budget.</p>

	Reserves and Balances
	Unearmarked Reserves
1.12	The 2014/15 outturn reported to Cabinet on 14 th July 2015 showed unearmarked reserves at 31 March 2015 (above the base level of £5.769m) of £4.746m.
1.13	Taking into account previous allocations and the current underspend at Month 8 the balance on the contingency reserve at 31 st March 2016 is projected to be £4.379m.
	Earmarked Reserves
1.14	<p>The Council has developed a reserves protocol which was considered by Audit Committee and approved by County Council on 24th 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>
	Housing Revenue Account
1.15	On 17 February 2015 the Council approved a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2015/16 of £30.776m. The budget provided for a closing balance of £1.396m.
1.16	The 2014/15 Outturn Report to Cabinet on 14 July 2015 showed a closing balance at the end of 2014/15 of £1.510m.
1.17	The Month 8 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%.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
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.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	None Required.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	<p>Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) 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. Last month a recommendation was approved to meet a significant liability which reflects a 20% increase in the levy however there remains a risk that the future provision may escalate further. Status: stable/green risk.</p>
4.02	<p>Recycling 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 8 projections and continues to be monitored throughout the year. A budget pressure for this income has been included in the 2016/17 budget to help mitigate this risk for future years. Status: unstable/red risk.</p>
4.03	<p>Car Parking 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. Status: unstable/amber risk.</p>
4.04	<p>Out of County Placements 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>

	Status: unstable/amber risk.
4.05	<p>Former Euticals Site</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>

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	<p>Council Fund – Movement in Variances from Month 7 – 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>

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

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Budget: 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	Council Fund: the fund to which all the Council's revenue expenditure is charged.
7.03	Financial Year: the period of twelve months commencing on 1 April.
	Housing Revenue Account: 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.
7.04	Projected Outturn: projection of the expenditure to the end of the

	financial year, made on the basis of actual expenditure incurred to date.
7.05	Reserves: 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.
7.06	Revenue: 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.
7.07	Underspend: 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.
7.08	Variance: 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.
7.09	Virement: 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.

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COUNCIL FUND - REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16
FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Budget Monitoring (Month 8)
Summary of Movement from Month 7

	£m	£m
Month 7		
Portfolios	0.504	
Central and Corporate Finance	(0.891)	
Variance as per Cabinet Report		(0.387)
Month 8		
Portfolios	0.272	
Central and Corporate Finance	(1.015)	
Variance as per Directorate Returns		(0.743)
Change Requiring Explanation		(0.356)

Social Services

Services For Adults

• Locality Teams (Localities) - Decrease in projected costs of externally provided Residential Care (£0.020m) and Domiciliary Care (£0.020m), transfer into this budget of Hospital Social Work teams (from Provider services) (£0.119m), Other minor variances amount to £0.014m.	(0.145)	
• First Contact (Intake & Reablement) - increased projected staffing costs.	0.035	
• Resources & Regulated Services (Intake & Reablement) - increase in staffing underspend due to vacancies (£0.043m). The Hospital Social Work Team is now reported in Locality Teams (Localities) £0.119m.	0.076	
• Resources & Regulated Services (Disability Services) - net impact of a number of minor movements within a total budget of £15.4 million.	0.048	
• Vulnerable Adults and Disability Service (Disability Services) - increase in projected placement costs for transition service users.	0.032	
• Forensic budget (Mental Health & Substance Misuse Service) - increase in projected placement costs.	0.027	
• Substance Misuse (Mental Health & Substance Misuse Service) - increase in projected grant income	(0.040)	
Minor variances of less than £0.025m		
• Learning Disabilities (Transition & Disability Services)	0.020	
• Older People (Provider Services)	0.030	
• Older People (Purchasing)	(0.023)	
•	(0.016)	
Subtotal: Services for Adults		0.044

Development & Resources

• Other minor changes of less than £0.025m.	0.015	
Subtotal: Development & Resources		0.015

Children's Services

• Professional Support - allocation of funding from contingency reserve to partially mitigate for the increase in use of agency staff to cover for staff deployed on support for areas of key risk within the service.	(0.100)	
• Out of County placements - three placements ending earlier than anticipated including one high cost placement who has now been.	(0.091)	
Subtotal: Children's Services		(0.191)

Total: Social Services

(0.132)

Community & Enterprise

Minor changes of less than £0.025m.

• Customer & Housing Services	(0.003)	
• Regeneration	(0.005)	
• Revenues & Benefits	0.006	
Total minor variances of less than £0.025m		(0.002)

Total: Community & Enterprise

(0.002)

Streetscene & Transportation Portfolio

Highway Network	
• Reduced commitment for Operatives time following transition into Winter related work.	(0.032)
Subtotal: Highway Network	(0.032)
Minor variances of less than £0.025m	
• Ancillary Services & Performance	0.024
• Transport & Logistics	(0.015)
Total minor variances of less than £0.025m	0.009
Total: Streetscene & Transportation	(0.023)

Planning & Environment Portfolio

Minor variances of less than £0.025m	
• Business	(0.001)
• Community	0.013
• Development	(0.020)
• Access	0.010
• Shared Service	(0.012)
• Strategy	0.003
• Administration	(0.005)
• Vacant Posts	(0.005)
Total minor variances of less than £0.025m	(0.017)
Total: Planning & Environment	(0.017)

Education & Youth

Primary & Early Years Education	
• Primary School Services.	(0.007)
Subtotal: Primary & Early Years Education	(0.007)
Inclusion Services	
• Out of County - 2 new placements, increased provisions and a new 8 week assessment have been partially offset by 2 placements ending.	0.047
Subtotal: Inclusion Services	0.047
Access (School Planning & Provision)	
• School Planning	0.005
• School Provision.	(0.009)
Subtotal: Access (School Planning & Provision)	(0.004)
Commissioning & Performance	
• Business Support - Vacancy savings following a Senior Management Restructure with E&Y Portfolio. Includes other minor variances.	0.004
Subtotal: Commissioning & Performance	0.004
School Management & Information	
• School Management Information - Vacancy savings following a Senior Management Restructure with E&Y Portfolio.	0.002
Subtotal: Commissioning & Performance	0.002
Minor variances of less than £0.025m	
• Secondary School Services	0.002
• Adult & Community Education	(0.001)
• Youth Justice Service	0.001
• Community Centres	0.002
• Youth & Community Service	(0.003)
Total minor variances of less than £0.025m	0.001
Total: Education & Youth	0.043

People & Resources**Corporate Finance**

- Minor variances less than £0.025m

(0.011)

Subtotal: Corporate Finance(0.011)**Total: People & Resources**(0.011)**Governance****Minor variances of less than £0.025m**

- Legal Services
- Democratic Services
- Business Support
- Records Management

(0.010)

(0.001)

0.008

(0.004)

Total minor variances of less than £0.025m(0.007)**Total: Governance**(0.007)**Organisational Change****Property Design & Consultancy**

- An additional (£0.080m) in Design fees over the budgeted income target has been identified. This relates to SHARP and 21st Century schools feasibility works.
- Minor variances less than £0.025m

(0.080)

0.004

Subtotal: Property Design & Consultancy**Minor variances of less than £0.025m**

- Public Libraries & Arts, Culture & Events
- Museums Service
- County Archives
- Leisure Services
- Valuation & Estates
- Facilities

(0.005)

0.002

(0.001)

0.004

0.006

(0.002)

Total minor variances of less than £0.025m(0.072)**Total: Organisational Change**(0.072)**Chief Executive****Minor variances of less than £0.025m**

- Minor variances less than £0.025m

(0.011)

Total: Chief Executive(0.011)**Central & Corporate Finance**

- Balance of Non standard inflation from current year.
- Aggregate of minor variances under £0.025m.

(0.110)

(0.014)

Total: Central & Corporate Finance(0.124)**Total Changes**(0.356)

MONTH 8 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 7 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Social Services Locality Teams (Localities)	14.677	14.202	(0.475)	(0.330)	<p>Domiciliary Care 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 £0.488m 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>Residential Care The significant projected overspend on Domiciliary care is being more than offset by a projected underspend of (£0.743m) on residential care, which includes, an underspend of (£0.224m) on payments to care home providers, an underspend of (£0.465m) 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>Professional Support A further area of significant underspend is the professional support within the area Localities teams. There is a total projected underspend of (£0.171m) which relates to staffing due to Social Worker vacancies, which includes a total of (£0.119), relating to the Hospital Social Work team which has transferred into Localities from Intake & Reablement (Resources and Regulated Services).</p> <p>Other 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 (£0.030m) within Day care and other 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 8 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 7 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
First Contact (Intake and Reablement)	0.519	0.473	(0.046)	(0.081)	The projected underspend is due to additional income of (£0.123m) offset by other minor variances amount to net £0.077m.	Keep under review.
Reablement Services (Intake and Reablement)	0.451	0.408	(0.043)	(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.
Transition and Disability Services (Disability Services)	0.607	0.714	0.107	0.091	The projected overspend is mainly due to the cost of the support arrangements provided by Penderrels in respect of direct payments. This accounts for £0.082m of the total projected overspend of £0.107m with other minor variances making up the remaining £0.025m.	Keep under review.
Resources & Regulated Services (Disability Services)	15.239	15.440	0.201	0.153	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 underspends elsewhere in service to address pressures.
Vulnerable Adults and Disability Service (Disability Services)	2.299	2.502	0.203	0.171	Reflects current care packages for 2015/16, estimated commitment with additional transition clients.	Keep under review.

MONTH 8 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 7 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Administrative Support (Disability Services)	0.304	0.381	0.077	0.077	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	0.925	0.112	0.107	Increases in Residential and Domiciliary packages alongside additional new package costs.	Keep under review.
Professional Support (Mental Health & Substance Misuse Service)	0.693	0.748	0.055	0.058	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	0.164	(0.153)	(0.180)	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)	9.220	9.116	(0.104)	(0.123)	Various minor variances.	Continue to review but not expected to be recurrent.
Business Services - Charging Policy Income	(1.673)	(1.891)	(0.218)	(0.263)	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	0.161	0.114	0.138	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 8 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 7 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Other Development & Resources variances (aggregate)	2.418	2.527	0.109	0.115	Various minor variances.	Continue to review but not expected to be recurrent.
Family Placement (Children's Services)	2.227	2.437	0.210	0.210	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	5.112	0.115	0.215	There is a reduced projected overspend of £0.113m 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. This overspend has been partly mitigated by way of an allocation of £0.100m from the contingency reserve as approved by Cabinet when considering the Month 7 budget monitoring report. 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	Recommend budget realignment adjustments to use underspends elsewhere in service to address pressures.
Out of County Placements	3.416	3.264	(0.152)	(0.061)	Reflects current care packages for 2015/16.	Keep under review.
Other Services for Children variances (aggregate)	2.460	2.433	(0.027)	(0.027)	Various minor variances.	Continue to review but not expected to be recurrent.
Total Social Services	59.031	59.116	0.085	0.217		

MONTH 8 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 7 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Community & Enterprise Customer & Housing Services	1.539	1.296	(0.243)	(0.240)	Additional in-year saving identified in respect of Homeless Accommodation (£0.094m). Community Centres additional underspend (£0.049m). Underspend on the Flintshire Connects service provision (£0.072m). Other minor variances (£0.028m).	Continue to monitor and review.
Council Fund Housing	(0.035)	(0.013)	0.022	0.022	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	0.585	0.664	0.079	0.084	Estimated shortfall of £0.054m 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	10.631	10.468	(0.163)	(0.169)	Anticipated surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund currently stands at (£0.173m) 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 (£0.038m).	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	0.055	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.
Total Community & Enterprise	12.792	12.542	(0.250)	(0.248)		

MONTH 8 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 7 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Streetscene & Transportation						
Ancillary Services & Performance - Waste Disposal & Waste Collection	6.589	7.430	0.841	0.801	<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>At Period 8, additional costs of £0.040m for Hire of loading shovels at Greenfield HRC Site / protective clothing costs and equipment purchase.</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> <p>Monitor Supplies & services and implement commitment challenge.</p>
Ancillary Services & Performance - Parking & Enforcement	0.096	0.192	0.096	0.110	<p>Shortfall from Business Planning proposals following delays in the implementation of car parking charges across the County.</p>	<p>Monitor Car Parking Income closely and amend projections accordingly.</p>
Ancillary Services & Performance - Other Variances	0.778	0.766	(0.012)	(0.010)	<p>Minor Variances.</p>	<p>Reported through Programme Board Efficiency Tracker.</p>

MONTH 8 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 7 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Transportation & Logistics - other Variances	13.407	13.379	(0.028)	(0.013)	Minor Variances.	Reported through Programme Board Efficiency Tracker.
Highways Strategy & Network	7.366	7.444	0.078	0.110	Delay in the full externalisation of grass cutting service resulting in a net shortfall of £0.030m. 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. At Period 8, reduced commitment for Ground Work operations following transition into winter related work (£0.042m).	Reported through Programme Board Efficiency Tracker. Reported through Programme Board Efficiency Tracker. Monitor Employee Costs.
Highway Network - other Variances	0.191	0.191	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Total Streetscene & Transportation	28.427	29.402	0.975	0.998		

MONTH 8 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 7 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Planning & Environment Pest Control Dog Warden	0.043	0.059	0.016	0.005	Potential Shortfall in the self financing position	Monitor level of services provided and adjust income commitment as appropriate.
Licensing	(0.008)	0.012	0.020	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	0.667	(0.001)	0.000	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Animal Health & Defra	0.126	0.170	0.044	0.044	Reduction in Grant Funding and partnership with Wrexham due to end in late 2015.	Investigate ways to reduce Grant Income target through potential budget realignment as total funding will cease from 2016/17.
Business - Aggregate of other Variances	1.466	1.457	(0.009)	(0.008)	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Planning Control & Enforcement	(0.133)	0.005	0.138	0.151	Shortfall from Planning Application fees not being increased by 15% until October, 2015 under the Planning (Wales) Bill. This was originally proposed for April, 2015 and reflected in Business Planning efficiencies. At period 08 slight increase in planning fees received over estimated outturn.	Planning Fee Income levels will be closely monitored.
Development - Aggregate of other Variances	0.133	0.120	(0.013)	(0.006)	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Portfolio Aggregate of other Variances	3.036	2.995	(0.041)	(0.039)	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Total Planning & Environment	5.331	5.485	0.154	0.171		

MONTH 8 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 7 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Education & Youth						
Primary & Early Years Education	0.868	0.861	(0.007)	0.000	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Secondary, 14-19 & Continuing Education	1.122	1.129	0.007	0.005	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Inclusion Services	8.452	8.522	0.070	0.023	Out of County placements are an area of risk to the authority due to the volatile nature of the service and the potential for high cost placements and unpredictability of demand.	Continue to review.
Access (School Planning & Provision)	0.508	0.483	(0.025)	(0.021)	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
21st Century Schools	0.196	0.196	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Youth Services	1.436	1.431	(0.005)	(0.004)	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Commissioning & Performance	0.346	0.304	(0.042)	(0.046)	Vacancy savings following a Senior Management Restructure with Education and Youth Portfolio.	Continue to review.
School Management & Information Team	0.192	0.145	(0.047)	(0.049)	Vacancy savings following a Senior Management Restructure with Education and Youth Portfolio.	Continue to review.
Total Education & Youth	13.120	13.071	(0.049)	(0.092)		
Schools						
Primary & Early Years Education	43.615	43.615	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Secondary, 14-19 & Continuing Education	35.751	35.751	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Inclusion Services	3.906	3.906	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Total Schools	83.272	83.272	0.000	0.000		

MONTH 8 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 7 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
People & Resources						
HR&OD	2.243	2.232	(0.011)	(0.011)	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	2.374	2.255	(0.119)	(0.108)	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 (£0.157m).	The efficiencies are expected to be achieved in full next year. Workforce underspends are in-year only.
Total People & Resources	4.617	4.487	(0.130)	(0.119)		
Governance						
Legal Services	0.610	0.632	0.022	0.032	Minor Variances.	Overspend is not expected to be recurrent.
Democratic Services	1.911	2.007	0.096	0.097	The overspend is due a delay in achieving an efficiency of £0.110m which was agreed within the 2014/15 budget. An underspend of (£0.014m) 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	0.703	(0.037)	(0.045)	Minor Variances.	Underspend is not expected to be recurrent.
Records Management	0.174	0.191	0.017	0.021	Minor Variances.	Overspend is not expected to be recurrent.
ICT	4.726	4.754	0.028	0.028	Minor Variances.	Overspend is not expected to be recurrent.
Total Governance	8.715	8.851	0.136	0.143		

MONTH 8 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 7 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Organisational Change						
Public Libraries & Arts, Culture & Events	1.764	1.757	(0.007)	(0.002)	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
Museums Service	0.064	0.066	0.002	0.000	Minor Variances.	Continue to review.
County Archives	0.260	0.260	0.000	0.001	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Leisure Services	3.970	3.986	0.016	0.012	Deeside Ice rink income pressure offset by premises & supplies cost savings of (£0.054m).	Continue to review.
Community Assets	0.018	0.018	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Valuation & Estates	(0.813)	(0.948)	(0.135)	(0.141)	Workforce efficiencies of (£0.135m) achieved following staff releases within this Service area.	Continue to review.
Property Design & Consultancy	2.629	2.385	(0.244)	(0.168)	An additional (£0.170m) in Design fees over the budgeted income target has been identified, this relates to SHARP and 21st Century schools feasibility works. Projected costs of (£0.061m) relating to the demolition of Connah's 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 (£0.018m). Other minor variances of £0.005m on Admin Buildings.	Continue to review.
Engineering Services	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	No Variance.	Continue to review.
Facilities Services	1.654	1.561	(0.093)	(0.091)	(£0.075m) additional income anticipated over and above income target from increased uptake in school meals. (£0.011m) salary savings from the Team Leader post that is currently vacant. Other minor variances within the service of (£0.007m).	Continue to review.
Total Organisational Change	9.546	9.085	(0.461)	(0.389)		

MONTH 8 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Month 7 (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Chief Executives						
Chief Executives	3.177	2.989	(0.188)	(0.177)	The underspend is due to workforce savings of (£0.107m) 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 (£0.036m) underspend is due to minor variances.	The employee savings of (£0.107m) are expected to be in-year only.
Total Chief Executives	3.177	2.989	(0.188)	(0.177)		
Central & Corporate Finance						
Central & Corporate Finance	23.429	22.414	(1.015)	(0.891)	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. Balance of unused Non Standard Inflation from previous year (£0.240m) and current year (£0.110m). Pension Actuarial Review (£0.912m) due to lower than anticipated costs of additional options. Estimated Workforce Efficiency of £0.300m considered unachievable in year. One off identified efficiencies (£0.300m) in relation to the Independent Living Fund (ILF). Higher than projected income as a result of Rent Review for Unilever (£0.195m). £0.009m due to a review of historic balances - budget realignment. One off / time limited, Unbudgeted costs of £0.400m in relation to former Euticals Ltd - Sandycroft site. Minor Variances of £0.033m.	Review of CLIA will identify overall position for possible mitigation. Review as part of Medium Term Finance Strategy, Corporate Financing Options. Consider realignment options. Currently looking at other options. Continue to review. Continue to review. Keep under review. Keep under review. Keep under review.
Total Central & Corporate Finance	23.429	22.414	(1.015)	(0.891)		
TOTAL	251.457	250.714	(0.743)	(0.387)		

2015/16 Efficiencies Month 8 - Under or Over Achieved

Portfolio	Original Efficiency	Revised Efficiency	(Under)/Over Achievement
	2015/16 £(m)	2015/16 £(m)	2015/16 £(m)
People & Resources			
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)
Total People & Resources	0.375	0.232	(0.143)
Central and Corporate Finance			
Workforce efficiency proposal	0.300	0.000	(0.300)
Central Loans and Investment Review	1.830	1.230	(0.600)
Total Central & Corporate Finance	2.130	1.230	(0.900)
Social Services			
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)
Total Social Services	0.806	0.340	(0.466)
Community & Enterprise			
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
Total Community & Enterprise	0.630	0.710	0.080
Streetscene & Transportation			
Introduce non-generic Streetscene roles (3 year plan)	0.080	0.115	0.035
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	0.295	(0.105)
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
Total Streetscene & Transportation	1.705	1.198	(0.508)
Planning & Environment			
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	0.020	(0.000)
Total Planning & Environment	0.614	0.379	(0.235)
Total 2015/16 Budget Efficiencies		100	12.874
Total Projected 2015/16 Budget Efficiencies Underachieved		17	2.172
Total Projected 2015/16 Budget Efficiencies Achieved		83	10.702

