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To: All Members of the Council

6 December 2017

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Flintshire County Council which will be held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 12th December, 2017 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Mold CH7 6NA to consider the following items

A G E N D A

1 **PRESENTATIONS**

Purpose: In recognition of the Council's Fostering and Corporate Human Resource Teams in being awarded the Fostering Friendly Employer of the Year Award at the Fostering Network's national Excellence Awards.

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Purpose: To receive any apologies.

3 **MINUTES** (Pages 5 - 26)

Purpose: To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 24th October and 14th November 2017.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Purpose: To receive any Declarations and advise Members accordingly.

5 **COMMEMORATION AND TRIBUTES TO THE LATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER CARL SARGEANT**

6 **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Purpose: To receive the communications as circulated.

7 PETITIONS

Purpose: To receive any Petitions.

8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Purpose: To receive any Public Questions.

9 QUESTIONS

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

10 NOTICE OF MOTION (Pages 27 - 28)

Purpose: To consider any Notices of Motion.

**11 FINANCIAL FORECAST AND STAGE TWO OF THE BUDGET 2018/19
(Pages 29 - 42)**

Report of Chief Executive, Corporate Finance Manager

Purpose: To consider Second Stage Budget Options for the Council Fund Budget 2018/19 on the recommendation of Cabinet.

12 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER (Pages 43 - 48)

Report of Chief Officer (Governance)

Purpose: To appoint an independent member (co-optee) to the vacancy on the Standards Committee.

**13 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CLWYD PENSION FUND COMMITTEE
(Pages 49 - 52)**

Report of Chief Executive

Purpose: To award an additional senior salary for the position of Chair of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee.

Yours sincerely



Robert Robins
Democratic Services Manager

WEBCASTING NOTICE

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

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

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

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
24 OCTOBER 2017

Minutes of the meeting of Flintshire County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 24 October 2017

PRESENT: Councillor Brian Lloyd (Chairman)

Councillors: Mike Allport, Bernie Attridge, Janet Axworthy, Glyn Banks, Haydn Bateman, Marion Bateman, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Helen Brown, Derek Butler, Clive Carver, Bob Connah, David Cox, Paul Cunningham, Jean Davies, Ron Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke, Ian Dunbar, Andy Dunbobbin, Mared Eastwood, Carol Ellis, Veronica Gay, George Hardcastle, David Healey, Gladys Healey, Patrick Heesom, Cindy Hinds, Dave Hughes, Kevin Hughes, Ray Hughes, Dennis Hutchinson, Joe Johnson, Paul Johnson, Rita Johnson, Christine Jones, Tudor Jones, Richard Lloyd, Mike Lowe, Dave Mackie, Hilary McGuill, Billy Mullin, Mike Peers, Michelle Perfect, Vicky Perfect, Neville Phillips, Mike Reece, Ian Roberts, Aaron Shotton, Paul Shotton, Ralph Small, Ian Smith, Carolyn Thomas, Owen Thomas, Martin White, David Williams, David Wisinger, and Arnold Woolley

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: Sian Braun, Geoff Collett, Chris Dolphin, Rosetta Dolphin, David Evans, Andrew Holgate, Richard Jones, Colin Legg, Andrew Holgate, Ted Palmer, and Tony Sharps

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer (Organisational Change 1), Chief Officer (Organisational Change 2), Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise), Chief Officer (Social Services), Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Committee Officers, and Ms. Angela Bebbington for prayers.

44. COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 27 September 2017 had been circulated with the agenda

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer advised that a personal interest would be recorded on behalf of all Members present for item 11 – Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Draft Annual Report for 2018/19.

46. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

A copy of the Chairman's Communications had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting.

The Chairman commented on the successful Flintshire Business Awards Gala evening which was held on 20 October, and thanked all involved for their hard work. He also drew attention to the ceremony to celebrate 25 years of engine manufacturing in Wales which had been held at Toyota Manufacturing (UK) Limited, and the Japanese Youth Exchange presentation evening which had taken place in County Hall the previous evening. He commented that both events had been excellent. The Chairman concluded by thanking all who had made a contribution to his Charity event.