Movements on Council Fund Unearmarked Reserves

	£m	£m
Total Reserves as at 1 April 2015	10.515	
Less - Base Level	(5.769)	
Total Reserves above base level available for delegation to Cabinet		4.746
Less - Allocation from the Contingency Reserve for the costs of the speed limit review		(0.210)
Less - Allocation from the Contingency Reserve for the contribution to meet the estimated increase in levy required to meet past and future claim liabilities in relation to the former Municipal Mutual Insurance company		(0.800)
Less - Allocation from the Contingency Reserve to meet the resource requirements for specialist social work for child protection		(0.100)
Plus projected underspend as at Month 8		0.743
Total projected Contingency Reserve as at 31st March 2016		4.379

HRA Major Variance Report - Period 8

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Last Month (£m)	Cause of Variance	Action Required
Estate Management	1.634	1.583	(0.051)	(0.042)	Salary projections have contributed a (£0.051m) underspend.	Keep under review.
Repairs & Maintenance	8.394	8.185	(0.209)	(0.193)	(£0.209m) 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.
Finance & Support	2.427	2.334	(0.093)	(0.015)	Removal of the projection for delivering the Handyman Service releases a (£0.038m) underspend. Consultancy and Conference projections has realised a (£0.016m) underspend. Redistribution of salaries across departments and services has realised a (£0.019m) underspend. The remaining (£0.020m) relates to minor variances.	Keep under review.
Capital Financing	16.274	16.260	(0.014)	(0.005)	Minor Variances.	Keep under review.
Other variances (aggregate)	(28.495)	(28.277)	0.218	0.106	£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. £0.122m relates to a potential post audit adjustment relating to Housing Subsidy. £0.049m relates to subcontractor payments. The remaining (£0.008m) relates to minor efficiencies.	Keep under review.
Total :	0.234	0.085	(0.149)	(0.149)		



CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 16 February 2016
Report Subject	Prudential Indicators 2016/17 - 2018/19
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code), authorities are required to set a range of Prudential Indicators (PI's). This report provides details of the Council's Prudential Indicators for 2016/17 – 2018/19:

- Prudential Indicators for Capital Expenditure
- Prudential Indicators for Affordability
- Prudential Indicators for Prudence
- Prudential Indicators for External Debt and Treasury Management

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	<p>That members approve and recommend to the County Council on 16 February 2016:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Prudential Indicators for 2016/17 - 2018/19 as detailed in Section 1 of the report. • Delegated authority for the Corporate Finance Manager to effect movements between the separately agreed limits within the authorised limit for external debt and the operational boundary for external debt (1.07.1, 1.07.2).
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS
1.01	Background
1.01.1	The Prudential Code has been developed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) as a professional code of practice to support local authorities in determining their programmes for capital investment in fixed assets. Local authorities are required by Regulation to have regard to the Prudential Code when carrying out duties under Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003.
1.01.2	The framework established by the Prudential Code is intended to support local strategic planning, local asset management planning and robust option appraisal. The objectives of the Code are to ensure, within a clear framework, that the capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable , and that treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice.
1.01.3	The Prudential Code sets out the indicators that must be used, and the factors that must be taken into account in preparing such.
1.02	Considerations
1.02.1	The prudential indicators required by the Prudential Code are designed to support and record local decision making; they are not designed to be comparative performance indicators - the use of them in this way would be likely to be misleading and counter-productive. They are considered in parallel with the treasury management indicators required by the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes, as reported elsewhere on this agenda.
1.02.2	<p>The Prudential Code recognises that in making capital investment decisions, and in reviewing the prudential indicators, the Council must have regard to the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service objectives, e.g. strategic planning for the authority • Stewardship of assets, e.g. asset management planning • Value for money, e.g. option appraisal • Affordability, e.g. implications for Council Tax and housing rents • Prudence and sustainability, e.g. implications for external borrowing • Practicality, e.g. achievability of the forward plan <p>The Code does not specify how the Council should have regard to these factors, but instead concentrates on the means by which it demonstrates that the proposals are affordable, prudent and sustainable.</p>

1.02.3	Affordability is the ultimate constraint on the amount that a local authority can spend or borrow. In practice, when making a decision to invest in a capital asset, the authority must do more than simply determine whether it can afford the immediate cost. In order to ensure long term affordability, decisions have to be prudent, and, in the long term, sustainable. Borrowing has to be prudent because, since future interest rates and revenue streams are uncertain, it must involve an element of risk. Furthermore, if the council is unable to deliver its capital programme, or to afford the cost of running and maintaining the new facilities, the chosen level of capital investment will not be sustainable in the long term. Prudence and affordability are related concepts.																												
1.02.4	The Prudential Code specifies that prudential indicators are required to be calculated for the forthcoming financial year and 2 subsequent financial years, this process links in with the Medium Term Financial Plan.																												
1.03	<p>Housing Revenue Account (HRA)</p> <p>1.03.1 As reported to Cabinet previously, the Council along with all other Welsh Councils, exited the HRA negative subsidy system in 2015/16, the final sum payable, to HM Treasury via Welsh government (WG), was £79.248m. This has released revenue savings into the HRA which has allowed the Council to invest in upgrading its existing stock and to increase the supply of social housing in the county.</p>																												
1.04	<p>Prudential Indicators for Capital Expenditure</p> <p>1.04.1 Based on those resources currently allocated (including specific grants, but excluding any rephasing of expenditure from 2015/16 to future years), the estimates of capital expenditure to be incurred in 2016/17 (and the following two years), are as indicated in Table 1 below.</p> <p>Table 1</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>2016/17</th> <th>2017/18</th> <th>2018/19</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Estimate</th> <th>Estimate</th> <th>Estimate</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Council Fund</td> <td>21.143</td> <td>12.301</td> <td>12.912</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Housing Revenue Account</td> <td>25.933</td> <td>29.359</td> <td>23.594</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>47.076</td> <td>41.660</td> <td>36.506</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	CAPITAL EXPENDITURE					2016/17	2017/18	2018/19		Estimate	Estimate	Estimate		£m	£m	£m	Council Fund	21.143	12.301	12.912	Housing Revenue Account	25.933	29.359	23.594	Total	47.076	41.660	36.506
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1.04.2	This is in line with the capital programme proposals recommended to commence in 2016/17 in the Council Fund Capital Programme 2016/17 to 2019/20 report and the HRA budget report which are included elsewhere on this agenda.																												
1.04.3	The capital expenditure totals essentially provide the base financial data from which all other indicators follow.																												

1.05 Prudential Indicators for Affordability

1.05.1 Estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream for 2016/17 based on those expenditure assumptions outlined in the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget report (both included elsewhere on this agenda), are as included in Table 2 below; these indicators of affordability address the revenue implications of the Council's financial strategy.

Table 2

RATIO OF FINANCING COSTS TO NET REVENUE STREAM			
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	%	%	%
Council Fund	6.1%	6.4%	6.5%
Housing Revenue Account	24.6%	26.1%	27.6%

The Council Fund net revenue stream is the amount to be met from Welsh Government (WG) grants and local taxpayers, and the HRA equivalent is the amount to be met from WG grants and from rent payers. The estimate of financing costs includes the current commitments and the proposals included in the capital programme report.

The HRA ratio, calculated in accordance with the Prudential Code, reflects the increase in financing costs attributable to the settlement payment required to exit the HRA negative subsidy system.

1.05.2 The Prudential code requires that the estimate of the incremental impact of capital investment decisions as proposed in the capital budget report, over and above capital investment decisions that have previously been taken by the Council, are reported in terms of their impact on Band D Council Tax and Housing Rents.

The Council Fund Capital Programme contains no new capital investment decisions, over and above decisions taken in previous years including 21st century schools programme, that have a combined impact to increase revenue costs.

Similarly, the HRA Capital Programme contains no new capital expenditure decisions, over and above the 30 year Business Plan which was approved by Council in 2015/16 including upgrading existing housing stock to Welsh Housing Quality Standards, and building new social housing.

1.06	Prudential Indicators for Prudence																												
1.06.1	<p>Estimates of the capital financing requirement, for 2016/17 are shown in Table 3 below:</p> <p>Table 3</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENT</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">2016/17</th> <th style="text-align: center;">2017/18</th> <th style="text-align: center;">2018/19</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Estimate</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Estimate</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Estimate</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">£m</th> <th style="text-align: center;">£m</th> <th style="text-align: center;">£m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Council Fund</td> <td style="text-align: center;">183.554</td> <td style="text-align: center;">187.523</td> <td style="text-align: center;">189.065</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Housing Revenue Account</td> <td style="text-align: center;">112.202</td> <td style="text-align: center;">122.408</td> <td style="text-align: center;">131.610</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: center;">295.755</td> <td style="text-align: center;">309.931</td> <td style="text-align: center;">320.675</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENT					2016/17	2017/18	2018/19		Estimate	Estimate	Estimate		£m	£m	£m	Council Fund	183.554	187.523	189.065	Housing Revenue Account	112.202	122.408	131.610	Total	295.755	309.931	320.675
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1.06.2	<p>The capital financing requirement measures the Council's underlying need to finance capital expenditure by borrowing or other long-term liability arrangements. In accordance with best professional practice, the Council does not associate debt with particular items or type of expenditure. The authority has an integrated treasury management strategy and has adopted the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes. The Council has, at any point in time, a number of cash flows both positive and negative, and manages its treasury position in terms of its debt and investments in accordance with its approved Treasury Management Policy and Strategy. The Treasury Management Policy Statement 2016 - 2019 and the Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17 appear elsewhere on this agenda following consideration by the Audit Committee in January 2016. In day to day cash management, no distinction can be made between revenue cash and capital cash. External debt arises as a consequence of all the financial transactions of the Council and not simply those arising from capital spending. In contrast, the capital financing requirement reflects the Council's underlying need to finance capital expenditure by borrowing or other long-term liability arrangements.</p>																												
1.06.3	<p>CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities includes the following; gross debt and the capital financing requirement, as a key indicator of prudence.</p> <p><i>'In order to ensure that over the medium term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the local authority should ensure that debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional financing requirement for the current and next two financial years'</i></p>																												

1.06.4 In November 2012 CIPFA issued an amendment to the Prudential Code changing the indicator from net debt (total borrowing and other long-term liabilities less any investments held) to gross debt, following reflection that comparing the capital financing requirement to the net position i.e., net of investments, could potentially mask a position where an authority had borrowed other than for a capital purpose and then subsequently invested the surplus funds.

The Corporate Finance Manager reports no difficulty in meeting this requirement for the future period to which the prudential indicators apply. This view takes into account current commitments, existing plans, and all budget proposals.

1.07 Prudential Indicators for External Debt and Treasury Management

1.07.1 In respect of its external debt, it is recommended that the Council approves the authorised limits shown in Table 4 for its total external debt gross of any investment for the next three financial years. These limits separately identify borrowing from other long term liabilities such as finance leases. The Council is asked to approve these limits and to delegate authority to the Corporate Finance Manager, within the total limit for any individual year, to effect movement between the separately agreed limits for borrowing and other long term liabilities, in accordance with option appraisal and best value for money for the authority. Any such changes made will be reported to the Council at its meeting following the change.

Table 4

AUTHORISED LIMIT FOR EXTERNAL DEBT			
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£m	£m	£m
All Borrowing (Cap/Rev)	299.300	323.300	333.300
Other Long Term Liabilities	24.100	25.100	26.100
Total	323.400	348.400	359.400

The authorised limits are consistent with the authority's current commitments, existing plans and the proposals in the capital programme report, and with its approved Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17. They are based on the estimate of most likely, prudent position with, sufficient headroom over and above this to allow for operational management, for example unusual cash movements. Risk analysis and risk management strategies have been taken into account, as have plans for capital expenditure, estimates of the capital financing requirement and estimates of cash flow requirements for all purposes.

1.07.2 Council is also asked to approve the operational boundary for external debt for the same period, shown in Table 5. The proposed operational boundary for external debt is based on the same estimates as the authorised limit but reflects directly the estimate of the most likely, prudent provision, without the additional headroom included in the authorised limit to allow for example for unusual cash movements, and equates to the maximum of external debt projected by this estimate. The operational boundary represents a key management tool for in year monitoring. Within the operational boundary, figures borrowing and other long term liabilities are separately identified. Council is also asked to delegate authority to the Corporate Finance Manager, within the total operational boundary for any individual year, to effect movement between the separately agreed figures for borrowing and other long term liabilities, in a similar fashion to the authorised limit. Any such changes will be reported to Council at its next meeting following the change.

Table 5

OPERATIONAL BOUNDARY FOR EXTERNAL DEBT			
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£m	£m	£m
All Borrowing (Cap/Rev)	269.300	293.300	303.300
Other Long Term Liabilities	9.100	10.100	11.100
Total	278.400	303.400	314.400

1.07.3 It should be noted that actual external debt is not directly comparable to the authorised limit and operational boundary, since actual external debt reflects the position at a point in time.

Council is asked to note that the authorised limit determined in 2016/17 (see section 1.07.1 above) will be the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

2.00 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

2.01 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.

3.00 CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT

3.01 No consultation is required or carried out.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Decisions made which involve the Council's assets and its Capital Programme often have very large and long term financial implications which carry a variety of risks. This report assess the affordability, prudence and sustainability of the capital plans to manage those associated risks.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Various Welsh Government papers.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Liz Thomas - Finance Manager, Technical Accountancy Telephone: (01352) 702289 E-mail: liz.thomas@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Asset Management Plan - A plan maintained by an authority of the condition and suitability of its assets, updated regularly and utilised to assess future capital needs</p> <p>Capital Expenditure - Expenditure on the acquisition of Non-current Assets or expenditure that extends the life or value of an existing asset</p> <p>Capital Programme - The Council's financial plan covering capital schemes and expenditure proposals for the current year and a number of future years. It also includes estimates of the capital resources available to finance the programme.</p> <p>Capital Receipt - Receipts (in excess of £10,000) from the disposal of an asset</p> <p>Capital Scheme - An individual capital project which is monitored and managed in isolation. The aggregate of all schemes comprises the Capital Programme</p> <p>Capital Strategy - A corporate document providing clear strategic guidance about an authority's objectives, priorities and spending plans, demonstrating the link to key corporate and service objectives. May be combined with the Asset Management Plan (AMP) to form a single document</p> <p>Council Fund - The fund to which all the Council's revenue and capital expenditure is charged</p> <p>Disposal - The decommissioning or transfer of an asset to another party</p>

Financing - The process of allocating resources to meet the cost of capital expenditure, which can be done on a project, asset or whole programme basis. This contrasts with making the invoice payments relating to capital expenditure, which should be managed within the authority's overall treasury management policy

General Capital Grant - Annual capital grant from Welsh Government which the Council decides how to use the funding.

Housing Revenue Account - The fund to which all the Council's revenue and capital expenditure relating to its housing stock is charged.

Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) - Similar to **supported borrowing**. In recent years as Welsh Government funding has been under pressure, schemes that would have been funded by capital grant have been funded by LGBI. Welsh Government provides the revenue support for borrowing costs incurred by the Council in borrowing to fund capital schemes (the difference with supported borrowing being that it's for a specific purpose aligned to Welsh Government priorities). LGBI has recently been used for highways maintenance and is now being used to part fund the Welsh Government element of the 21st century schools programme.

Non-current Asset - A resource controlled (but not necessarily owned) by an authority, from which economic benefits or service potential are expected to flow to the authority for more than 12 months

Prudential Code - The code of practice drawn up by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to underpin the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003 in respect of an authority's duty to determine the affordability, prudence and sustainability of its capital investment needs

Prudential Indicators - Required by the **Prudential Code**, these take the form of limits, estimates or actual figures used to support the local decision making process for capital investment

Revenue Expenditure - All expenditure incurred by an authority that cannot be classified as capital expenditure

Revenue Financing - Charges made to the revenue account to finance capital expenditure. May also be referred to as Capital Expenditure charged to Revenue Account (CERA).

Non-current Asset - A resource controlled (but not necessarily owned) by an authority, from which economic benefits or service potential are expected to flow to the authority for more than 12 months

Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB), commonly referred to as Supported Borrowing - Each year Welsh Government provide Council's with a Supported Borrowing allocation. Council's borrow to fund capital expenditure equivalent to that annual allocation, Welsh Government then include funding to cover the revenue costs associated with the borrowing for future years within the Revenue Support Grant. The Council decides how this funding is spent.

<p>Unsupported Prudential Borrowing - Borrowing administered under the Prudential Code, whereby authorities can set their own policies on acceptable levels and types of borrowing. The Prudential Framework allows authorities to take out loans in response to overall cash flow forecasts and other factors provided they can show that the borrowing is to meet planned capital expenditure in the current year or the next three years.</p>
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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 16 February 2016
Report Subject	Minimum Revenue Provision - 2016/17 Policy
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local Authorities are required each year, under the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 ('the 2008 Regulations'), to set aside some of their revenue resources as provision for the repayment of debt.

Regulation 22 of the 2008 Regulations requires an authority to each year make an amount of Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) which it considers to be 'prudent', though the regulation itself does not define 'prudent provision'.

Welsh Government (WG) has provided guidance which makes recommendations to authorities on the interpretation of the term, this guidance was last updated in April 2010.