47. PETITIONS

Councillors Dennis Hutchinson and Mike Peers presented a petition on behalf of local residents for Mount Pleasant Road, Drury, Buckley, to become a one-way system. Councillors Hutchinson and Peers commented on the concerns raised by residents in the area for the safety of motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians, due to the high risk of a traffic collision and the actions requested to address the risk.

48. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None were received.

49. QUESTIONS

None were received.

50. NOTICE OF MOTION

None were received.

51. ARMED FORCES ANNUAL REPORT

The Chief Executive presented the report which was the first Annual Report of Flintshire County Council's Armed Forces Covenant. He advised that the report outlined the progress and commitment of the Authority and its partners who had signed the Covenant to support the Armed Forces Community. He explained that the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service had also joined the Flintshire Covenant and had formally signed the Covenant in a short ceremony prior to today's meeting of the Council. The Chief Executive asked that Members considered endorsing the positive progress made in meeting the Armed Forces Covenant and supporting the commitments for further improvement and approved the Annual Report prior to its publication on the Council's website. The Chief Executive invited Councillor Andrew Dunbobbin to speak on the item as the Council's Armed Forces Champion.

In moving the report Councillor Dunbobbin referred to the positive comments made by the Welsh Government (WG) concerning the work undertaken in Flintshire and specifically the work for schools to capture data on whether any pupils or students were children of serving members of the Armed Forces, and the offer of guaranteed interviews for veterans who meet the essential criteria of the job role.

Councillor Clive Carver congratulated the Authority on producing the Armed Forces Covenant, however, referring to the areas for improvement detailed in paragraph 1.05 the report, he felt that there was an omission in the objective “for schools to start capturing whether any pupils/students are children of serving members of the Armed Forces” and suggested the wording in Flintshire’s Covenant should be amended to include “children of both serving and veteran members of the Armed Forces”. The Chief Executive acknowledged the point made by Councillor Carver and gave an assurance that the work was applied to both serving and veteran members and it was agreed that the wording would be amended to provide clarification.

Councillor Tudor Jones referred to the promotion of the WG free swimming initiative for veterans and armed forces personnel which was available at four swimming pools in the County and asked whether this facility could be made available at all the swimming pools in the County. Councillor Jones also commented on the work being undertaken to restore a war memorial in Ysceifiog and asked Councillor Dunbobbin if he could provide information on any funding which the local community may be able to apply for to assist with the project.

Councillor Dunbobbin advised that funding was available from the WG until 2018 for the free swimming initiative and was applicable to all leisure services. He said he would encourage organisations to apply for the funding which was held centrally by the WG. Referring to the community project to restore a war memorial, Councillor Dunbobbin advised that local communities could apply for funding through the Armed Forces Community Covenant. The Chief Officer (Organisational Change 1) explained how the WG funding for the free swimming initiative for veterans and armed forces personnel was dispersed across swimming pools in Flintshire and advised that the current arrangements were to be reviewed during the coming months. He reported that the WG would also be reviewing the funding and provision for free swimming during the next 12 months to ensure that people most in need benefited.

Councillor Arnold Woolley asked that the word “to” be inserted into second recommendation on page 6 of the report after the word “prior”. In response to the question from Councillor Woolley regarding whether the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service had signed the Flintshire Covenant, the Chief Executive confirmed that personnel from the Armed Forces had attended and formally signed the Covenant on behalf of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service at a short ceremony prior to the meeting of the Council today.

Councillor Paul Cunningham spoke of the strong public support for the Armed Forces and congratulated the Authority for the work undertaken to support the Armed Forces Covenant.

Councillor Hillary McGuill asked if veterans and armed forces personnel could be provided with “unrestricted” instead of “time-limited” access to swimming activities

and events. Councillor Dunbobbin acknowledged the suggestion and advised that there were a number of schemes available from the Armed Forces to assist veterans and armed forces personnel.