Authorities are required to prepare an annual statement of their policy on making MRP.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	<p>That members approve and recommend to the County Council on 16 February 2016 for Council Fund (CF):-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1 (Regulatory Method) be used for the calculation of the MRP in 2016/17 for all capital expenditure funded from supported borrowing; this represents a continuation of the approved and adopted policy for 2015/16. • Option 3 (Asset Life Method) be used for the calculation of the MRP
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	in 2016/17 for all capital expenditure funded from unsupported (prudential) borrowing or credit arrangements; this represents a continuation of the approved and adopted policy for 2015/16.
2	That members approve and recommend to the County Council on 16 February 2016 for Housing Revenue Account (HRA):- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 2 (Capital Financing Requirement Method) be used for the calculation of the HRA's MRP in 2016/17 for all capital expenditure funded by debt; this represents a continuation of the approved and adopted policy for 2015/16.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION
1.01	Meaning of 'Prudent Provision'
1.01.1	The WG guidance provides for a number of options for making 'prudent provision'. It explains that provision for the debt which funded the acquisition of an asset should be made over a period bearing some relation to that over which the asset continues to provide a service.
1.02	Options for Prudent Provision
1.02.1	Option 1 - Regulatory Method For capital expenditure funded from borrowing which is supported by Revenue Support Grant (RSG), authorities may continue to use the formula specified in the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 (the regulations which preceded the 2008 Regulations), since the RSG is calculated on that basis i.e. authorities are able to calculate MRP exactly as if the 2003 Regulations were still in force. Formula for calculation is to multiply the adjusted Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) at the end of the preceding financial year less Adjustment A by 4%. Adjustment A is a fixed value determined by changes to statutory regulations referred to above.
1.02.2	Option 2 - Capital Financing Requirement Method This is a technically simpler alternative to Option 1 and may also be used in relation to supported borrowing. While still based on the concept of the CFR, which is easily derived from the balance sheet, it avoids the complexities of the formula in Regulation 22. However, for most authorities it will probably result in a higher level of provision (and subsequent impact on service budgets) than Option 1, as it would for Flintshire County Council. Formula for calculation is to multiply the adjusted CFR at the end of the preceding financial year by 4%.
1.02.3	Option 3 - Asset Life Method

	For capital expenditure funded from debt under the Prudential system for which no WG support is being given and is therefore self-financed, there are 2 options. Option 3 is to make provision in equal instalments over the estimated life of the asset for which debt is undertaken. This is a possibly simpler alternative to the use of depreciation accounting (Option 4), though it has some similarities to that approach.
1.02.4	<p>Option 4 - Depreciation Method</p> <p>Alternatively, for debt under the Prudential system for which no WG support is being given, Option 4 may be used. This means making MRP in accordance with the standard rules for depreciation accounting.</p>
1.03	Conditions for using the options
1.03.1	The intention is that Options 1 and 2 should be used only for WG supported borrowing. Options 3 and 4 should be used in relation to all capital expenditure which is to be financed by unsupported borrowing or credit arrangements.
1.04	Practical Considerations
1.04.1	The useful life of an asset will vary depending on the class of asset concerned; a vehicle or ICT equipment may be financed over 5 years whereas a new school over 50 years. Judgements about the useful life will need to be made on an individual basis as expenditure is incurred.
1.04.2	Large capital projects may take a number of years to complete, for example the 21 st Century Schools building programme. In this instance the MRP is incurred in the year after the asset has become operational, rather than during the construction phase.
1.05	Housing Revenue Account
1.05.1	<p>Following the introduction of self-financing for the HRA and the voluntary exit from the negative subsidy system on 31st March, 2015, from 1st April 2015 the calculation of the HRA MRP is now similar to the Council Fund as set out in 1.02 above, with the following modifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options 1 and 2 - the percentage is 4% for the Council Fund and 2% for the HRA. • Options 1 and 2 can be used in relation to capital expenditure incurred before 1st April 2021. After that date only Options 3 and 4 may be used.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>The 2016/17 revenue budgets provide for the MRP as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Fund capital expenditure funded by supported borrowing on

	<p>the basis of Option 1 - Regulatory Method calculation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Fund capital expenditure funded by unsupported (prudential) borrowing or credit arrangements on the basis of Option 3 - Asset Life Method calculation. • HRA capital expenditure funded by debt, on the basis of Option 2 - Capital Financing Requirement Method calculation.
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3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
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3.01	No consultation is required or carried out.
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4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
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4.01	There are no risks associated with this report.
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5.00	APPENDICES
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5.01	None.
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6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
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6.01	<p>Various Welsh Government papers.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Liz Thomas – Finance Manager, Technical Accountancy Telephone: (01352) 702289 E-mail: liz.thomas@flintshire.gov.uk</p>
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7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
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7.01	<p>Capital Expenditure: Expenditure on the acquisition of Non-current Assets or expenditure that extends the life or value of an existing asset</p> <p>Capital Financing Requirement (CFR): A measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by an authority that has yet to be financed from capital receipts, capital grants or revenue financing.</p> <p>Council Fund (CF): The fund to which all the Council's revenue and capital expenditure is charged.</p> <p>Housing Revenue Account (HRA): The fund to which all the Council's revenue and capital expenditure relating to its housing stock is charged.</p> <p>Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP): A charge made to the Council Fund to repay borrowing taken out for capital expenditure. Authorities must</p>
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determine their own prudent MRP charge each year, taking into consideration statutory guidance issued by the Government.

Prudential Code: The code of practice drawn up by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to underpin the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003 in respect of an authority's duty to determine the affordability, prudence and sustainability of its capital investment needs.

Revenue Expenditure: All expenditure incurred by an authority that cannot be classified as capital expenditure

Revenue Support Grant (RSG): Is paid to each authority to cover the cost of providing standard services less the Council Tax income at the standard level.

Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB), commonly referred to as Supported Borrowing: Each year Welsh Government provide Council's with a Supported Borrowing allocation. Council's borrow to fund capital expenditure equivalent to that annual allocation, Welsh Government then include funding to cover the revenue costs associated with the borrowing for future years within the Revenue Support Grant. The Council decides how this funding is spent.

Unsupported Prudential Borrowing: Borrowing administered under the **Prudential Code**, whereby authorities can set their own policies on acceptable levels and types of borrowing. The Prudential Framework allows authorities to take out loans in response to overall cash flow forecasts and other factors provided they can show that the borrowing is to meet planned capital expenditure in the current year or the next three years.

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 16 February 2016
Report Subject	Flintshire Apprenticeship Academy
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Report Author	Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To provide a progress report on the creation of an apprentice academy and seek approval to enter into a service level agreement with Future works, who will employ the apprentices and manage the scheme in partnership with the council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet is asked to agree that the Council enters into a service level agreement with Future works, a community interest company, who will employ and provide apprentices in Flintshire, branded as Future Works Flintshire, for an initial period of five years commencing in March 2016.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE COMMUNITY BENEFITS TRAINING ACADEMY
1.01	<p><u>Background</u> In October 2015, Cabinet approved the creation of an Apprentice academy to maximise the creation of skilled local jobs, arising (initially) out of the Council's major housing construction and refurbishment programmes over the next five years.</p>
1.02	<p>Council construction contracts always place a requirement on the contractor to provide apprentice opportunities and to recruit local labour, however contract lengths and the scope of works contractors are commissioned to provide can make completion of a full apprenticeship challenging.</p>
1.03	<p>The Council has agreed that it wants to ensure that employment opportunities and community benefits are maximised and that commitments to offer full apprenticeships can be made and delivered.</p>
1.04	<p>The Council plans to spend circa £150m on housing construction over the next 5 years and this creates the opportunity for some 50 completed apprenticeships to level 2 (with a number of these achieving level 3 and beyond). The type of job roles needed include plumbing, joinery, plastering, gas and electrical, bricklayers; but also Tenant Liaison Officers, Clerk of Works, Quantity Surveyor. In addition there could be opportunities to tie in with Building schools for the Future programme and the Councils own commissioned capital programmes.</p>
1.05	<p>The Council has an ageing Trades team workforce and needs to plan for succession in the next few years. In addition, maintenance of the WHQS standard after 2020 will provide for an ongoing significant investment programme annually and as additional borrowing capacity is released in the HRA for further new build then the need for skilled trades people locally will continue.</p>
1.06	<p>The Council also wishes to see a good programme in place to offer new and additional work placement opportunities for those furthest away from the work place such as NEET and those with learning disability or mental health challenges. Work placements and evidence of successful completion could lead to further work opportunities and apprenticeships for some.</p>
1.07	<p>Work has been underway since formal approval to set up a scheme in October, to review the options to take forward the establishment of "an academy" and this report identifies the options available with recommendations as to the preferred way forward.</p>
1.08	<p>Appendix 1 provides a summary of four options to take this scheme forward and the recommended route is to work with Future Works.</p>
1.09	<p>Future Works has the relevant experience, the right culture and values to be a close partner to the Council and working with a third party reduces significantly the cost of scheme administration for the council and any</p>

	employment risks sit outside the Council.
1.10	Future Works has committed to having a Flintshire base and will establish a legal entity Future works (Wales). The scheme placement officer will be employed by Flintshire council but seconded to work on the Future Works Flintshire programme.
1.11	A common set of values and leadership style which reflects Flintshire's is important for this scheme to be successful, and Future Works fits this neatly. A SLA has been developed and is being modelled on one initially developed and agreed by Scarborough Council. (Future Works initial contracts were in Yorkshire). There will be no financial transactions as part of the SLA between the council and Future Works.
1.12	Future Works will employ the apprentices and will in turn charge the construction companies for the apprentices placed with them. Future Works will have contracts in place with the construction companies appointed by the council. Future Works will ensure that apprentices are provided in the numbers needed at any one time, will work jointly with Flintshire staff to recruit apprentices. They will also work closely with Coleg Cambria (and any other FE providers) to ensure that students are working successfully through their training qualifications.
1.13	A project board has been established to provide governance for the programme. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration is a member of the board, along with a range of staff from across the council with the relevant skills to support scheme set up and ongoing leadership/over sight. A smaller officer project team is working closely with Future Works on set up.
1.14	<u>Current position</u> Recruitment has taken place for the first cohort of apprentices and local labour. Wates are due to start their first scheme and be on site by the end of February. There has been a good level of interest in the apprentices on offer and Coleg Cambria are comfortable to switch any successful full time students to part time.
1.15	An Apprentice Fayre is being held on 16 th March as part of National Apprentice week. Flintshire Secondary schools have committed to send young people to the event. Key note speakers including apprentices have been arranged and businesses will take stands to promote their own schemes and employment opportunities alongside opportunities for young people to "Try a Trade", get advice on CV's etc.
1.16	The Council is also exploring opportunities to establish a "skills centre" as part of the significant construction contracts being delivered across the Council. This could be developed as a partnership between the council, contractors, Coleg Cambria and Future Works and could provide an opportunity to offer work placements to those some way from education or being "work ready", such as NEET and those with learning disabilities and mental health challenges. Trainees would gain work experience on site, which could lead to opportunities to enter apprenticeships or other work opportunities.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Cabinet has already agreed that a Project Manager would be appointed for the programme. Further analysis has identified that a preferred role would be for a “Placement Co-ordinator”. This would be at a salary which is lower than a project Manager leaving sufficient budget to also appoint an apprentice to support delivery and management of the scheme.
2.02	Communities First may also be able to support the costs of the placement co-ordinator providing a more effective use of resources.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Trade Unions are supportive of the scheme and plans to implement it.

4.00	<u>RISK MANAGEMENT</u>
4.01	This scheme presents an exciting opportunity for the Council. There are a number of risks but these can all be managed to an acceptable level.
4.02	There would be a cost to the Council in being a direct employer of the apprentices both a direct cost and Corporate support costs. This can be mitigated by employment contracts being with a third party, which is the recommendation in this report.
4.03	The second area of risk is that there is insufficient interest from local people to take up the significant number of apprentices on offer. This is being addressed in a number of ways, including briefing sessions at local colleges with those who are already on construction training programmes advising them of forthcoming opportunities. Additionally holding an apprenticeship fayre to raise awareness of apprenticeships. There has been discussions at Secondary Heads Federation who have agreed to support and encourage attendance.
4.04	Contractors and delivery partners are also going to be working with the Council’s education service to put on events at Flintshire schools to help raise aspirations and promote the benefits of apprenticeships. These will run throughout the year.
4.05	A third area of risk could be insufficient jobs for qualified trades staff at the end of their apprenticeship. This should not materialise due to ongoing new build programmes, WHQS investment schemes and a need to replace those due to retire in the council’s trades team.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Summary of and analysis of options.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Contact Officer: Clare Budden, Chief Officer, Community & Enterprise Telephone: 01352 703800 E-mail: clare.budden@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>WHQS – Welsh Housing Quality Standard</p> <p>NEET – Not in employment, education, or training</p> <p>HRA – Housing Revenue Account</p> <p>SLA – Service Level Agreement</p>

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Summary of Apprentice Organisation for Community Benefits Scheme

Key Issues	CYFLE Building Skills	Futureworks	FCC	Cambria Shared Apprenticeship Model
1. Company Structure	Managed and operated by a partnership	Community Interest Company	Council	Part of Coleg Cambria Group
2. Is the “organisation” reliant on Government subsidy to function?	Yes, CITB cover 40% of their costs allowing them to charge contractors significantly lower rates	No	No	WG provided set up costs no ongoing funding support
3. Are Apprentices placed with various employers?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4. Employment of Placement Co-Ordinator?	CYFLE	FCC	FCC	FCC or Coleg Cambria
5. Apprentice Pay rates	Apprentice rates (lower than age related minimum wage for 16-18 yrs)	Will pay age related minimum wage rather than apprentice rate	Age related minimum wage	Rate is determined by host employer
6. Recharge of administration costs to contractors	Included in rates	Included in rates	Would need to be charged and would be more expensive than alternative models due to higher council costs	£50 per month per Apprentice

Summary of Apprentice Organisation for Community Benefits Scheme				
Key Issues	CYFLE Building Skills	Futureworks	FCC	Cambria Shared Apprenticeship Model
7. Access to CITB subsidy for wages	Yes 50% of cost per annum currently. (but not available for a North Wales scheme)	Not needed for wage subsidy but if additional CITB money available, this will be used.	Not possible	CITB have said yes – wage subsidy available if the scheme extends to contract
8. Does the “organisation” invoice contractors for cost?	Yes – Only main contractor	Yes	Yes	Yes
9. Does the organisation pay the Apprentices direct?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
10. What is the structure of the organisation?	1 FT Director 3 x .5 Co-Ordinators 1 x .5 HR 1 X .5 Payroll 140 x Apprentices	3-Directors (IFTE) 1 x Operation Manager 1 x Placement Officer 1 x Admin 1 x CITB secondee	L&D lead on Apprentices plus Project Manager	1 Lead Officer from College (1 x Apprentice)
11. Branding	Up for discussion on North branch or ‘Pan’ Wales model	Develop Flintshire Branding for scheme	Councils	Cambria services own brand
12. Freedom to choose the learning provider?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Summary of Apprentice Organisation for Community Benefits Scheme				
Key Issues	CYFLE Building Skills	Futureworks	FCC	Cambria Shared Apprenticeship Model
13. Further information	Established September 2013 working across South West Wales as a shared apprenticeship scheme	Established May 2013 working across the North East and North West and England	Council currently has 60 apprentices working through a range of different programmes	Launched in 2015

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 16 th February 2016
Report Subject	Introduction of Council Tax Premium for long term empty and second homes
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Report Author	Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The introduction of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 now gives local authorities in Wales the discretion to charge up to a 100% council tax premium on long term empty properties and properties with a second homes/holiday homes from April 2017. The report sets out the legal framework for charging the premium and the circumstances where a premium may not be charged (commonly known as 'exceptions')

The Council may, if it wishes, charge a premium on long term empty homes and second/holiday homes at any rate between 0% and 100% but prior to the introduction of the premium, there is also a requirement for full Council to make a decision about whether to introduce a premium 12 months in advance of the premium taking effect, and if so, the level of premium which would be charged from April 2017.

The introduction of a premium is designed to address local housing need and to encourage owners of empty and second homes properties to bring those properties back into full use.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Introduce the council tax premium scheme from 2017-18.
2	Adopt a 50% premium for the first year of implementation in 2017-18 which will be consistent with other local authorities across the region.
3	Review the premium level during the first year of implementation in 2017-18 with a view to increasing the rate from 2018-19 after taking into

	consideration the effectiveness of the new policy of incentivising owners to bring long term empty property and second homes back into full use.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL TAX PREMIUM FOR LONG TERM EMPTY AND SECOND HOMES
1.01	From April 2017, local authorities in Wales will be able use discretionary powers to charge a council tax premium of up to 100% of the standard rate of council tax on long term empty homes (unoccupied and unfurnished) and second homes (second homes/holiday homes that are furnished and not a main residence).
1.02	The Council has, for many years, adopted a policy of not providing a council tax discount on long term empty homes or second homes so a 100% council tax charge is payable on these types of property.
1.03	The discretion given to local authorities to now charge a premium is intended by Welsh Government to be a tool to help: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring long-term empty homes back into full use to meet local housing needs • Support local authorities in increasing the supply of affordable housing for purchase or let • Enhance the sustainability of local communities
1.04	The determination to charge a premium must be made by full council at least one year before the beginning of the financial year to which the premium relates. This means that the earliest that a premium may be charged is from 1 st April 2017. A determination to charge a premium in 2018 must be made before 1 st April 2017 and so on.
1.05	The Council may impose a premium of up to 100% above the standard rate of council tax, i.e. giving an overall charge of 200% council tax on long term empty property and/or second homes. However, in the case of long term empty homes, the premium of up to 100% may only be imposed after the property has been empty and substantially unfurnished continuously for a period of 12 months or longer.
1.06	When considering whether to charge a premium to long term empty homes and second homes, and if so, at what percentage level, local authorities are required to have regard to a number of factors. These include the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of long term empty homes and second homes in the County • Distribution of these properties across the County and an assessment of their impact • Potential impact on the local economy and the tourism sector • Patterns of demand for, and availability of, affordable homes • Potential impact on local public services and the impact on the local

	<p>community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures that are available to assist owners in bringing empty home back into use.
1.07	<p>The Council Tax system already provides a number of specific exemptions for unoccupied properties, some of which are time limited exemptions. These exemptions are not impacted by the introduction of the premium so not all empty homes will be automatically subject to a premium. These typically include circumstances where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A property becomes unoccupied and unfurnished (exempt for up to 6 months) A property is undergoing or in need of major repair work to render it habitable (exempt for up to 12 months) The only resident is now in long term residential care (unlimited period of exemption) The only resident has died (unlimited period of exemption until probate has been granted and for up to six months after probate has been granted)
1.08	<p>However, where a property is no longer eligible for a council tax exemption but it remains unoccupied it can become liable for a premium, but in the case of an empty home, it can only be liable for a premium after it has been empty for a continuous period of one year.</p>
1.09	<p>In addition to the prescribed list of properties that may be exempt from council tax under existing arrangements, and by virtue of this, also exempt from the premium, WG have also prescribed seven other classes of property which may not be subject to a premium. The Council Tax (Exceptions to Higher Amounts Wales) Regulations set out the circumstances where it is not possible for local authorities to charge a premium on long term empty property or second homes.</p>
1.10	<p>The circumstances where a premium does not apply, or only applies after a specified time period, is designated by 'exception classes' as detailed below. Class 1-4 applies to both long term empty homes and second homes but Class 5-7 applies only to second homes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 1 – Properties being marketed for sale (time limited exception for a period of up to 12 months) Class 2 – Properties being marketed for let (time limited exception for a period of up to 12 months) Class 3 – Annexes forming part of, or being treated as part of the main property Class 4 – Properties which would be someone's sole and main residence if they were not residing in Armed Forces accommodation Class 5 – Occupied caravan pitches and boat moorings where the caravan or boat currently has no resident but when next in use will be a person's main residence Class 6 – Seasonal properties where all year round occupation is prohibited by planning conditions Class 7 – Job related properties where a property is left empty because the person in relation to the dwelling is now resident in

	another dwelling which is 'job-related' (as defined by Regulations)
1.11	Using the taxation system to encourage owners to bring long term empty property and second homes back into use would provide a sensible financial incentive to do so and potentially go some way to increase the supply of housing in the County. Currently, council tax records indicate that 888 properties as being long term empty or second homes which could be potentially liable for the premium from April 17, although some might be subject to an exception from the premium.
1.12	The analysis in Appendix 1 to this report shows the breakdown of long term empty property across the County.
1.13	The reasons why properties can be left empty can vary but typically the circumstances include cases where the last resident has passed away and the family have not yet disposed of the property even though probate has been granted over 6 months ago. In some cases, properties can be difficult to sell or rent because of the condition of the property. In other cases, owners may be refurbishing the property but taking a significant period of time, well beyond 12 months, in order to bring the property back into use.
1.14	There is also evidence to demonstrate that some owners simply sit on empty properties for long periods of time without having plans in place to bring the properties into use, this is often despite the best efforts of the Council to work with owners to encourage them to bring their asset back into use, either by accessing loans or grants.
1.15	If a determination is made to charge a premium from April 2017 an effective communication strategy would need to be developed to communicate more widely with taxpayers throughout 2016, particularly with those who might be affected from April 2017.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The Council will be able to retain all additional funds generated by implementing a premium and the decision to charge a premium would not be incorporated into the Tax Base for the calculation of Revenue Support Grant.
2.02	The introduction of a council tax premium might also require a review of staffing levels in the Revenues service in 2017-18 to administer and collect the council tax premium, safeguarding collection levels. This can be achieved using existing HR policies and re-deployment opportunities from within the existing workforce.
2.03	To address the housing shortage in Flintshire and address the budget gap in 2017-18 as a result of reducing levels of central government grants, the efficiency proposals in the Community & Enterprise portfolio have made an assumption of the introduction of a premium and potential income of circa £0.50m.
2.04	Taking into account the 12 month lead-in team before a premium can be

	charged, coupled with external economic factors and the way in which owners of empty property might respond to these changes, it is difficult to accurately predict the level of income that the premium might bring or indeed the impact of these changes on housing availability.
2.05	In addition to this, local authority Taxation Practitioners across Wales are still in the process of understanding the more complex details of these new Regulations, especially with the way in which the exceptions will work from 2017-18.
2.06	In view of this, at the time of drafting this report, it is very difficult to accurately estimate the net number of properties that might be liable for the premium from April 2017, especially those that might qualify as an exception from the premium.
2.07	Early indications across the region though are that most Councils will opt to introduce a 50% premium in the first year of implementation with the aim of reviewing the level of premium from 2018-19, having full regard to the impact of housing availability.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	The introduction of a Council Tax premium scheme will be referred to Community & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee with feedback, including any feedback from residents, being considered by cabinet prior to approval of the report at cabinet and before final adoption by full Council in March 2016.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The implementation of a council tax premium also brings an increasing need to balance a number of Council priorities. Firstly, minimising council tax levels and avoiding financial hardship for the owners of empty properties, especially those who might be genuinely trying to bring properties back into use. Secondly, the need to use the local taxation system to address the issue housing shortages within communities and addressing the negative impact on communities that empty homes can bring.
4.02	The safeguards put in place by WG to exempt certain classes of property from the premium, in some cases, for specified period of time, strike the right balance and provide owners with ample opportunity, in most cases, to bring their empty property back into use within a reasonable period of time.
4.03	There will be a need to consider additional safeguards to mitigate tax avoidance or tax evasion as part of the implementation plan, ensuring owners are paying the right amount of council tax. The cost of additional safeguards, including additional staff resources, is estimated to be approximately £20,000 per annum but would ultimately not lead to a budget pressure when taking into account the additional tax income being raised through the premium.