Councillor Chris Bithell welcomed the initiative for schools to start capturing data on whether any pupils or students were children of veterans and serving members of the Armed Forces. He spoke of his admiration for the achievements gained by both pupils and students who had to adjust to frequent periods of relocation throughout their education.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the positive progress made in meeting the Armed Forces Covenant and supporting the commitments for further improvement be endorsed; and
- (b) That the Armed Forces Covenant Annual Report be approved

52. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016/17

The Chief Executive introduced the report to endorse the 2016/17 Annual Performance Report for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 prior to publication. He advised that the Annual Performance Report was a statutory report which provided an overview of the Authority's performance in achieving its improvement priorities as set out in the 2016/17 Improvement Plan. The Chief Executive provided background information and context and advised that the Report had to be adopted by Council prior to 31 October 2017.

The Chief Executive and Corporate Business and Communications Manager gave a joint presentation which covered the following areas:

- the Annual Performance Report
- Council Plan 2017-2023
- format and content
- performance overview 2016/17
- progress overview
- highlights
- areas for improvement
- performance overview
- Wales Audit Office – 2016/17 view
- overview
- next steps
- Council Plan

Councillor Aaron Shotton moved the recommendation to adopt the Annual Performance Report and expressed his thanks to the Chief Executive and the Corporate Business and Communications Manager for a detailed and informative presentation. He spoke of the opportunity to celebrate the Authority's achievements and interventions which had made a "real" difference to the residents and local

communities in Flintshire. However, he acknowledged that there were also areas where there was further work to be done to achieve the outcomes set out in the Council Plan.

Commenting on the Authority's achievements, Councillor Shotton drew attention to the progress and improvements as detailed in the report and presentation around housing, social care, skills and learning. He also spoke of the work and success of the Authority in terms of developing the social enterprise sector and referred to the recent Flintshire Business Awards event and the number of socially responsible businesses which were supported by the Authority and had been put forward for awards in that event. Councillor Shotton commented that it was particularly pleasing and well deserved that Café Isa, Mynydd Isa, had won the award on the evening.

Councillor Shotton concluded by commenting on the achievement that Flintshire was ranked top out of 22 authorities across Wales as the most improved Authority between 2015/16 and 2016/17, and said it was important that the contribution and hard work of the Authority's workforce in making that achievement possible was recognised.

Councillor Dennis Hutchinson expressed his appreciation for the much improved Household Recycling facilities at Buckley and Mold. He referred to the number of new council houses being built in Flintshire and commented that there was a shortage of supply in some areas, citing Buckley as an example. He urged the Authority to address the situation to ensure that there was adequate provision of council houses in the County, and reiterated his concerns around the need for new council houses in Buckley. Councillor Hutchinson also expressed his appreciation to Councillor Attridge and to the Chief Officer (Organisational Change 2) for their work and support to address the issue of unlawful encampment on Buckley Common.

Councillor Bernie Attridge responded to the concerns expressed by Councillor Hutchinson around demand and supply of new council homes in Flintshire and provided details of the new build sites and schemes which were under construction or proposed in the County. He gave assurance to Councillor Hutchinson that the Authority was working to address the need for affordable housing and was robust in its search and negotiations for suitable and available land for such schemes. He concluded that he was optimistic that an announcement may be made in the coming months on a new scheme in the Mold area.

Councillor Mike Peers acknowledged the overall progress that had been made against the improvement priorities which he said was to be celebrated. However, he felt that it was important to retain focus on the performance measures which had not met target to ensure that there was improvement going forward. He asked that a summary be included of the performance measures which had not met target in future reports to enable Members to compare performance.

Councillor Peers expressed concerns around the need and demand for affordable housing and felt that with regard to the planning applications submitted by private developers, there was a need to ensure sufficient density on site to trigger the affordable housing contribution. He suggested that there was a need to review the

policy and for the Housing Strategy Team to engage more fully with Planning to achieve the outcomes required for affordable housing. In response the Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) gave an assurance that there was close collaboration between the Housing Strategy Team and Planning. She explained that where there was good evidence of a demand for affordable housing the service worked hard to ensure there was the appropriate mix of housing units on the development.

Councillor David Healey said that Flintshire's quartile performance as outlined in page 63 of the report was a remarkable achievement in view of the financial stringency and austerity that had taken place in recent years and congratulated officers and staff on their hard work. Councillor Healey said he was particularly pleased with the progress made to help Flintshire's most vulnerable residents in matters of housing, homelessness, welfare reform, and poverty, and commended the Authority on the work it had undertaken. He also spoke of his appreciation and the need to commend the members of local communities who had come forward as volunteers to support and maintain services at risk in local areas, and cited the successful community asset transfer scheme of Hope library as an example.

Councillor Hilary McGuill said the reduced time to complete Disabled Facilities Grants was welcomed. However, she expressed concerns around the backlog of school repair and maintenance works outstanding and said it was false economy to delay such work. The Chief Executive acknowledged the points made and advised that the issue of school estates was a nationwide problem and was due to capital availability and insufficient investment. He said that the under-funding for repairs would remain an amber risk for the foreseeable future.

In response to a query from Councillor Arnold Woolley concerning the take up by residents of the financial assistance available to repair homes the Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) advised that there was no problem in the take up of social grant loans.

The Chief Executive and Councillor Derek Butler responded to the concern raised by Councillor Woolley around the Northern Powerhouse and Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), the infrastructure, and the Mersey-Dee Alliance. The Chief Executive explained that a presentation would be made shortly to provide an outline of the North Wales Economic Growth Deal bid which would explain the relationship with the Mersey Dee Alliance, Flintshire's influence, and cross-border collaboration. Councillor Derek Butler gave an update on recent developments on the Mersey-Dee Alliance and commented on the cross-border and cross-party working which had taken place and gave an assurance that significant work was in progress which the Growth Deal would build on.

Councillor Neville Phillips commented on the need for additional affordable housing in Buckley and also on the demand for extra care provision to be built in the area and suggested that the Princess Avenue site in Buckley could be considered as building land for such schemes in the future. The Chief Executive acknowledged the points made by Councillor Phillips and said it was recognised that the town of Buckley would be the next priority for any future scheme, however, he explained that there was no resourcing plan available at the current time to extend the extra care provision.

Councillor Carol Ellis spoke of the valuable contribution made by Members and officers who had worked collaboratively through the Social & Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to achieve improvements. She also spoke of the value of enablement and the significant difference it had made to the demands on social and health care services and expressed her appreciation for the work of the Senior Manager Integrated services Lead Adults and her team.

Councillor Ian Roberts commented on the improvements in skills and learning and the need to congratulate staff in schools on the excellent progress achieved and cited the improvements in performance indicators at Foundation Phase, and Key Stages 2, 3, and 4, as examples. He also commented on the work and achievements of pupils who had worked hard and achieved significant personal progress but had not been reflected in the indicators. In conclusion Councillor Roberts also concurred with the concerns made by Councillor McGuill concerning the backlog of repair and maintenance works in schools and the need for capital investment.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Performance Report 2016/17 be adopted.

53. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES (IRPW) DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018/19

The Monitoring Officer introduced a report to enable the Council to consider and comment on the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Draft Annual Report for 2018/19. He provided background information and explained that it was the IRPW which sets out and decides what should be the rates of payment to Members and co-optees of Local Authorities in Wales.

The Monitoring Officer advised that the IRPW was required to take into account the representations it received on the draft before issuing the final version of the report in February 2018. He informed that the Panel's determinations for 2018 were appended to the report. The Monitoring Officer summarised that the IRPW was not recommending any increases in any allowances for 2018/19 apart from a change to the basic salary for elected Members which equated to an increase of £200 (1.49%).