4.04	If a determination is made to charge a premium from April 2017 an effective communication strategy would need to be developed to communicate more widely with taxpayers throughout 2016, particularly to those who might be affected from April 2017.
4.05	The opportunity to work with taxpayers and signpost owners to other services, such as the Councils Empty Homes team or the North East Wales Homes service, will also help to mitigate the impact of the introduction of the premium in 2017-18 and provide very practical help to owners of long term empty homes to potentially access grants and loans or assist owners in letting empty homes.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 - to this report provides an analysis of the existing number of LTE'S by Town/Community Council area and further analysed by Council Tax property band.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Finance Act 1992 (sections 12a (3) and 12b (4)) • Housing (Wales) Act 2014 • Council Tax (Exceptions to Higher Amounts) (Wales) Regs 2015 <p>Contact Office: David Barnes, Revenues Manager Telephone: 01352 703652 E-mail: david.barnes@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Council Tax: is a locally set property tax set by each local authority based on the estimated value of a domestic property, which in Wales, is based on property valuations from April 2005.</p> <p>Council Tax Exemptions: In some cases a property is exempt from Council Tax. This means that owners do not have to pay anything for the time the property qualifies for an exemption. Some exemptions can only be given for a limited length of time, others can be given for an unlimited time period, depending on the circumstances of the owner and/or property.</p> <p>Long Term Empty property : is defined as a property which is both unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for a period of six months or more, but to be liable for a premium, it would be unoccupied and unfurnished for a continuous period of one year or longer.</p> <p>A second home: is defined as a property which is not a person's sole or main residence and is substantially furnished.</p>

APPENDIX 1 - ANALYSIS OF LONG TERM EMPTY HOMES - BY PARISH AND BAND

Parish	Band									Grand Total
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
Broughton			10	5	5	1	1			22
Buckley	5	5	24	10	12	9				65
Connahs Quay	17	13	26	12	8	8			1	85
Hawarden	10	5	13	11	10	4	2			55
Hope	2	2	7	4	3	4	3	1		26
Kinnerton			1	1	1	1	3			7
Llandfynydd	1		2	2	3					8
Penyffordd		2		6	2	4		1		15
Queensferry	8	4	6	1						19
Sealand	2	1	13		2	1	2	1	6	28
Saltney	2	2	10	4	3					21
Shotton	6	8	12	1	3					30
Treuddyn		1	2	6	2		1			12
Bagillt	3	6	9	6	1					25
Brynford		2	2	1	3					8
Caerwys		1	4		1	1		1		8
Cilcain	2		3	2	3	4		1		15
Flint	12	19	23	8	9	3				74
Gwernaffield	2	1	1	2	3	1	1		1	12
Gwernymynydd				2	1	1				4
Halkyn	3	2	7	2	2	3	1			20
Holywell	28	20	8	7	5	1	1			70
Leeswood		9	13		1	1	1			25
Llansasa	6	11	8	8	8	3	2	1		47
Mold	10	14	13	12	7	1	1		1	59
Mostyn		7	3	2	3	1	1	1		18
Argoed		3	3	4	3		1			14
nannerch			2	3	1	1	1			8
Nercwys	1	2		4		2	1	1		11
Northop	1	1	7	9	6	1	2			27
Northop Hall			3		2	1				6
Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgo	1	1	1	3			1		1	8
Whitford		1	12	5	2	2	2	2	1	27
Ysceifiog		1	1	2	2		2	1		9
Grand Total	122	144	249	145	117	59	30	11	11	888

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 16 February 2016
Report Subject	Council Tax & Business Rate Statutory Policies 2016-17
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Report Author	Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year there is a need to approve several policies for the administration of Council Tax and Business Rates, these are:

- Council Tax Discounts on second and long term empty homes
- Council Tax Discretionary Discounts
- Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief
- Business Rates 'top-up' Discretionary Rate Reliefs to small businesses

The adoption of these policies for 2016-17, is part of the Council Tax setting process for 2016-17 and the circumstances where the Council will award local taxation discounts and/or reliefs to ensure council tax and business rate bills are calculated correctly.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Continue with the current policy of not awarding Council Tax discounts on second and long term empty homes in 2016-17.
2	Continue with the current policy to consider Discretionary Council Tax discounts only in cases of civil emergencies and natural disasters.
3	Approve the Discretionary Business Rate Relief Policy for 2016-17.
4	Continue with the current policy in 2016-17 of not awarding 'top-up' Discretionary Discounts to businesses already qualifying for Small Business Rate Relief.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE COUNCIL TAX & BUSINESS RATE STATUTORY POLICIES 2016 – 17
1.01	<p><u>COUNCIL TAX ON SECOND AND LONG TERM EMPTY HOMES</u></p> <p>The Council has long had a policy of not awarding Council Tax discounts to second/holiday homes (defined as Prescribed Classes A and B) and long term empty properties (Prescribed Class C). These are defined by Regulations as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class A – A property which is unoccupied and furnished but where occupation is prohibited by law for over 28 days each year• Class B – A property which is unoccupied and furnished and where occupation is not prohibited by law• Class C – A property which is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished beyond the normal exemption period (usually after 6 months)
1.02	<p>The policy applies to the whole County and the decision not to award discounts for any of the Prescribed Classes is also reflected in the 2016-17 Tax Base calculations.</p>
1.03	<p>The adoption of a policy in 2016-17 of not awarding discounts to second and long term empty homes is consistent with nearly all other Welsh Councils and especially in view of the recent introduction of the Housing Act 2014 which will also provide an opportunity from April 2017 to charge a council tax premium of up to 100% on these type of properties in order to bring these properties back into use.</p>
1.04	<p>A separate report to introduce council tax premiums on second and long term empty homes from 2017-18 will be considered by cabinet and then full Council in March 2016.</p>
1.05	<p><u>COUNCIL TAX DISCRETIONARY DISCOUNTS</u></p> <p>Section 13a of the Local Government Finance Act allows the Council to use discretionary powers to reduce the amount of Council Tax payable, effectively granting a local Council Tax Discretionary Discount.</p>
1.06	<p>If the Council exercises this power it must act with regard to all relevant considerations and the interests of taxpayers as the full cost of awarding a Discretionary Discount would, in effect, be financed by other Council Tax payers.</p>
1.07	<p>The current policy together with the recommended policy for 2016-17 is for the Chief Officer – Community & Enterprise and Cabinet Member for Corporate Management to consider Discretionary Discounts through the use of delegated powers only in cases of civil emergencies or natural disasters.</p>

1.08	<p><u>BUSINESS RATES – DISCRETIONARY RELIEF FOR CHARITABLE, VOLUNTARY AND NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANISATIONS</u></p> <p>Discretionary Rate Relief for Charitable, Voluntary and ‘Not for Profits’ organisations is currently awarded on a continual basis, subject to a minimum of 12 months and one full financial year notice if any ratepayer is impacted by a change in policy. In other words, if notice of a change is not given by 31st March, relief would continue at the same level for a further two years.</p>
1.09	<p>Although the Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR) scheme is approved annually by cabinet, the principles of who gets rate relief and at what level, has not been considered in detail since 2010. Cabinet has already agreed to undertake a review of DRR to provide efficiencies for the Council and help bridge the budget gap from 2017-18 and beyond.</p>
1.10	<p>Notwithstanding this, until any new DRR scheme can be introduced from 2017-18, the recommended policy for 2016-17 will provide the same level of rate relief to the same organisations as in 2015-16.</p>
1.11	<p>The policy for 2016-17 is strengthened to effectively deal with the emergence of new organisations that are structured and set-up as ‘not for profit’. The policy introduces more clarity around qualification rules for Community Interest Companies and Social Enterprises to demonstrate they exist as ‘not for profits’ where the premises are used for charitable, philanthropic or religious purposes, or concerned with recreation, education, social welfare, science, literature or the fine arts.</p> <p>The recommended policy for 2016-17 is determined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premises used ‘wholly or mainly’ for charitable purposes by organisations registered with the Charity Commission (<i>20% discretionary ‘top-up’ relief is awarded, with the exception of Charity Shops operated by national organisations, who receive the 80% Mandatory Relief element only</i>) • Premises used ‘wholly or mainly’ by ‘not for profits’ organisations and who share the same characteristics as those organisations that are registered charities. This category consists of Community Centres, Village Institutes and Halls, other than those operated by Precepting Bodies (<i>20% ‘top-up’ relief is awarded</i>) • Premises occupied ‘wholly or mainly’ by sporting clubs societies or other ‘not for profit’ Community Interest Companies or Registered Social Enterprises and used for the sole purpose charitable, philanthropic or religious purposes, or concerned with recreation, education, social welfare, science, literature or the fine arts (<i>100% Discretionary Relief is awarded with the exception of golf clubs who are usually awarded 50% Discretionary Relief</i>)
1.12	<p>Not for profit’ organisations will be considered as those not conducted or maintained for the purpose of making a profit and whose surpluses are used to further achieve their aims and objectives rather than distribute income to the organisations shareholders. For easy understanding these will typically be member or community serving organisations.</p>

1.13	<p>The key test to establish ‘not for profits’ will centre around whether they are genuinely run as ‘not for profit’, To aid decision making considerations will be made around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing the memorandum and articles of association to determine the type of organisation, and that it is not for profit and/or for a social purpose associated with charitable, philanthropic or religious purposes, or concerned with recreation, education, social welfare, science, literature or the fine arts - ensuring these elements are built into this document with clarity and what happens to any traded surpluses • Consideration of the initial business plan and audited accounts to check whether traded surpluses are re-invested each year for advancement of their mission and social purpose. • Assessing on an annual basis, submitted audited accounts and any revisions to the memorandum and articles of association to ensure the application of surpluses are as detailed in their memorandum and articles and to monitor/prevent building up of excessive reserves.
1.14	<p><u>BUSINESS RATES – DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF FOR ALL OTHER BUSINESSES</u></p> <p>The Council can also provide discretionary relief in any circumstances in line with the Localism Act 2011. This is subject to the condition that, except in the limited circumstances specified, the Council may only grant relief if it would be reasonable to do so having full regard to the interests of council tax payers who would ultimately finance the full cost of providing rate relief in these circumstances.</p>
1.15	<p>The proposed policy in 2016-17 is for the Chief Officer – Community & Enterprise and Cabinet Member for Corporate Management consider any applications received for discretionary discounts falling outside the scope of the policy in section 1.03 to be considered on their own merits using the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests for reductions will be required in writing with a full business case and documentary evidence in support of the need for relief • The Council’s finances allow for a reduction to be made • It must be in the interests of Council Tax payers and the wider public interest to grant a reduction • All other eligible discounts/reliefs have been considered prior to seeking discretionary rate relief
1.16	<p><u>BUSINESS RATES – DISCRETIONARY RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES</u></p> <p>Welsh Government provide Small Business Rate (SBR) Relief to most businesses with a rateable value of £12,000 or less, financed by Welsh Government. The Welsh Government SBR scheme also contains provision for local authorities to award discretionary ‘top-up’ relief to small businesses not qualifying for 100% SBR reductions, although the cost of</p>

	providing 'top-up' awards to small businesses is financed completely by the Council.
1.17	The proposed policy in 2016-17 is not to award additional discretionary 'top-up' relief to small businesses already qualifying for partial SBR.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	On the basis of a continuation of all existing policies as set out in this report, costs can be met from within existing budget provisions during 2016-17 for the awarding of Discretionary Rate Relief to Charities, Voluntary and 'Not for Profit' organisations.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	A referral to Community & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee will review the policies as set out in this report with feedback being considered by cabinet prior to final approval of the report.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The approval of these policies, prior to the commencement of the next Council Tax and Business Rate billing period starting on 1 st April 2016, will ensure that all statutory policies are in place to deal with applications for reliefs and discounts. Furthermore, residents will also have knowledge of the Council's approach to charging Council Tax on second and long term empty homes during 2016-17.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Finance Act 1988 – section 47 • Local Government Finance Act 1992 – section 12 • Non Domestic Rating (Discretionary Relief) Regulations 1989 Localism Act 2011 – section 69 <p>Contact Officer: David Barnes Job Title: Revenues Manager Telephone: 01352 703652 E-mail: david.barnes@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Mandatory Rate Relief: Where a business property is occupied by a charity or a Community Amateur Sports Organisation and the property is put to use 'wholly or mainly' for charitable purposes, there is an automatic entitlement to a 80% reduction in the rate bill, the cost of which is picked up by Welsh Government.</p> <p>Discretionary Rate Relief: Voluntary Groups and 'Not for profit' organisations which are not registered charities are not eligible to receive Mandatory Rate Relief, but they are eligible to receive discretionary rate relief up to 100% (either as a 'top-up' to Mandatory Rate Relief or as an award in its own right based on the policy of a local authority). To be entitled to Discretionary Rate Relief, organisations must satisfy certain rules and conditions where the premises are occupied and put to use for charitable or otherwise for used for philanthropic, religious, education, social welfare, science, literature, the arts or recreational purposes.</p> <p>Council Tax second homes: are defined as domestic properties appearing in the Council Tax Valuation List which are not a person's sole or main residence and which are substantially furnished, although they might sometimes be occupied periodically.</p> <p>Council Tax long term empty homes (LTE'S): are defined as a domestic properties appearing in the Council Tax Valuation List but which is both un-occupied and substantially unfurnished for a period of usually 6 months or more.</p> <p>Rateable Value: is a monetary value on the likely letting price assigned to commercial buildings based on the size, location and other factors used to determine the rates payable by the person responsible for payment of business rates on each commercial property appearing in the Rating List. All Rateable values are calculated by the Valuation Office Agency which is an executive arm of HMRC (HM Revenue & Customs).</p> <p>Small Business Rate Relief: is a Welsh Government funded scheme that has been extended to 31st March 2017 to provide rate relief on a sliding scale to most small businesses operating from commercial premises with a rateable value of £12,000 or less. Properties with a rateable value of £6,000 or less are eligible for 100% rate relief. This means that businesses won't pay business rates on those properties. The rate of relief decreases from 100% to 0% for properties with a rateable between £6,001 and £12,000.</p> <p>Tax Base: is a measure of the Council's Council Tax 'taxable capacity' taking into account the number of chargeable properties and the number of exemptions and discounts.</p>



CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 16 th February 2016
Report Subject	Flintshire Supporting People Commissioning Plan
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Housing
Report Author	Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2016-18. The programme has been subject to significant reductions over the past three years. It is pleasing to note that the grant has been protected in 2016/17. This provides the team some time to work with providers to identify different ways of working which can deliver savings whilst protecting service delivery. This report does propose to move ahead with planned reductions of services that are not deemed a priority to fund. Any savings will be used to provide short term support to meet emerging pressures as a result of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet approves the Local Commissioning Plan 2016-18 for the Supporting People Programme Grant.
2	Cabinet approves the spend plan for 2016-17.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE FLINTSHIRE SUPPORTING PEOPLE COMMISSIONING PLAN																
1.01	<p>In 2012, the Welsh Government merged together the Supporting People Grant and Supporting People Revenue Grant and created the Supporting People Programme Grant. This grant funds the provision of services that enable vulnerable people to gain and retain independence by remaining in their own home and prevents people from needing to access health, social care and homelessness services, etc.</p>																
1.02	<p>Members will be aware that the Flintshire Supporting People Programme Grant has suffered significant reductions as a result of the austerity measures that have seen some of the deepest public sector cuts for a generation being implemented by the government to reduce the budget deficit. Table 1 below, shows the year on year reduction in the grant since April 2013 in Flintshire.</p> <p>Table 1</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Financial Year</th> <th>Total SPRG</th> <th>Reduction in SPPG (compared to previous years' SPRG)</th> <th>% Reduction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>£6,824,035</td> <td>£296,221</td> <td>4.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>£6,468,843</td> <td>£356,092</td> <td>5.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>£5,809,813</td> <td>£659,026</td> <td>10.4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This represents a total budget cut of 18.4% over 3 years.</p>	Financial Year	Total SPRG	Reduction in SPPG (compared to previous years' SPRG)	% Reduction	2013/14	£6,824,035	£296,221	4.1%	2014/15	£6,468,843	£356,092	5.2%	2015/16	£5,809,813	£659,026	10.4%
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1.03	<p>Strategic Priorities</p> <p><u>Meeting the requirements of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014</u></p> <p>The implementation of these two acts are likely to have a substantial impact on Supporting People. Both have a heavy focus on early intervention where people need support to live independently, which aligns well with Supporting People's key aim of preventing homelessness through early intervention, therefore it is anticipated there will be increased demand on services.</p>																
1.04	<p>In 2014, Flintshire Supporting People Team and the Support Gateway are embedded in the Housing Solutions Service. There is a joined up approach between the Housing Support Workers and the Homeless Officers. This has provided a lean approach to managing the increasing levels of people at risk of homelessness. The Flintshire Supporting People</p>																

	Planning Group is chaired by a Senior Manager from Social Services creating a key link at a strategic level.
1.05	<p><u>Contributing to the Tackling Poverty Agenda</u></p> <p>Supporting People along with Housing and Homelessness was incorporated into the Communities and Tackling Poverty Ministerial portfolio. Welsh Government have highlighted the opportunities for greater links to be forged between Supporting People and the Tackling Poverty programmes; Communities First, Families First and Flying Start.</p>
1.06	Flintshire has started work to map how these programmes can be more closely aligned. There is some practical join up between Families First and Supporting People with links between the boards, sharing of commissioning tools and expect that alignment to become closer over the next twelve months through some joint commissioning of projects.
1.07	<p><u>Managing the Reductions</u></p> <p>The continued reduction to the Supporting People Programme Grant has been a significant and growing concern for the authority. The services funded by the grant prevent some residents from accessing more costly social and health care and homelessness services and positively support the authority in its attempts to mitigate the extreme financial pressures that are being generated by other reductions in public expenditure, such as the welfare reforms. Therefore, it has been essential for the Flintshire Supporting People Team to adopt a proactive and strategic approach in their management of the year on year reduction in the Supporting People Programme Grant and, in doing so, lessen the negative impacts upon service delivery to customers.</p>
1.08	It is pleasing that the Supporting People Programme Grant has been protected from reductions in 2016/17. This provides some much needed time for the Supporting People Team to work with providers to identify efficiencies that as far as possible protect vulnerable service users.
1.09	There are some ongoing projects to remodel services that will continue through 2016/17 in partnership with service providers. The Supporting People Team has sought agreement from the Supporting People Planning Group for changes to some services which will deliver savings in 2016/17. These are reductions where services have been deemed ineligible or not a priority for Supporting People to fund. These savings in 2016/17 will be invested in the short term to support new emerging pressures as a result of the requirements of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The Supporting People Planning Group has identified a gap in provision for males fleeing domestic abuse across the North Wales region. The Supporting People Planning Group will also align with the wider Tackling Poverty Programmes to identify where investment will meet emerging pressures, tackle poverty and prevent homelessness within the County.

1.10	<p><u>CONSIDERATIONS</u></p> <p>Cabinet are asked to approve the 2016–18 Supporting People Commissioning Plan (attached at appendix one). The proposals to reduce expenditure contained within this report are in line with the council’s and the Regional Collaborative Committee’s strategic priorities.</p>							
1.11	<p>The Supporting People Team is committed to making efficiencies through ensuring service providers are delivering their support services as efficiently and effectively as possible and have been involved in discussions about delivering services differently to achieve savings and maintain service delivery. This has included the use of volunteers, identifying where a floating support model can be more efficient than supported housing and considering changes to overnight support provision.</p>							
1.12	<p>Services continue to be assessed in line with the model from the 2014-16 Commissioning Plan which assesses providers in terms of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Is the service eligible for Supporting People funding? ii. Has the service been subject to value for money assessment? iii. Does the service contribute to key strategic priorities of the Supporting People Programme? iv. Is there clear evidence of demand for the service? v. Could the same outcomes be achieved by delivering services in a different way? vi. Are there other services/funding streams in the County that could deliver the outcomes? vii. Is there opportunity for partner or regional collaboration? viii. What is the service user impact, if the service is ceased or reduced? 							
1.13	<p>The outcomes of the assessment of service providers has enabled the Supporting People Team to identify potential efficiency savings of £206,500 in 2016/17 which equates to a 3.5% reduction. The plan also suggests some remodelling work to be implemented in 2017/18. The efficiencies will be achieved through the remodelling of existing services; ceasing services that are not deemed to be strategically relevant to the aims of the Supporting People Programme; maximising alternative funding streams; and, by promoting greater levels of collaboration amongst service providers.</p>							
1.14	<p>Within the service areas where efficiencies have been identified, the Supporting People Team has closely appraised the implications for service users and, importantly, they have identified alternative options where service users may access appropriate support to lessen any negative impacts generated by a reduction in service provision.</p>							
1.15	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Table 2</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Service Areas</th> <th>Efficiency Savings</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Domestic Abuse</td> <td>No change</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Table 2		Service Areas	Efficiency Savings	Domestic Abuse	No change
Table 2								
Service Areas	Efficiency Savings							
Domestic Abuse	No change							

	Families <i>Achieved through a reduction within a family hostel</i>	£15,000
	Substance Misuse	No change
	Chronic Illness <i>Achieved through decommissioning a regional project for HIV/AIDS.</i>	£14,000
	Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment	No change
	Offenders	No change
	Young People	No change
	Mental health	No change
	Housing Support (Generic)	No change
	Housing Support (Aged over 55) <i>Achieved through withdrawal of support from Abbeyfield Flint with the agreement of the provider</i>	£14,500
	Community Care <i>A continuation of a planned withdrawal from services ineligible for Supporting People Programme Grant.</i>	£163,000
	Total	£206,500
1.16	The Supporting People Team are currently working with individual service providers, agreeing the measures that will need to be taken in order to achieve future efficiency savings and to ensure service users are supported through any changes in how their particular support services are to be delivered.	
1.17	To ensure that the provision of a comprehensive range of quality assured housing related support services within Flintshire will be sustainable over the longer-term, the Supporting People Team are continuing their proactive engagement with all service providers, challenging and redefining the traditional models of how housing related support is delivered. The Supporting People Team remain committed to a strategic approach for identifying the savings required.	
1.18	Released funding will be used to ensure Flintshire has suitable and safe arrangements for males fleeing domestic abuse; provide support posts to ensure Flintshire can meet the requirements of the new Housing and Social Services legislation and provide support for planned changes to the young people accommodation and support services. The detail and specification of any spend will be agreed through the Tackling Poverty Programmes.	

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	A growing body of research has demonstrated the financial benefits to the public purse that are attained due to the positive outcomes from interventions delivered through the Supporting People programme. The key research in Wales indicates that for every £1 spent on the provision of housing related support, £1.68 is saved across other budgets, with the health, social care, and homelessness budgets seeing the most significant savings, primarily due to the preventative nature of Supporting People services.
2.02	Thus, the year on year reduction in the Supporting People Programme Grant is a concern as it may result in the authority incurring additional expenditure in the delivery of crisis intervention services and in the fulfilment of its social care and homelessness statutory duties.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Service providers have been consulted upon how the support services that they are currently delivering will be impacted by the efficiencies being made within the 2016/17 Supporting People Programme Grant.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The services provided through the Supporting People programme aim to improve the quality of life of vulnerable people by supporting them to live independently in the community. These include the provision of services that help people to maximise their household income and manage their financial commitments. The successful outcomes from such services play an important role in helping to tackle poverty and prevent homelessness within the County.
4.02	Whilst the Flintshire Supporting People Team will attempt to identify efficiencies that will generate the least impact upon service users, it has to be recognised that any future reduction in service provision may result in some vulnerable people not having ease of access to the support services that they require in order to avoid their household from falling into poverty and/or becoming at risk of homelessness.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix One - Local Commissioning Plan

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Contact Officer: Katie Clubb, Customer Support Manager Telephone: 01352 703518

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Supporting People Team – the team sits within the Customer Support Service area and is responsible for the contract management, reviewing and commissioning of Supporting People Services.</p> <p>Supporting People Programme Grant - In 2012, the Welsh Government merged together the Supporting People Grant and Supporting People Revenue Grant and created the Supporting People Programme Grant. This grant funds the provision of services that enable vulnerable people to gain and retain independence by remaining in their own home and prevents people from needing to access health, social care and homelessness services, etc.</p> <p>Housing related support - is provided to help vulnerable people develop or maintain the skills and confidence necessary to live as independently as possible. Housing related support can include help and advice with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing life and domestic skills• Budgeting and managing money• Accessing other services and opportunities• Establishing safety and security <p>Supported Housing - This is a service where the support is linked accommodation for people who have support needs as well as housing needs. Support can vary from simple information and advice on benefits to more in-depth help with independent living skills, accessing education and employment, overnight support and assistance with finding move-on accommodation.</p> <p>Floating Support – This is where support is not linked to a particular property and is flexible and can support a number of people wherever they reside.</p> <p>Decommissioning Strategy – The Supporting People Planning Group agreed a decommissioning strategy which ensures that the decision to end funding to a service has taken into consideration a number of factors including any impact on service users.</p> <p>Tackling Poverty Programmes – The Welsh Government has recognised the following programmes as contributing to the Tackling Poverty agenda: Supporting People, Flying Start, Communities First and Families First.</p>

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Flintshire County Council Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2016-18

Contents

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Strategic Priorities
Need, Supply and Service Gaps
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Service Development
EIA
Spend Plan (Appendix One)

Date	December 2015
Version	1
Status	Draft for Scrutiny Committee

1. Introduction

1.1 What is Supporting People?

The Supporting People Programme is a Welsh Government funded programme that provides housing related support to vulnerable people. The programme aims to support people to maximise, maintain and sustain their independence through the provision of a range of innovative housing related support services.

Housing related support aims to prevent the problems that can cause people to become homeless. The principle of housing related support is to support a person to access, maintain and manage accommodation by assisting to develop or maintain the necessary skills and confidence to live as independently as possible.

1.2 What is Housing related support?

Housing related support is provided to help vulnerable people develop or maintain the skills and confidence necessary to live as independently as possible. Housing related support can include help and advice with:

- Developing life and domestic skills
- Budgeting and managing money
- Accessing other services and opportunities
- Establishing safety and security

1.3 This plan details the priorities for the next two years and the detailed spend plan for 2016 – 2017.

2. Strategic Priorities

2.1 Context

The Supporting People Programme is focused on early intervention by preventing homelessness or a move to higher dependency institutional settings where possible, which can often result in savings to other front-line services such as social care, health and criminal justice.

There are significant legislative and policy changes affecting Supporting People, along with continued economic pressures on wider public services. It is therefore imperative that we focus our efforts to ensure the services we deliver remain strategically relevant and take advantage of opportunities to streamline our work through increased collaboration with key partners.

Flintshire Supporting People's current strategic priorities are listed below:

2.2 Managing the ongoing budget cuts

Flintshire Supporting People Programme Grant has suffered significant reductions as a result of the austerity measures that have seen some of the deepest public sector cuts for a generation being implemented by the government to reduce the budget deficit. Table 1 below, shows the year on year reduction in the grant since April 2013 from a Flintshire perspective.

Table 1

Financial Year	Total SPRG	Reduction in SPPG (compared to previous years' SPRG)	% Reduction
2013/14	£6,824,035	£296,221	4.1%
2014/15	£6,468,843	£356,092	5.2%
2015/16	£5,809,813	£659,026	10.4%

This represents a total budget cut of 18.4% over 3 years.

Flintshire is pleased that the Supporting People Programme Grant has been protected in 2016/17. This provides the necessary time for the team to continue to seek to mitigate these cuts as far as possible through careful planning and negotiation with service providers and other stakeholders locally and regionally. More time is needed to prevent decommissioning and allow for the development of alternative delivery models to protect the services delivered to vulnerable people.

2.3 Meeting the requirements of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

The implementation of these two acts are likely to have a substantial impact on Supporting People. Both have a heavy focus on early intervention where people need support to live independently, which aligns well with Supporting People's key aim of preventing homelessness through early intervention, therefore it is anticipated there will be increased demand on services.

In 2014, Flintshire Supporting People Team and the Support Gateway are embedded in the Housing Solutions Service. There is a joined up approach between the Housing Support Workers and the Homeless Officers. This has provided a lean approach to managing the increasing levels of people at risk of homelessness. The Flintshire Supporting People Planning Group is chaired by a Senior Manager from Social Services creating a key link at a strategic level.

2.4 Contributing to the Tackling Poverty Agenda

Supporting People along with Housing and Homelessness was incorporated into the Communities and Tackling Poverty Ministerial portfolio. Welsh Government have highlighted the opportunities for greater links to be forged between Supporting People and the Tackling Poverty programmes; Communities First, Families First and Flying Start.

Flintshire has started work to map how these programmes can be more closely aligned. There is some practical join up between Families First and Supporting People with links between the boards, sharing of commissioning tools and expect that alignment to become closer over the next twelve months through some joint commissioning of projects.

2.5 Closer regional collaboration

The establishment of the North Wales Supporting People Regional Collaborative Committee (RCC) in 2012 has enabled a strategic overview of developments that affect Supporting People both locally and regionally through improved information-sharing. This presents opportunities for closer regional working between Supporting People Teams across North Wales, which presents an additional opportunity for making efficiency savings.

The North Wales Regional Strategic Plan demonstrates that Flintshire has led and been involved in the most regional collaborations to deliver efficiencies. Flintshire is also exploring further opportunities for regional and sub-regional commissioning where improvements or efficiencies can be delivered. Supporting People Teams across the region are also working closely together to adopt standardised paperwork and processes, which will deliver time and cost savings to both Supporting People Teams and service providers who work across more than one authority.

Regional and Sub Regional commissioned projects across North Wales: (taken from the North Wales Strategic Plan)

- Regional Contract for HIV/AIDS Project across all six local authorities in North Wales – Contract to end April 2016
- Sub Regional Project between Flintshire and Denbighshire -Supported Lodgings, this provides a service to Young People with Support Needs (Supported Housing)
- Sub Regional Project between Flintshire and Denbighshire - Night Stop by Local Solutions that provides a service to Young People (Accommodation Support) and is a joint funded project between Homelessness and Children's Services.
- Sub Regional Project between Wrexham and Flintshire Domestic Abuse Floating Support with Hafan Cymru

- Denbighshire and Flintshire are exploring the possibility of a sub-regional Key Ring Project.
- Denbighshire and Flintshire are exploring the possibility of sub-regional young person supported accommodation.

3. **Need and Supply Analysis**

Need and supply

A range of data is used to identify need, assess current provision and shape future development of Supporting People services.

Needs mapping forms are completed for everyone who is identified as having housing-related support needs, with the data recorded whether a referral is taken forward or not. A regional form has been in operation since 2012, providing three years of comparable data for all six North Wales authorities. The needs mapping data helps to identify any shifting trends in the demography and specific needs of those requiring housing-related support, which may require services to be remodelled.

Regular quantitative and qualitative monitoring of Supporting People-funded projects is carried out throughout the year, which informs full service reviews that take place every three years. Monitoring data verifies demand for the project and assesses value for money, quality of the service, compliance against the contract, and identifies areas for improvement.

It is noted that all projects are different which makes it challenging to compare like-for-like or introduce benchmark measurements. However, given the year-on-year reductions to the Supporting People Programme Grant allocation, it is necessary to determine which projects are higher priorities to fund.

There continues to be significant demand for Supporting People services within Flintshire at a challenging time of national economic austerity with heavy cuts to public services impacting greatly upon communities and individuals, particularly those most vulnerable. Supporting People services are funded to support over 950 service users at any one time. In 2014/15, 2953 vulnerable individuals and families received housing-related support through Supporting People services in Flintshire. This highlights the hidden problem of homelessness when compared with the number of people accepted as homeless and having a full duty owed to them by the statutory homelessness team within the county – 89 in 2014/15 (illustrated in Graphic 1). It also clearly indicates the value of the work of Supporting People services, who work to prevent vulnerable people reaching a situation where they have to present to statutory homelessness services, and also pick up a number of those who make enquiries and/or are ineligible for statutory homelessness support.

Graphic 1 – Hidden Problem of Homelessness

(each figure represents 10 people)

Number of people eligible for statutory homelessness assistance in 2014/15.....



Number of people supported by Supporting People services in 2014/15.....



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In 2015-16 Flintshire faced a significant reduction to the Supporting People Grant of just over 10%. Reductions were made to service areas/service groups as follows:-

Domestic Abuse – 18% reduction

This was managed by value for money efficiencies. Flintshire had also planned to introduce a new dispersed refuge project in 2015-16 and this pilot was placed on hold.

Learning Disabilities – 17% reduction

This was managed by the removal of funding from Social Services. This funding had previously been identified as no longer strategically relevant to fund and plans had already been put in place with Social Services to remove this element.

Mental Health – No reduction

Substance Misuse – No reduction

Offenders – No reduction

Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impairment – No reduction

Young People – No reduction

Families – 17% reduction

This was managed by achieving value for money efficiencies within one of the family projects. In addition, a floating support service was decommissioned. This service was one of the transitional projects that had transferred from Welsh Government in 2012 and was deemed no longer strategically relevant.

Older People – 12% reduction

This was managed by the removal of funding from Social Services. This funding had previously been identified as no longer strategically relevant to fund and plans had already been put in place with Social Services to remove this element.

Generic Services – 4% reduction

This reduction was achieved by not renewing the contract for the Vulnerable Adults Support Worker. This project had not been in operation for some time and cases previously supported via this project are now allocated via the central referral gateway.

Support needs reported in 2014-15 through the needs mapping exercise are following a similar trend to 2013-14 (see Graph 2), with rises in the proportion of forms reporting both domestic abuse and mental health related support needs. There has also been a rise in the proportion of forms specifying needs relating to being young and vulnerable. The sharp fall in the proportion of forms reporting homelessness as a need is highly likely to be due to the Welsh Government spend category changing from 'Homelessness' to 'Generic', which lacks clarity, however it is still reported as the 4th highest need. The top four needs of mental health, domestic abuse, vulnerable young person and homelessness/generic have all had their budgets protected or increased in 2015-16.

There are a number of changes to the needs mapping data for 2014-15 against 2013-14, which are believed to be attributable to changes to the needs mapping form and process, including the move from a paper form to referrers completing the form themselves online. The number of questions remaining unanswered has fallen sharply making the data more reliable, which is encouraging and likely due to the process of a referrer moving through the questions online and being less likely to miss a question out.

Service gaps

The North Wales Regional Collaborative Committee have requested a piece of work be undertaken to identify the unmet need and service gaps across the region, and to produce a robust methodology for the region to adopt in future. Currently, only those spend plan categories with no projects are highlighted as potential service gaps and it is felt that met and unmet need should be more robustly checked and evidenced, in order that support is available to those most in need especially given the pressure on budgets.

Service gaps against the spend plan are currently as follows:

- People with Refugee Status – numbers reporting needs relating to refugee status remain very low, therefore, it is anticipated that anyone presenting with these needs can access support from a generic Supporting People project.
- Men experiencing domestic abuse –whilst there are no male specific services within the county, males are supported by the Aster Hope Floating Support Service. Supporting People is committed to continuing with the work already underway with local providers to identify the need/demand for a male specific refuge.
- People with Developmental Disorders – 2 people across the county presented with a lead need which identified a developmental disorder. Currently, service users are supported in other projects and where appropriate, further wrap around support is provided.
- Young People who are Care Leavers – whilst no projects sit within this service user group, the services for young people do support care leavers. There is no evidence that a specific project for care leavers is necessary, however, further work will be undertaken during 2016/17 in order to identify appropriate pathways of support for all young people.
- Single Parent Families with Support Needs – there are no specific projects for single parents. All family projects support both single people and couples.
- Single People (aged 25-65) – Projects in Flintshire for single people are for those aged 18+ and therefore this category shows a 0 value.

4. Consultation Evidence

There are a number of groups and forums locally and regionally which provide avenues for participation and consultation.

4.1 RCC Membership

The North Wales RCC which provides advice on the delivery of the programme across the region includes representation from each Local Authority through the Cabinet Member and Senior Officer responsible for the programme, BCUHB, North Wales Probation and Supporting People Providers.

The RCC Sub Groups look at pilot projects, and to replace existing task and finish groups (work packages) currently underway. The objectives for this group are to explore Pilot Projects that will demonstrate efficient working patterns on less resources (details of each pilot project can be found in the appendices – Appendix One), to monitor pilot projects, research other funding opportunities, direct the work of all the RCC work packages. Commitment to the motion of the Let's Keep on Supporting People statement (in appendices – Appendix Four)

The membership of this group consists of Local Authority Supporting People Lead Officers or appropriate representative, Provider and Landlord Representatives of the RCC, Regional Development Coordinator, and Nominated Officials from previous RCC work packages to update as and when requested.

4.2 North Wales Supporting People Regional Provider Forum

This is an additional communication and consultation method that sits within the regional framework. Given the fundamental changes that North Wales Supporting People Programme has gone through, this forum aims to maximise communication, give Providers the opportunity to receive updates and present their own information and develop a greater awareness and understanding of the programme.

This forum is a provider led forum, Local Authority Supporting People team members are not invited to this forum, this is provider led which the RCC Provider Reps attend.

This forum aims to ensure smaller agencies have an opportunity to participate and that the forum provides networking opportunities for all partners. This group meets quarterly and is arranged by Cymorth Cymru. The forum is open to both members and non-members of Cymorth Cymru.

4.3 Flintshire

4.3.1 Reviews

Flintshire Supporting People value feedback from all stakeholders about the commissioning and delivery of Supporting People contracts. When projects are reviewed every 3 years, feedback is sought from staff, service users and stakeholders by Supporting People through interviews and questionnaires to ensure that projects are delivering the service as required and that they continue to meet the needs of service users effectively. Any significant issues or themes emerging from the feedback will be addressed within the review recommendations, which may include improvements to existing practices or remodelling a project to better meet demand.

4.3.2 Decommissioning

As laid out in the Flintshire Decommissioning Strategy, when a project is considered for decommissioning, Supporting People will seek the views of service users and stakeholders when completing the Decommissioning Report, and consider how any negative impacts can be alleviated.

4.3.3 Homeless & Supporting People Forum

Flintshire also holds an annual Homeless and Supporting People Provider Forum. At this event relevant information about the Supporting People Programme and related areas such as new policies or welfare reforms. Feedback is sought in small workshops to inform the ongoing work of the Supporting People Team and the Housing Solutions Service.

Flintshire Supporting People Planning Group are consulted throughout the development of this Plan and agree any changes to the content. Following the formal consultation period, the Plan will be submitted to the Partnership Scrutiny Committee before the final document is submitted and signed off by Flintshire County Council Cabinet for submission to the North Wales Regional Collaborative Committee in January 2016.

4.4 Service Users

Flintshire has always placed a high value on the feedback and participation of service users. The team continually seeks ways to ensure this involvement is meaningful and makes a difference.

4.4.1 ODEL Involve - Service User Involvement project

During 2015 Flintshire commissioned a Service User Involvement Project to ensure that service users are consulted with at every stage of planning and delivering Supporting People services.

Aims of the project:

To increase and improve the engagement and participation of people at risk of homelessness, who have been homeless, and those currently in receipt of Supporting People services. To include service users at all stages of developing, commissioning and reviewing Supporting People services within Flintshire.

Objectives:

- To involve and inspire those who have been homeless or are receiving housing related support and involve them in activities that allow them to take positive steps in their lives
- Be able to evidence these improvements, both through qualitative reporting and through applying the Supporting People Outcomes Framework
- Increase the influence of service users on how Supporting People services are commissioned and delivered in Flintshire
- Be able to evidence that the involvement and influence facilitated has had a positive influence on how services are delivered / commissioned and this evidence is presented to all stakeholders

Outcomes:

- The service employs a full time Service User Involvement Coordinator and two Service User Involvement Officers each working 8 hours per week.
- 6 volunteers have currently been recruited and trained since June 2015, who assist with reviewing Supporting People projects.
- The service undertakes service user consultation as part of the Supporting People evaluation by obtaining service user views via peer reviewing and peer mentoring. Written reports are completed in regards to feedback from service users who's service is under review. This report is then included within the final evaluation report of each service.
- All staff and volunteers recruited have undertaken 4 days training ran by TPAS Cymru
- The Service User Involvement Officers will sit on Flintshire Supporting People Planning group and attend Regional Collaborative Committee at the request of the Supporting People team.
- The service completes service user consultation in regards to any remodelling proposals.
- The service will establish service user forums to enable discussions around Supporting People planning and developing of services.
- The service offers a free peer mentoring service to service users who have low level support needs.

- The Service User Involvement Officers and Volunteers have developed skills, gained qualifications, and participated in learning activities which will ultimately bring them closer to the labour market by becoming 'job ready'.

4.4.2 Young People Consultation

Part of the work undertaken during 2015 was to ask young people for their views on the support projects. This work went a step further than the typical satisfaction survey and really sought views on the structure, cost, move on options and links with education and employment.

The findings from this work is now informing some clear changes being implemented with providers to improve the provision for young people and outcomes achieved.

A summary of the recommendations being implemented:-

Rent

- Budgeting to be a priority within support plans and revisited at regular intervals
- Supporting People Team to make arrangements with housing benefit for those that enter employment.
- Rent arrears to be addressed earlier
- Much more focus on entering employment and removing the barriers

Size and Structure

- Explore costing for smaller projects as opposed to traditional 'hostel' projects to consider remodelling the existing provision in Flintshire.
- Realign funding between housing benefit and supporting people to provide more 1:1 support and less 'management' of a project.

Move on Options

- Consideration given to expanding shared housing options instead of the existing move on flats. These set unrealistic expectations and move on is slow. Shared housing to be developed as an interim solution whilst permanent housing solutions are explored and secured.

Education and Employment

- Much more targeted support around access to education and employment making engagement mandatory.
- Improve the links with Careers services within projects.

5. Service Development and Efficiencies

The following table includes a summary of the main activity and service planning developments within each service user group.

Service User Group	Service Development, Decommissioning and Remodeling Proposals
<p>Women Experiencing Domestic Abuse</p>	<p><i>Applicable to both male and female domestic abuse services:</i></p> <p>All domestic abuse provision is currently being reviewed to ensure that projects are delivering value for money and are achieving strong outcomes.</p> <p>Work will be undertaken within the next 12 months to ensure that current provision is relevant. Consideration will be given to remodeling supported housing provision where there are high void levels to more flexible floating support. The remodeling proposals will include proposals to meet existing gaps in provision for males fleeing domestic abuse.</p> <p>Over the next 12 months we will be looking to further develop strategic links with the Community Safety partnership and re-establish a local or sub-regional Domestic Abuse Forum.</p> <p>The Regional Collaborative Committee is currently establishing a Domestic Abuse Task and Finish Group to review current service provision across the region and strengthen links with the All Wales Domestic Abuse Modernisation Group.</p> <p>Gap – There is a gap in provision for safe accommodation for males fleeing domestic abuse. This has been identified as a growing issue in Flintshire but there is no refuge provision for males in North Wales.</p>
<p>People with Learning Disabilities</p>	<p>Any funding for services identified as ineligible for Supporting People is subject to a planned withdrawal.</p> <p>Flintshire is working with Denbighshire County Council to review the floating support services delivered in both counties. Proposals for remodeling will aim to ensure nobody is excluded from the projects based on location. A sub regional contract will be proposed if this can achieve efficiencies and deliver the support required.</p> <p>There is the possibility of developing a sub-regional Keyring Floating Support project between Denbighshire and Flintshire during 2016.</p>
<p>People with Mental Health Issues</p>	<p>Performance Monitoring information has evidenced a growing demand in this area.</p>

	<p>Hafal Cymru floating support project was commissioned during 2015 and monitoring and review has evidenced significant demand for this service. possible development of existing mental health services depends on funding cuts and whether remodeling of other service user group areas financially allows for additional provision.</p>
<p>People with Substance Misuse Issues (Alcohol, Drugs and Volatile Substances)</p>	<p><i>Applicable to both drug and alcohol services and people with criminal offending history:</i></p> <p>During evaluation and ongoing monitoring meetings it has become evident that the current structure of some projects is not as effective as others and remodeling could achieve better value for money and meet needs more effectively. Supporting People Planning Group has agreed a remodeling proposal to make floating support services more flexible in terms of caseloads and remodel supported housing schemes to a floating support model. This enables support providers to support more service users and tailor the support as required. The team will work with service users and providers and aim for the new model to be fully operational in 2017/18.</p>
<p>People with Criminal Offending History</p>	<p><i>See notes in service user group above (People with Substance Misuse Issues (Alcohol, Drugs and Volatile Substances))</i></p> <p>Flintshire has floating support provision targeted at those who have a criminal offending history or who are at risk of offending behavior. The current provision delivers value for money and is fit for purpose.</p> <p>Wrexham prison for male offenders will open in 2017 and will have a focus on education, training and resettlement of offenders. Along with legislative changes within the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and the Social Service and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, this will have a significant impact upon the resettlement of offenders within North Wales.</p> <p>Demand for specialist provision for offenders will be monitored over the next 1 - 2 years.</p>
<p>People with Refugee Status</p>	<p>The number of people reporting refugee status remains very low in Flintshire. Demand for support from this service user group will continue to be monitored and if required, a sub-regional project may be considered if it is felt that the needs of this group could not be met by existing services.</p> <p>The regional Supporting People Network is leading on work to support the Syrian Refugee Relocation Scheme.</p>
<p>People with Physical and /or Sensory Disabilities</p>	<p>Needs mapping data indicates that the number of people presenting with mobility issues has risen within the past 12 months, it is recognized that this is due to the increased number of older people's services completing needs mapping forms. The Flintshire Support Gateway and performance</p>

	<p>monitoring data has not seen a sharp increase in referrals for people with physical health needs. In Flintshire the current service capacity has been found to meet demand.</p>
<p>People with Developmental Disorders (i.e. Autism)</p>	<p>The number of people being referred for support with developmental disorders remains very low in Flintshire. This is due to their being sufficient funding within learning disability teams and our complex needs supported housing project to adequately support the current demand.</p> <p>Supporting People will continue to make links with specialist services to promote knowledge of, and access to, existing Supporting People services.</p>
<p>People with Chronic Illness (including HIV)</p>	<p>The service review of this regional project has found that service users could have their needs met more appropriately, and more cost effectively, by generic support services rather than by a specialist service. It has been agreed by the RCC for this project to be decommissioned from April 2016. An exit strategy is in place which consists of completing training within generic services in regards to HIV and related conditions to ensure that there are no barriers to people accessing generic floating support services.</p>
<p>Young People with Support Needs, Including Care Leavers (16 to 24 years old)</p>	<p>Young people continue to make up a significant proportion of those requiring housing related support. It is expected that demand from this service user group may rise further given changes to welfare benefit entitlements being introduced. Supporting People will work with our partners to reduce the impact on vulnerable young people.</p> <p>Following recent reviews and ongoing monitoring of all young person projects it has become evident that some models of the current young person supported housing projects are more successful at achieving positive outcomes than others.</p> <p>During 2016/2017 it is a priority for Supporting People to work with our partners and providers to complete a re-structure of young people support provision. Supporting People will undertake further consultation to develop a Young Person Pathway with some changes in place for 2017/18.</p>
<p>Families with Support Needs (including single parent families)</p>	<p>Families account for a significant proportion of those accessing Supporting People funded services.</p> <p>The supported housing provision provides a suitable alternative option to placing children in B&B accommodation. The contract levels and future strategic modelling will be considered by the Supporting People Planning Group in 2016/17.</p>
<p>Single People with Support</p>	<p><i>Please see Generic / Floating Support / Peripatetic (tenancy support services which cover a range</i></p>

Needs (aged 25 and over)	<p><i>of support needs) section</i></p> <p>Following recent reviews and ongoing monitoring of all supported housing projects it has become evident that some models are more successful at achieving positive outcomes than others. This has been completed alongside the young person supported housing consultation as mentioned in the Young Person Supported housing section above.</p> <p>Along with ODEL Involve (service user involvement project) Supporting People have completed a period of consultation with providers and service users to decipher the most effective supported housing models. Recommendations have been compiled and are currently being considered by Planning Group. Key recommendations fit in 4 areas; Rent, Size & Structure, Move on Options, Education & Employment.</p> <p>During 2016/2017 it is a priority for Supporting People to work with our partners and providers to complete a re-structure of the supported housing model based on the key recommendations with some changes in place 2017/2018.</p>
People aged over 55 years of age with Support Needs	<p>During the evaluation process it was agreed that the funding provided to Abbeyfields will be withdrawn from April 2016 due to the project being ineligible for Supporting People funding.</p> <p>Any funding for services identified as ineligible for Supporting People continue to be subject to a planned withdrawal.</p> <p>A significant amount of work has been completed during the past 3 years to implement the Aylward Review recommendations to make older people's services tenure neutral. This had led to the Older Persons Community Support Services replacing the old 'Warden' style service. This project now provides tenure neutral support to people with housing related support needs, not just those who live in a Sheltered Housing complex.</p> <p>The Extra Care Services will be reviewed to ensure that the funding supports short term activity that promotes independence and this function can be rolled out in new schemes.</p> <p>A large proportion of Supporting People grant funding is allocated to projects within this service group area. Over the next 12-18 months it is a priority for Supporting People to ensure that all project are fit for purpose, fit the remit of funding, and deliver value for money.</p>
Generic / Floating Support / Peripatetic (tenancy support	Generic housing related support remains one of the highest support needs reported by those accessing Supporting People services.

services which cover a range of support needs)	<p>The Support Gateway ensures that referrals are sent to the most appropriate provider, and that services receive an appropriate amount of referrals based on capacity. The Support gateway has enabled complex case meetings to be held with ease, and has enabled services to receive appropriate referrals. It has also helped the Supporting People team monitor demand for service areas and data has fed into evaluation reports.</p> <p>Whilst projects offering specialist knowledge and support are crucial to support vulnerable people with complex support needs, it remains equally important to provide more generic services that can offer flexible holistic support on a number of issues. Over the next 12 months individual project amendments will extend the minimum capacity supported at one time per full time equivalent Support Worker. During monitoring meetings and the collation of Performance Monitoring Information it has become apparent that some projects are supporting a much higher number of service users than their current contract schedules require. The support is effective and this can be replicated across all projects. It is also a priority to ensure that all floating support services are tenure neutral, enabling referrals to be sent to all generic projects across Flintshire.</p> <p>Supporting People will consider regional or sub-regional opportunities for the provision of floating support services and the coordination of the Support Gateway, both of which may improve flexibility, knowledge across county boundaries and consequentially the services provided to vulnerable people.</p>
Alarm Services	A significant amount of work has been undertaken during 2014/2015 to review alarm provision and reduce Supporting People funding to monitoring of alarms only, following the agreement that maintenance of alarms is a Housing Benefit eligible charge.
Expenditure which does not link to the Spend Plan Categories above	<p>Welsh Government have issued notice that the Supporting People Programme Grant cannot be used to fund the Local Authority's Supporting People team from 2019/2020 and that between 2016 and 2019, funding for the team must reduce by at least 10% year on year.</p> <p>The Supporting People Team have already begun to make savings in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 by restructuring the team where possible when staff have left.</p>

Spend Plan

The Supporting People Team is committed to making efficiencies through ensuring service providers are delivering their support services as efficiently and effectively as possible and are involved in ongoing discussions around delivering services differently to realise savings. This has included use of volunteers, identifying where a floating support model can be more efficient than supported housing and considering changes to overnight support provision. Providers will be supported to progress these models through 2016/17.

Assessment of priority follows the assessment model from the 2014-16 Commissioning Plan which assesses providers in terms of;

- i. Is the service eligible for Supporting People funding?
- ii. Has the service been subject to value for money assessment?
- iii. Does the service contribute to key strategic priorities of the Supporting People Programme?
- iv. Is there clear evidence of demand for the service?
- v. Could the same outcomes be achieved by delivering services in a different way?
- vi. Are there other services/funding streams in the County that could deliver the outcomes?
- vii. Is there opportunity for partner or regional collaboration?
- viii. What is the service user impact, if the service is ceased or reduced?

The outcomes of the assessment of service providers has enabled the Supporting People Team to identify efficiency savings of £206,500. The efficiencies will be achieved through ceasing services that are not deemed to be strategically relevant to the aims of the Supporting People Programme and maximising alternative funding streams.

Released funding will be used to ensure Flintshire has suitable and safe arrangements for males fleeing domestic abuse; provide support posts to ensure Flintshire can meet the requirements of the new Housing and Social Services legislation and provide support for the changes planned to the young people accommodation and support services. The detail and specification of any spend will be agreed through the Tackling Poverty Programmes.

Within a service area, where efficiencies have been identified, the Supporting People Team has closely appraised the implications for service users and, importantly, they have identified alternative options where service users may access appropriate support to lessen any negative impacts generated by a reduction in service provision.

Service Plan Amendments 2016/17

<u>Service Area</u>	<u>Efficiency</u>
Domestic Abuse	No change
Families <i>Achieved through a reduction within a family hostel.</i>	2016/17 £15,000
Substance Misuse	No change
Chronic Illness <i>Achieved through decommissioning a regional project for HIV/AIDS.</i>	2016/17 £14,000
Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment	No change
Offenders	No change
Young People	No change
Mental health	No change
Housing Support (Generic)	No change
Housing Support (Aged over 55) <i>Achieved through withdrawal of support from Abbeyfield with the agreement of the provider.</i>	2016/17 £14,500
Community Care <i>A continuation of a planned withdrawal from services deemed ineligible for Supporting People funding.</i>	2016/17 £163,000
Total	2016/17 £ £206,500



CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 16 February 2016
Report Subject	Review of the Council's Subsidised Bus Services.
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment
Report Author	Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cabinet approval was given in May 2015 for the Council to review the County's subsidised bus services as part of the business planning proposals for 2015/2016, 2016/2017 and 2017/2018.

Under the proposals, it was intended that eventually only a core network of bus routes would be maintained in the County, largely made up of commercial bus services, with minimal support provided to ensure that essential regular connections are retained at key hubs along the routes. Other commercially operated routes would/could also operate in the County, but these would not be within the control of the Council and may not receive any subsidy.

Workshops were subsequently held in June 2015 with Elected Members and Town and Community Councils invited to assist with identifying the proposed core network and to determine the minimum standard required for the core network, in terms of days/hours of operation and frequency of services along each route. Additionally, the workshops sought to identify the potential locations of transport hubs and the standard of facilities required at each hub.

This report provides Cabinet with details of the proposed core bus network, developed following the workshops and the next steps the Council will take to engage with communities to develop a local community transport arrangement in the area affected.

As the reduction of bus subsidies proposed by the Business Planning proposals will be staggered over the next two financial years (2016/2017 and 2017/2018) this report concentrates on the approach to be taken for withdrawing existing subsidised journeys and routes that are poorly used and no longer sustainable or affordable in the current financial climate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet approves the proposed core network of bus routes.
2	That Cabinet approves the withdrawal of the existing subsidised journeys and routes that are poorly used and no longer sustainable or affordable and the mitigating actions that are intended to reduce the impact of the proposals in the community currently services by each route

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE REVIEW OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES
1.01	There is no statutory duty upon the Council to provide local bus services or any other form of public transport, but the Authority does have a statutory duty under the 1985 and 2000 Transport Acts to keep the bus network under review, and intervene where it feels appropriate.
1.02	The Council currently spends £1,046,180 on subsidised bus services, providing support for around 30 bus routes either through stand-alone contracts or through agreements with public transport operators to provide subsidies for services that would not be commercially viable. These are usually rural, early morning, evening, Sunday, Bank Holiday and some school transport services or for operating services via certain villages, housing estates or employment sites that would not otherwise run. A summary of all the Council's subsidised services and other types of bus services is provided in Appendix 1 .
1.03	In May 2015, Cabinet approved a proposed review of subsidised bus services and subsequently two all member and Community Council representative workshops were held in June 2015 to assist in identifying the core bus routes across the County and the required frequency and standard of service each route should provide.
1.04	Feedback received at the workshops was generally positive, and accordingly, a list of the proposed core network of bus routes has been produced. A map of the core routes is shown in Appendix 2 . The proposed core network will predominantly be made up of commercial bus services; however, some support may continue to be provided to ensure that regular and high quality services link the key 'end destinations' with transport hubs along the core routes.
1.05	The next step for the review of service in order to deliver the 2016-17 savings involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working closely with bus operators to develop the core network.• Exploring options to ensure that the core network operates commercially and without subsidy.• Withdrawing funding for those journeys or routes that are poorly

	<p>used and no longer cost effective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring options to improve local community transport arrangements to improve the links to the local “hub” where passengers can change onto a more frequent bus or train service to complete their journey. • Working with the existing two local community transport providers in Flintshire to explore options to extend their operations to the affected areas or work with communities to develop their own community transport arrangements <p>The final stage of the review will involve extending the arrangements to all other subsidised routes in order to deliver the required saving for 2017-18. This work will be subjected to further report once the effectiveness of the 2016-17 consultation work has been assessed</p>
1.06	<p>In order to assess which routes are no longer sustainable, a review of the existing subsidised services, including utilisation and passenger numbers per journey, has been carried out. This has identified a number of routes or sections of routes that are poorly used and not sustainable in the current climate. It is recommended therefore that the subsidy for these routes or individual sections of the routes is withdrawn from 1st April 2016.</p> <p>A list of these routes or sections of routes are shown in Appendix 3.</p>
1.07	<p>Before the subsidy is withdrawn, the next step in respect of developing local community transport arrangements is for Transportation officers to visit affected Town and Community Councils to secure commitment and/or expressions of interest to take forward the development of community based transport schemes that will eventually feed into the core network of bus routes.</p> <p>At the meetings, information on the current subsidised routes, passenger numbers and costs per passenger will be provided. This will allow the impact of future reductions in subsidised routes to be discussed and the residual service levels required within each community to be assessed.</p> <p>Details of the proposed core bus routes and key hubs will also be presented following the feedback obtained from the June 2015 workshops, together with the proposed timescales for the project.</p>
1.08	<p>A second T&CC workshop will then be held to share details of good practice elsewhere in the County, introduce existing community transport suppliers and to encourage the Town and Community Councils to work together over larger geographical areas to meet the needs of a wider group of residents. This will ensure the development of a sustainable community transport system, given that transport is not limited by geographical boundaries and that service changes in one area can often impact on other neighbouring areas.</p>
1.09	<p>The workshop will also confirm details of a series of ‘drop in’ events, sponsored by the Transportation team, across the County which will be held to engage with the wider community and stakeholders, to explain how people can get involved in the project and what support may be required in</p>

	setting up the new initiatives. The workshop will also highlight funding opportunities (through grants and loans etc.) that are available to support such schemes.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The changes to subsidised bus services will deliver the three year financial savings detailed in the Portfolio Business Planning proposals. Savings achieved in Year 1 (2015/16) - £50k Savings required in Year 2 (2016/2017) - £250k Savings required in Year 3 (2017/2018) - £350k

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	With Cabinet Member (Environment).
3.02	Member and Town/Community Council Workshops held in June 2015 and drop-in sessions held with bus operators in July 2015.
3.03	Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee in April 2015 on proposal to introduce core routes
3.05	Town and Community Councils in areas covered by the unsustainable routes detailed in Appendix 3 will be consulted during February and March 2016 to explore options to introduce local community based services to replace the existing subsidised routes.
3.06	Consultation with bus operators
3.07	Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee in January 2016 who recommended to Cabinet that the core routes were approved and that the routes detailed in Appendix 3 should cease

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Key current risks include: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-delivery of proposed savings – regular reports to the Programme Board and Scrutiny and Cabinet aim to ensure that progress is tracked and monitored closely. • Bus Service Support Grant (BSSG) – In addition to the Councils own subsidy currently, Flintshire receives £546,661 per annum through BSSG from Welsh Government to support bus services in the County. The level of funding for 2016-2017 has not yet been confirmed and it is not known whether the funding will be reduced in future years. • Withdrawal of commercial bus services – Any bus operator can register to run commercial services as long as they have the appropriate licence. Around 60% of the current bus network is operated by commercial services. Operators of commercial services are free to alter

	or withdraw such services without consultation and can make changes to their services by giving eight weeks' notice to the Traffic Commissioner and the County Council has no direct influence or control over such services.
4.02	Bus services facilitate access to essential services such as health, employment, education and training. The withdrawal of journeys and changes to routes could impact on people who do not have access to a car or other modes of transport. Additionally, there could be an impact on people with disabilities, who may not be able to access a bus route or who may not have access to car travel, as well as an impact on Race (Migrant Workers) and Religion and Belief who may be employed on low wages or unable to drive, or who may have no alternative choice of travel. Where practicable, the proposals seek to minimise the impact on key groups such as people with disabilities, the elderly, young people and those on low income and develop alternative options such as Community Transport.
4.03	The development of more sustainable transport services will have a positive impact on the environment and the use of a modern and more 'green' transport fleet will reduce carbon emissions and environmental pollution.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 - Summary of existing subsidised bus services in Flintshire Appendix 2 – Map of proposed core bus network Appendix 3 – Outcome of utilisation survey and list of routes which are considered to be un-sustainable

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Not applicable. Contact Officer: Stephen O Jones Telephone: 01352 704700 E-mail: stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Commercial bus services are bus services that are provided without any subsidy and are funded by the fares revenue collected on the service. The bus company decides which type of vehicle to provide, which route to follow and which stops to serve, how frequent the service will run and how much to charge in fares, and the County Council has no direct influence or control over such services. Subsidised bus services are services where an operator is not prepared to operate and run a service commercially. Subsidised services usually operate either under contract or by agreement with the Local Authority and operators receive a subsidy for running the service.

A **transport hub** is a location or interchange point where passengers can change onto other bus services, or other types of transport such as rail, ferry or air.

DRT – Demand Responsive Transport

Appendix 1 - Summary of types of bus services in Flintshire

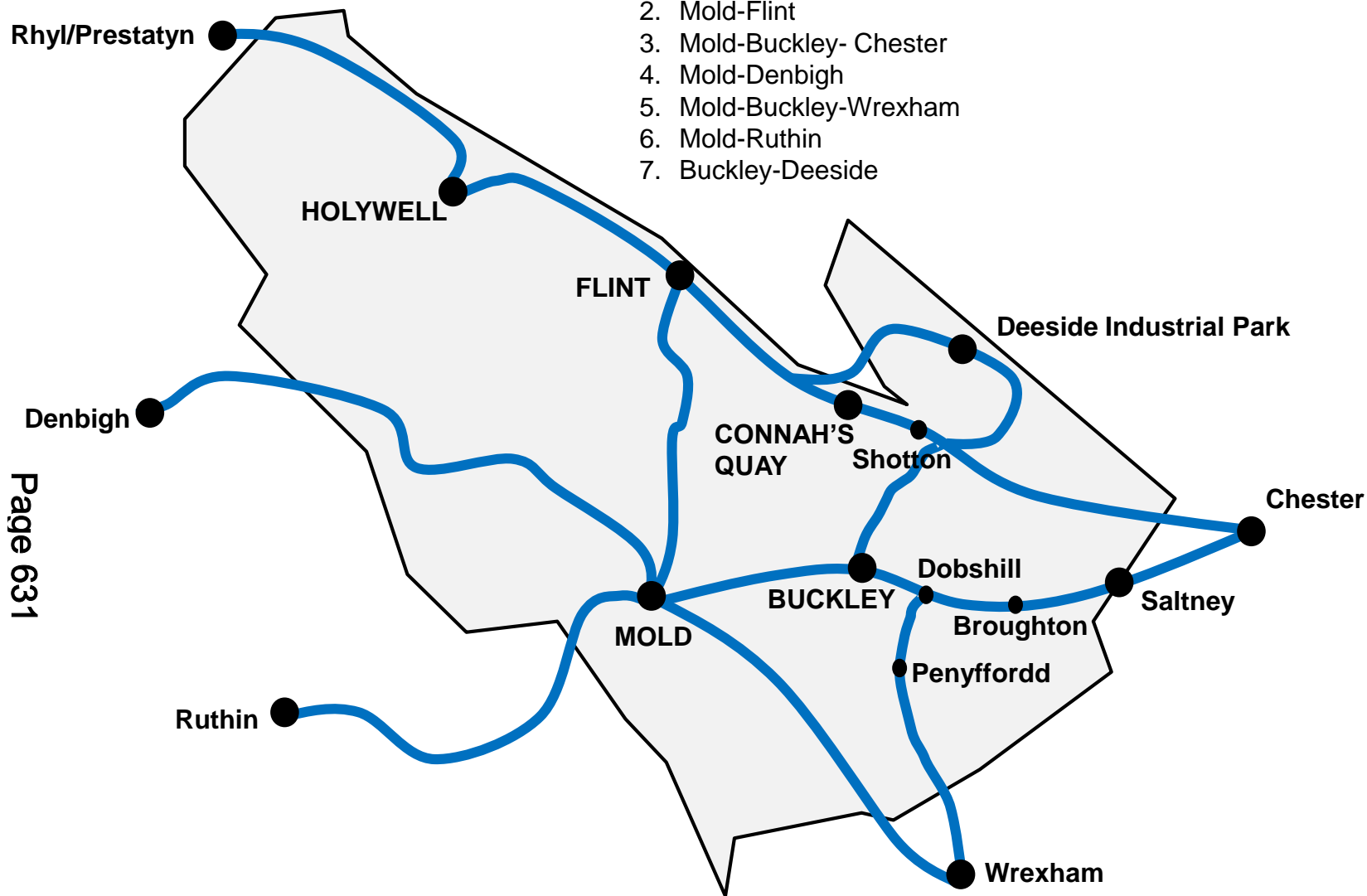
Service	Route Description	Type of Service	Early morning (before 0800)	Peak (0800-0900 / 1500-1700)	Off-peak (0900-1500 / 1700-1800)	Evening (after 1800)	Saturdays	Sundays & public holidays	Days of Operation
1	Mold - Loggerheads - Llanarmon-yn-Ial - Ruthin (Denbighshire service)	Subsidised	Contract	Contract	Contract	No Service	Contract	No Service	M T W Th F S
2	Mold - Eryrys - Llanarmon-yn-Ial - Ruthin (Denbighshire service)	Subsidised	No Service	Contract	Contract	No Service	Contract	No Service	M T W Th F S
X1	Ruthin - Mold - Chester (Denbighshire service)	Subsidised	No Service	Contract	Contract	No Service	Contract	No Service	M T W Th F S
3, 3A	Mold - Buckley - Penyffordd - Broughton - Chester	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	De-minimis	Commercial	No Service	M T W Th F S
4, 4S	Mold - Buckley - Drury - Hawarden - Broughton - Chester	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	De-minimis	Commercial	Commercial	M T W Th F S Su
4B	Mold - New Brighton - Buckley - Hawarden - Chester EARLY BIRD	Commercial	Commercial	No Service	No Service	No Service	Commercial	No Service	M T W Th F S
6	Mold - Pantymwyn	De-minimis	De-minimis	De-minimis	Commercial	No Service	De-minimis	No Service	M T W Th F S
7, 7X	Mold - Buckley - Ewloe - Queensferry - Shotton - Deeside College	Subsidised	Contract	Contract	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service	College days only
8	Mold - Northop Hall - Connah's Quay - Shotton - Queensferry - Sealand	Subsidised	No Service	Contract	Contract	No Service	Contract	No Service	M T W Th F S
9	(Mold -) Connah's Quay - Shotton - Queensferry - Countess Hospital - Chester	Subsidised	Contract	Contract	Contract	No Service	Contract	No Service	M T W Th F S
X9	(Mold -) Connah's Quay - Shotton - Queensferry - Hawarden - Maelor Hospital - Wrexham	Subsidised	Contract	Contract	Contract	No Service	Contract	No Service	M T W Th F S
10	Connah's Quay - Shotton - Queensferry - Chester	De-minimis	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	De-minimis	M T W Th F S Su
10A	Holywell - Bagillt - Flint - Connah's Quay - Shotton - Queensferry - Chester	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	No Service	M T W Th F S
11, 11A	(Rhyl -) Holywell - Flint - Connah's Quay - Hawarden - Broughton - Chester	Subsidised	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	Contract	Commercial	De-minimis	M T W Th F S Su
11F, 11G, 11M, 11X	Rhyl - Prestatyn - Holywell	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	Contract	Commercial	De-minimis	M T W Th F S Su
12	Chester - Broughton - Mancot - Deeside Hospital - Connah's Quay	De-minimis	De-minimis	De-minimis	De-minimis	De-minimis	De-minimis	No Service	M T W Th F S
14	Mold - Caerwys - Bodfari - Denbigh	Subsidised	Contract	Contract	Contract	No Service	Contract	No Service	M T W Th F S
14A	Holywell - Carmel - Gorsedd - Babell - Caerwys - Afonwen - Denbigh	Subsidised	No Service	Contract	Contract	No Service	Contract	No Service	M T W Th F S
14C	Holywell - Lixwm - Cilcain - Mold - RURALrider	Subsidised	No Service	Contract	Contract	No Service	Contract	No Service	M T W Th F S
16	Chester - Lache - Saltney	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	M T W Th F S Su
18	Flint Cornist - Holywell - Penyffordd - Prestatyn - Rhyl	De-minimis	De-minimis	De-minimis	De-minimis	No Service	De-minimis	No Service	M T W Th F S
19	Flint Cornist - Holywell - Berthengam - Prestatyn - Rhyl	De-minimis	No Service	De-minimis	De-minimis	No Service	De-minimis	No Service	M T W Th F S
21A/B	Buckley Station - Precinct Way - Southdown	Subsidised	No Service	Contract	Contract	No Service	Contract	No Service	M T W Th F S
22/22A	Holway - Holywell - Pen-y-Maes - Brynford	Subsidised	No Service	Contract	Contract	No Service	Contract	No Service	M T W Th F S
23	Greenfield - Holywell - Holywell Community Hospital	Subsidised	No Service	No Service	Contract	No Service	No Service	No Service	M T W Th F
26, 27	Mold - Leeswood - Caergwrle - Maelor Hospital - Wrexham	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	No Service	Commercial	No Service	M T W Th F S
28, 28A	Wrexham - Penyffordd - Buckley - Mold - Northop - Flint	De-minimis	De-minimis	Commercial	Commercial	No Service	Commercial	No Service	M T W Th F S
40	Mold - Nercwys - Treuddyn - Llanfynydd - Ffrith - Cymau - Wrexham	De-minimis	De-minimis	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	No Service	M T W Th F S
99	Sandycroft - Connah's Quay - Mold - Mold Campus	Subsidised	Contract	Contract	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service	School days only
110	Aston - Ewloe - Northop Hall - Northop - Sychdyn - Mold - Mold Campus	Subsidised	Contract	Contract	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service	M T W Th F
126	Holywell - Pentre Halkyn - Rhosesmor - Mold	De-minimis	No Service	De-minimis	De-minimis	No Service	De-minimis	No Service	M T W Th F S
127	Mold - Rhosesmor - Lixwm - Brynford - Pantasaph - Holway	Subsidised	No Service	Contract	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service	School days only
811	Leasowe / Arrows Park - Deeside Ind. Park - Broughton (Merseytravel service)	Subsidised	Contract	Contract	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service	M T W Th F
D42	Mold - Caergwrle - Wrexham RURALrider	Subsidised	No Service	No Service	No Service	Contract	Contract	Contract	M T W Th F S
DB1	Mold - Treuddyn / Leeswood - Higher Kinnerton - Chester - Blaenau (Cheshire Service)	De-minimis	De-minimis	De-minimis	De-minimis	No Service	De-minimis	No Service	M T W Th F S
DB2	Chester - Curzon Park - Saltney Ferry (Cheshire Service)	Commercial	No Service	Commercial	Commercial	No Service	Commercial	No Service	M T W Th F S
SP1/SP2	Mold - Buckley - Queensferry - Deeside Industrial Park - Ellesmere Port	De-minimis	De-minimis	De-minimis	De-minimis	No Service	De-minimis	No Service	M T W Th F S
T1	Greenfield - Holywell - Bagillt - Flint - Connah's Quay - Chester	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	Commercial	No Service	Commercial	No Service	M T W Th F S
X4	Mold - Buckley - Hawarden - Chester Business Park - Chester	De-minimis	De-minimis	De-minimis	Commercial	No Service	De-minimis	No Service	M T W Th F S

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Core Bus Network

Core bus routes:

1. Rhyl/Prestatyn-Holywell-Flint-DIP-Connah's Quay- Chester
2. Mold-Flint
3. Mold-Buckley- Chester
4. Mold-Denbigh
5. Mold-Buckley-Wrexham
6. Mold-Ruthin
7. Buckley-Deeside



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Subsidised Bus Services - Proposals 2016-2017

Service	Route Description	Type of Subsidy	Days of operation	Subsidy per Passenger Journey	Projected Savings	Affected Communities	Action proposed	Mitigation
19	Flint-Bagillt-Holywell-Gwaenysgor-Prestatyn/Rhyl	De-minimis	Mon-Fri	High	£9,122	Gwaenysgor	Withdrawal of journeys serving Gwaenysgor	Work with existing Community Transport providers and the Community to provide a link into service centres / core bus routes
28/28A	Flint-Mold-Buckley-Gresford Road (Hope)-Wrexham	De-minimis	Mon-Sat	High	£6,871	Hope Hall Drive & Caer Estyn	Withdrawal of subsidy for diverting journeys via Caer Estyn (Mon-Sat) to/from Wrexham - 3 journeys in each direction	Diversion will either be maintained on a commercial basis or the service will operate via A550 Wrexham Road, Hope (Church)
19	Whitford-Carmel-Holywell	De-minimis	Mon-Fri	High	£10,684	Whitford, Carmel, Holywell	Withdrawal of 0850 journey from Whitford to Holywell and journey at 1805 from Holywell to Whitford	Work with existing Community Transport providers and the Community to provide a link into service centres / core bus routes
126	Holywell-Milwr-Pentre Halkyn-Windmill-Rhosesmor-Mold	De-minimis	Mon-Sat	High	£1,100	Windmill, Allt-y-Plas (Pentre Halkyn)	Withdrawal of subsidy for diverting journeys via Allt-y-Plas / Windmill, Halkyn	Service will continue to operate via Pentre Halkyn B5123
40	Wrexham-Abermorddu-Cymau-Ffrith-Llanfynydd-Treuddyn-Nercwys-Mold	De-minimis	Mon-Fri	High	£5,216	Abermorddu, Cymau, Ffrith, Llanfynydd, Treuddyn, Nercwys	Withdrawal of subsidy for 0700 Wrexham to Mold journey (M-F) via Nercwys, Treuddyn, Llanfynydd, Ffrith, Cymau	Work with bus operator to either operate the journey commercially or work with the Community to develop community transport options
19	Flint-Flint Retail Park-Bagillt-Holywell-Prestatyn/Rhyl	De-minimis	Mon-Sat	High	£26,435	Aber Road, Flint Retail Park & Flint Station	Withdrawal of subsidy for diverting 19 service via Aber Road, Flint Retail Park & Flint Station	Work with the operator to review the bus route and timetable, and commercialise journeys
B37	Rhydtalog-Treuddyn-Leeswood-Padeswood-Mold	De-minimis	Weds only	High	£7,540	Rhydtalog, Treuddyn, Leeswood, Padeswood	Withdrawal of service B37 (operates Wednesdays only) Rhydtalog to Mold	Work with existing Community Transport providers and the Community to provide a link into service centres / core bus routes
	Flint-Wern-Bagillt-Holywell-Prestatyn/Rhyl	De-minimis	Mon-Sat	High	£13,220	Wern (Bagillt)	Withdrawal of subsidy for diverting service via Wern	Work with the operator to review the bus route and timetable, and commercialise journeys
	Rhyl-Holywell-Flint-Connah's Quay-Queensferry-Chester	De-minimis	Sun only	High	£6,000	Holywell, Bagillt, Flint, Deeside, Mancot, Sandycroft, Broughton Airbus	Withdrawal of subsidy for Sunday evening journeys between Rhyl & Chester	Work with the operator to commercialise journeys
19	Flint-Bagillt-Holywell-TreMostyn-Berthengam-Llanasa-Prestatyn/Rhyl	De-minimis	Mon-Sat	Medium	£14,896	Tre-Mostyn, Trelogan & Llanasa	Withdrawal of subsidy for diverting journeys via Tre-Mostyn, Trelogan and Llanasa	Work with existing Community Transport providers and the Community to provide a link into service centres / core bus routes
X4	Mold-Buckley-Ewloe-Hawarden-Broughton-Chester	De-minimis	Mon-Sat	Medium	£27,400	Mold, Buckley, Ewloe, Hawarden, Broughton	Work with commercial operator to commercialise some journeys	Work with the operator to commercialise journeys
D42	Flint-Mold-Leeswood-Treuddyn-Caergwrle-Wrexham	Wholly subsidised	Mon-Sat	Medium	£23,026	Flint, Mold, Leeswood, Treuddyn, Caergwrle	Withdrawal of evening journeys after 1900 on D42 service (Mon-Sat)	Work with existing Community Transport providers and the Community to provide a link into service centres / core bus routes
126	Holywell-Milwr-Pentre Halkyn-Halkyn-Rhosesmor-Mold	De-minimis	Mon-Sat	Medium	£4,872	Holywell, Milwr, Pentre Halkyn, Halkyn, Rhosesmor	Withdrawal of journeys at 1710 from Holywell to Mold & at 1745 from Mold to Holywell (Mon-Sat)	Work with existing Community Transport providers and the Community to provide a link into service centres / core bus routes
28/28A	Flint-Northop-Sychdyn-Mold	De-minimis	Sat only	Medium	£618	Flint, Northop, Sychdyn	Withdrawal of subsidy for 0745 journey from Flint to Mold (Saturdays)	Work with the operator to review the bus route and timetable, and commercialise journeys
21A/B	Buckley local service	Wholly subsidised	Mon-Sat	Medium	£15,000	Buckley	Review Buckley Bus Service and consider timetable changes to reduce subsidy	Work with the operator and community to review the route and timetable
18	Flint-Bagillt-Holywell-Greenfield-Penyffordd-Prestatyn/Rhyl	De-minimis	Mon-Sat	Medium	£22,470	Penyffordd (Holywell)	Review the number of journeys diverting to Penyffordd	Work with existing Community Transport providers and the Community to provide a link into service centres / core bus routes
18	Prestatyn-Gronant-Talacre-Gwespyr-Penyffordd	De-minimis	Mon-Fri	Medium	£7,036	Prestatyn, Gronant, Talacre, Gwespyr, Penyffordd	Review whether 1618 journey Prestatyn to Penyffordd (or equivalent (Mon-Fri) is still required	Work with existing Community Transport providers and the Community to provide a link into service centres / core bus routes
10	Ffordd Llanarth-Connah's Quay-Garden City-Chester	De-minimis	Sun only	Medium	£8,250	Ffordd Llanarth-Connah's Quay-Garden City	Withdrawal of subsidy for Sunday evening journeys between Connah's Quay, Queensferry & Chester (after 1800)	Work with the operator to commercialise journeys
9/X9	Llwyni Drive-Connah's Quay-Shotton-Queensferry-Chester/Wrexham	Wholly subsidised	Mon-Sat	Medium	£20,000	Llwyni Drive, Connah's Quay, Shotton, Queensferry, Hawarden, Broughton, Higher Kinnerton, Hope	Review Service 9/X9 and consider timetable changes to reduce subsidy	Work with the operator and community to review the route and timetable
18	Flint-Bagillt-Holywell-Prestatyn/Rhyl	De-minimis	Mon-Sat	Medium	£15,000	Flint, Bagillt, Holywell, Greenfield, Mostyn, Gwespyr, Talacre, Gronant	Review Service 18 timetable and route to reduce subsidy	Work with the operator and community to review the route and timetable
11	Holywell-Bagillt-Flint-Connah's Quay-Queensferry-Broughton-Chester	De-minimis	Mon-Fri	Medium	£6,071	Holywell, Bagillt, Flint, Connah's Quay, Shotton, Queensferry, Hawarden, Broughton, Saltney	Withdrawal of subsidy for 0620 journey from Holywell to Chester (Mon-Fri) & work with operator to commercialise	Work with the operator to commercialise journeys
				TOTAL	£250,827			

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Key	
High	> £5.00
Medium	£2.01 - £5.00
Low	< £2.00

Services are ranked red where subsidy per passenger trip exceeds £5.00.
 Services are ranked amber where subsidy per passenger is between £2.01 and £5.00.
 Services are ranked green where subsidy per passenger trip is £2.00 or less

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EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS – DECISIONS TAKEN

Governance (IT)

- **IT Staffing Structure**

Approval of the following minor amendments to the structure agreed by Cabinet at its June meeting:

1. Movement of 1 post from the Workplace Technologies Team to Business Partnership and Service Desk Team to increase the number of people on the IT help desk. The overall number of posts will remain the same and the change is cost neutral
2. Transfer the despatch office from the Corporate Admin Team to Digital Print Team, in order to pave the way for an electronic post room. This is cost neutral.

Organisational Change

- **Clwyd Theatr Cymru Theatre Tax Relief**

To approve the establishment of an independent trading company of the Council to act for the specific purpose of ensuring effective management of theatre production costs. This to include dealing efficiently with Theatre Tax Relief and Value Added Tax (VAT). It is initially estimated that up to £0.100m could be claimed in tax relief.

Revenues

- **Business Rates Write Offs**

Financial Procedure Rules (section 9.6 – Income and Expenditure) stipulate that any individual debt between the values of £5,000 and £25,000 shall be reported to the Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Finance Manager/Section 151 Officer) for consideration to write off, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Finance. For the financial years 2010, 2014 and 2015 the grand total of write offs is £29,182.15.

Community and Enterprise

- **Installation of Solar Panels on Council homes**

Cabinet has previously approved the installation of Solar PV (Solar Panels) on 400 council homes. This approval was given following the submission of a delegated powers form, given the need to complete the Scheme prior to the cut in the Government's Feed in Tariff, which we now know will be on 15th January 2016. This additional delegated powers form seeks authority to extend the current Solar PV medium term contract with Warmer Energy Services from £2,000,000 to £2,500,000.

Copies of the Delegated Powers reports are on deposit in the Team Manager's Room, Committee Services.

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**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS
COUNCIL, CABINET, AUDIT AND OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
FEBRUARY 2016 TO JULY 2016**

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
February					
Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee	5 February 2016	Education and Youth	School Organisational Change – Ysgol Mornant Gwespyr Picton To consult with the Committee on the outcome of the consultation process for school organisational change at Ysgol Mornant Gwespyr Picton	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Education
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10 February 2016	Community and Enterprise	Introduction of Council Tax Premium for long term empty and second homes To seek the introduction of a local scheme to charge council tax premiums for long term empty property and second homes.		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10 February 2016	Community and Enterprise	<p>Flintshire Supporting People Commissioning Plan To enable the Committee to consider appropriate measures to manage reductions within the Supporting People Programme Grant to protect service delivery as much as possible.</p>		
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10 February 2016	Community and Enterprise	<p>Council Tax & Business Rate Statutory Policies To consider annual policies for the financial year 2016-17 that determine discount schemes and administrative arrangements.</p>	Operational	
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10 February 2016	Community and Enterprise	<p>Flintshire Social and Affordable Housing Delivery To provide an update on the Flintshire SHG Programme Affordable Housing Development.</p>	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10 February 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Committee.		
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11 February 2016	Finance	Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 8) 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 8 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available.		Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee Page 640	11 February 2016	Chief Executive's	<p>LSB Flintshire Local Service Board and Strategic Partnership Performance – Mid Year Monitoring</p> <p>The report presents an overview of arrangements for the transition of the Flintshire Local Service Boards (LSB) to a Public Services Board (PSB) in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.</p> <p>An update on the Flintshire LSB Single Integrated Plan (SIP) priorities is also provided. These are based on the themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •People enjoy good health, well-being and independence. •People are safe 	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11 February 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		
Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15 February 2016	Organisational Change	Alternative Delivery Models To provide the Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee with details of the progress which has been made in introducing Alternative Delivery Models.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Education, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment, Cabinet Member for Social Services, Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure
Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15 February 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme (Organisational Change) To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Chief Executive's	Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 To recommend the Annual Budget to Council for 2016/17.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Organisational Change	Capital Programme 2016/17 - 2019/20 Set the Capital Programme for 2016/17 financial year, and indicative programme for 2017/18 to 2019/20 financial years	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Organisational Change	Draft Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan 2015 - 2020 This report introduces the Draft Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan 2015 - 2020, which is a new Strategy for Flintshire County Council combining medium term plans for managing the Council's assets and its Capital Programme.	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Chief Executive's	<p>LSB & Strategic Partnerships - Mid Year Monitoring 2015/16</p> <p>i) An overview of arrangements for the transition of the Flintshire Local Service Boards (LSB) to a Public Services Board (PSB)</p> <p>ii) An update on the Flintshire LSB Single Integrated Plan (SIP) priorities</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Education and Youth	<p>School Organisation Change - Ysgol Mornant Gwespyr Picton</p> <p>Report back from consultation in accordance with the Council's school organisation policy.</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Education
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Community and Enterprise	<p>Supporting People - Local Commissioning Plan</p> <p>To consider appropriate measures to manage reductions within the Supporting People Programme Grant to protect service delivery as much as possible.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Community and Enterprise	Draft Housing Revenue Account Budget 2016/17 & Capital Programme 2016/17 To provide the draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and proposed rent increase.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Community and Enterprise	Introduction of Council Tax Premium for empty and second homes To seek the introduction of a local scheme to charge council tax premiums for long term empty property and second homes	Operational	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Community and Enterprise	Council Tax & Business Rate Statutory Policies To ratify annual policies for the financial year 2016-17 that determine discount scheme and administrative arrangements.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Community and Enterprise	Flintshire Apprenticeship Academy To update on progress of the Flintshire Apprenticeship Academy	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Streetscene and Transportation	Review of the Council's Subsidised Bus Services To advise and update Cabinet on the proposed review of subsidised bus services and outline the proposed approach for consulting with local communities on the development of community transport.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Finance	<p>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 8) 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 8 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available.</p>	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Finance	<p>Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17 and Mid Year report 2015/16 To present to Members the draft Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17 for recommendation to Council and the mid-year report 2015/16</p>	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Finance	<p>Prudential Indicators 2016/17 to 2018/19 To present proposals for setting a range of Prudential Indicators in accordance with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).</p>	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Finance	<p>Minimum Revenue Provision - 2016/17 Policy To present proposals for the setting of a prudent Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for the repayment of debt in 2016/17, as required under the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 ('the 2008 Regulations).</p>	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Governance	<p>ADMINISTRATION REVIEW To consider an establishment structure for generic administrative posts and to note the savings achieved by the administrative review.</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>Social Services Wellbeing Act To seek Cabinet endorsement of the Council's response to the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Social Services
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Social Services	<p>Children's Services Restructure and Inspection Action Plan To seek Cabinet approval for the Children's Services Restructure in response to the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Social Services
Cabinet	16 February 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>Report back from the Environment Overview & Scrutiny's consideration of the Hope Household Recycling Centre call in. To inform the committee of the decision of the Overview & Scrutiny committee.</p>	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment

COMMITTEE		MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Flintshire Council	County	16 February 2016	Organisational Change	Capital Programme 2016/17 - 2019/20 Set the Capital Programme for 2016/17 financial year, and indicative programme for 2017/18 to 2019/20 financial years		
Flintshire Council	County	16 February 2016	Finance	Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 To provide Members with the recommendations of the Cabinet for the Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17		
Flintshire Council	County	16 February 2016	Chief Executive's	Draft Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan 2015 - 2020 This report introduces the Draft Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan 2015 - 2020, which is a new Strategy for Flintshire County Council combining medium term plans for managing the Council's assets and its Capital Programme.		

COMMITTEE		MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Flintshire Council	County	16 February 2016	Chief Executive's	Housing Revenue Account Draft Budget and Rent Increase To seek approval of the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and rent increase.		
Flintshire Council	County	16 February 2016	Finance	Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17 and Mid Year report 2015/16 To present to Council the recommendations of Cabinet in relation to Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17.		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Flintshire Council	County 16 February 2016	Finance	<p>Prudential Indicators 2016/17 To present proposals for setting a range of Prudential Indicators in accordance with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code). Operational Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance Cabinet 16 February 2016 Finance</p>		
Flintshire Council	County 16 February 2016	Finance	<p>Minimum Revenue Provision 2016/17 Policy To present proposals for the setting of a prudent Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for the repayment of debt in 2016/17, as required under the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 ('the 2008 Regulations)</p>		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee	25 February 2016	Education and Youth	Welsh Education Strategic Plan To consider the Councils response to the Welsh Education Strategic Plan		Cabinet Member for Education
Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee	25 February 2016	Education and Youth	Self-evaluation on education services To update Members on overall service performance	Operational	Cabinet Member for Education
Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee	25 February 2016	Education and Youth	Early Entitlement To consult with the Committee on proposed changes around early entitlement	Operational	Cabinet Member for Education
Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee	25 February 2016	Education and Youth	Learner Outcomes - include attendance and exclusions in annual learner outcomes report To provide Members with a summary of learner outcomes across primary and secondary schools	Operational	Cabinet Member for Education

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee	25 February 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme (Education & Youth) To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		
March					
P & S C Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	1 March 2016	Community and Enterprise	Housing (Wales) Act 2014 – Homelessness To review the implementation of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and how the Council undertakes its new homelessness prevention statutory duty		
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	1 March 2016	Community and Enterprise	Regional Economy To update on work being undertaken to strengthen the regional economy	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Economic Development

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	1 March 2016	Community and Enterprise	Strategic Housing and Regeneration Project (SHARP) To seek Members support on the first phase Housing schemes, tenure and mix size and funding arrangements	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing
Flintshire County Council	1 March 2016	Community and Enterprise	Introduction of Council Tax Premium for long term empty and second homes To approve the introduction of a council tax premium scheme for 2017/18		
Flintshire County Council	1 March 2016	Community and Enterprise	Council Tax Setting for 2016-17 Agree the Council Tax charges for 2016 - 2017 and the statutory resolutions for administering Council Tax		

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Flintshire County Council	1 March 2016		<p>PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO THE LOCAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE To approve the amended wording to the Local Resolution Procedure to impose a 30 day time limit for referral of complaints to the Monitoring Officer and to add a time limit to resolving complaints to 12 months.</p>		

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Flintshire County Council Page 656	1 March 2016		<p>CONTRACTS REQUIRING SEALING</p> <p>Certain contracts are required by contract procedure rules to be “under seal”. That is to say, to have the Council’s official seal attached rather than being signed by a manager. One such category is contracts worth more than £250,000. Section 12.10 of the Constitution requires all contracts over £50,000 to be in writing and either signed by two officers or sealed. For the sake of clarity there should only be one set of rules.</p>		

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Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	3 March 2016	Social Services	<p>CSSIW Inspection of Children's Services in Flintshire progress update To receive a progress report on the action plan implementation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) ensure the required outcomes are being achieved ii) and to consider progress in reducing and managing repeat referrals 	Operational	Cabinet Member for Social Services
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	3 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>Forward Work Programme (Social & Health Care) To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee.</p>		
Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>2015/16 Q3 Improvement Plan Monitoring (Organisational Change) To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring</p>		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14 March 2016	Organisational Change	Community Asset Transfers To review progress of the Community Asset Transfer Scheme.	Strategic	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment
Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme (Organisational Change) To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		
Audit Committee	16 March 2016	Finance	Wales Audit Office – Audit Plan 2016 To provide the Audit Committee with the Wales Audit Office - Audit Plan for 2016,		
Audit Committee	16 March 2016	Finance	Treasury Management 2015/16 Update To provide members with a quarterly update on matters relating to the Council's 2015/16 Treasury Management Strategy up to the end of February 2016.		

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Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16 March 2016	Community and Enterprise	<p>The Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) - Verification in achieving and maintaining the Standard : next Steps</p> <p>Development of a Strategy and approach to verifying achievement of the Welsh Housing Quality Standards.</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing
Page 659 Community and Enterprise Overview Scrutiny Committee	16 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>2015/16 Q3 Improvement Plan Monitoring (Community & Enterprise)</p> <p>To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring</p>		
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16 March 2016	Community and Enterprise	<p>Council Housing Programme Service - Housing Programmes Restructure</p> <p>To seek Committee support and recommend to Cabinet the proposed Housing Programmes staffing structure</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16 March 2016	Community and Enterprise	Council Housing Service - Housing Management Restructure To seek Committee support and recommend to Cabinet the proposed Housing Management staffing structure	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee Page 660	16 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme (Community & Enterprise) To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17 March 2016	Finance	Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 9) 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 9 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	101 Service Presentation North Wales Police To receive a presentation by Superintendent Alex Goss from North Wales Police		Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17 March 2016	Chief Executive's	Welsh Language Standards Advise members of the proposed new Welsh Language Standards for Flintshire and seek endorsement of the Council's approach.		Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	2015/16 Q3 Improvement Plan Monitoring (Corporate Resources) To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.		
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17 March 2016	People and Resources	Workforce Information Report - Quarter 3 To provide Members with an update for the third quarter for 2015/16		Cabinet Member for Corporate Management

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Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme (Corporate Resources) To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		
Page 662 Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17 March 2016	Planning and Development Control	Display of 'A' Boards To inform the committee regarding the intention to apply for a general Advertisement Consent for Mold Town Centre and next steps.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17 March 2016	Planning and Environment	Design of drainage for new development sites To receive a report outlining the process for new development sites including flood risk mitigation measures.	Strategic	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17 March 2016	Streetscene and Transportation	Energy at Landfill Sites To provide details of the business case for the solar panels on Brookhill and Standard Landfill Site.		Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	2015/16 Q3 Improvement Plan Monitoring (Environment) To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.		
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme (Environment) To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		
Cabinet	22 March 2016	Community and Enterprise	The Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) - Verification in achieving and maintaining the standard : next steps Development of a Strategy and approach to verifying achievement of the Welsh Housing Quality Standards.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	22 March 2016	Community and Enterprise	Council Housing Programme Service - Housing Programmes Restructure To seek Cabinet support for the housing programmes staffing structure	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing
Cabinet	22 March 2016	Community and Enterprise	Council Housing Service - Housing Management Restructure To seek Cabinet support for the housing management staffing structure	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing
Cabinet	22 March 2016	Streetscene and Transportation	Energy at Landfill Sites To provide the business case for the solar panels on Brookhill and Standard Landfill Site.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	22 March 2016	Finance	<p>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 9) 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 9 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available</p>	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Cabinet	22 March 2016	Chief Executive's	<p>Quarter 3 Improvement Plan Monitoring Report To receive the 2015/16 Quarter 3 Improvement Plan monitoring reports for the period July to September 2015.</p>		Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Cabinet	22 March 2016	Finance	<p>Capital Programme 2015/16 (Month 9) To provide Members with the Month 9 (end of December) capital programme information for 2015/16.</p>	Operational	

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Cabinet	22 March 2016	Education and Youth	School Admission Arrangements 2017 To advise members of the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise on the admission arrangements for September 2017	Operational	Cabinet Member for Education
Cabinet Page 666	22 March 2016	Organisational Change	Play Sufficiency Assessment 2016; Summer Playschemes and Public Open Space To advise members with regard to changes to funding for the county summer playscheme programme in partnership with local town and community councils, as a result of a potential reduction in the level of grant funding.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure
Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee	24 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme (Education & Youth) To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee.		

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Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee	24 March 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	2015/16 Q3 Improvement Plan Monitoring (Education & Youth) To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.		
April					
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee Page 667	13 April 2016	Planning and Environment	Renewable Energy To receive a report outlining the developments to include the responses received following consultation.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13 April 2016	Streetscene and Transportation	Integrated Transport Unit To receive a progress report on the new arrangements	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14 April 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	2015/16 Q3 Improvement Plan Monitoring (Social & Health Care) To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14 April 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme The Committee is asked to consider, and amend where necessary, the Forward Work Programme for the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee Page 668	14 April 2016	Finance	REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 10) 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 10 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available.		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	19 April 2016	Finance	<p>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 10) 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 10 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available</p>	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	27 April 2016	Finance	<p>Review of Fair Debt Policy To review the impact of the Fair Debt Policy previously approved by Cabinet.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
May					
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12 May 2016	Chief Executive's	<p>Flintshire Community Endowment Fund To note the annual report on the fund and be assured of progress.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management

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Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12 May 2016	Finance	REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 11) 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 11 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available.		
Cabinet	17 May 2016	Finance	REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 11) 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 11 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available.	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	18 May 2016	Streetscene and Transportation	Update on North Wales Waste Project To receive a progress update every 6 months	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19 May 2016	Social Services	Comments, Compliments and Complaints To receive a report on the compliments, representations and complaints received by Social Services for the year April 2015 – March	Operational	Cabinet Member for Social Services
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19 May 2016	Social Services	Annual Council Reporting Framework To consider the draft report	Operational	Cabinet Member for Social Services
June					
Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee	8 June 2016	Community and Enterprise	Purchase of Ex Council Stock To consider proposals and criteria for the repurchase of ex council properties	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15 June 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>2015/16 Year End Reporting and Data Submission, Improvement Plan Monitoring & Chief Officer Performance Reports (Environment)</p> <p>To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.</p>		
Corporate Resources Overview Scrutiny Committee	16 June 2016	Finance	<p>REVENUE BUDGE MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 12)</p> <p>To provide Members with 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 (insert month no.) and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available</p>		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16 June 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	2015/16 Year End Reporting and Data Submission, Improvement Plan Monitoring & Chief Officer Performance Reports (Corporate Resources) To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring		
Cabinet	21 June 2016	Chief Executive's	Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring Report To receive the 2015/16 Year End Improvement Plan monitoring reports for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2016.		Cabinet Member for Corporate Management

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	21 June 2016	Finance	<p>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 12) 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 12 and projected forward to year-end based on the most up to date information available</p>	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Cabinet	21 June 2016	Community and Enterprise	<p>Purchase of Ex Council Stock To consider proposals and criteria for the repurchase of ex council property.</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	23 June 2016	Overview and Scrutiny	2015/16 Year End Reporting and Data Submission, Improvement Plan Monitoring & Chief Officer Performance Reports (Social & Health Care) To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.		
Cabinet	19 July 2016	Finance	Capital Programme 2015/16 (Outturn) To provide Members with the outturn capital programme information for 2015/16.		

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