The Monitoring Officer also advised that no increase was proposed for senior salaries but the postholders would receive the £200 increase in the basic salary being paid to all Members. The IRPW had removed the "two tier" approach for payment of Cabinet Members and Committee Chairs as no local authorities had adopted the approach.

The Monitoring Officer referred to the number of senior salaried posts which Flintshire was able to pay. He gave background information and explained that the Council was asked to consider whether an application should be made to the Independent Remuneration Panel for a specific or additional senior salary, which does not fall within the current remuneration framework, to recognise the role of the Chair of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee which was currently unpaid.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the application to the Independent Remuneration Panel for a specific additional senior salary, which does not fall within the current remuneration framework, to recognise the currently unpaid role of the Chair of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee, be endorsed; and
- (b) That the Chief Officer (Governance) be authorised to make a response on behalf of the Council, reflecting the decision made at the meeting, to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

54. REAPPOINTMENT OF TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Monitoring Officer introduced a report on the reappointment of the Town and Community Council representative for a further term on the Standards Committee.

The Monitoring Officer provided background information and advised that the term of office for the Town and Community Representative came to an end with the local elections in May 2017. A report was presented at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2017 and the Standards Committee in July 2017 recommending that Councillor Duggan-Keen, the current representative, be reappointed for a further term. Before making the reappointment Council needed to consult the Town and Community Councils on the proposal. The Monitoring Officer advised that consultation had been undertaken and as there was no disagreement with the proposal it could go ahead.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council notes that no Town or Community Council has objected to the reappointment of Councillor Duggan-Keen; and
- (b) That Councillor Duggan-Keen be reappointed for the remainder of the council term.

55. FOR INFORMATION – APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Democratic Services Manager introduced the report to inform the Council of progress which had been made on the appointment of members to national and regional Outside Bodies. He advised that the Appointments to Outside Bodies list was reported to the Annual Meeting in May 2017 and following on from the Annual Meeting the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders, made appointments to all but one of the bodies on the list which was appended to the report. The Democratic Services Manager advised that the one vacancy where it had not been possible to make a nomination was to the North Wales Association for the deaf and therefore it remained as a vacancy for the time being. The Democratic Services Manager explained that some of the current vacancies on the list related to the late Councillor Ron Hampson and these were Ward related and would be filled following the Buckley Bistre West by-election.

Councillor Mike Peers referred to the vacancy on the Theatr Clwyd Board of Governors and asked for confirmation that the vacancy existed. He proposed that if the vacancy did not exist then Councillor Veronica Gay be replaced by Councillor Kevin Hughes. In response the Chief Executive explained that the Board of Governors was currently being reviewed both internally by the Theatr and by the Cabinet and he commented on some of the proposals for discussion around membership of the Board going forward and said that the external positions were to be advertised as a form of public appointment to open up access to being a Theatre Board member.. The Chief Executive concluded that for the time being the existing membership of the Board of Governors, both internal and external, would remain unchanged. However, in

acknowledging the proposal put forward by Councillor Peers he advised that it did not change the number or proportion of representation.

Councillor Chis Bithell referred to the two vacancies on the list for SACRE and reported that Councillor Paul Cunningham had volunteered to join the membership of the Committee so only one vacancy remained on that body

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the current list of Outside Bodies which is attached as Appendix A, be noted; and
- (b) That where any vacancies remain unfilled these should be removed from the Outside Bodies list.

56. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

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

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and ended at 3.35pm)

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Chairman

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
14 NOVEMBER 2017

Minutes of the meeting of Flintshire County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 14 November 2017

PRESENT: Councillor Brian Lloyd (Chairman)

Councillors: Bernie Attridge, Janet Axworthy, Glyn Banks, Haydn Bateman, Marion Bateman, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Sian Braun, Derek Butler, Clive Carver, Bob Connah, David Cox, Paul Cunningham, Jean Davies, Rob Davies, Ron Davies, Ian Dunbar, Andy Dunbobbin, Mared Eastwood, Carol Ellis, David Evans, Veronica Gay, George Hardcastle, David Healey, Gladys Healey, Patrick Heesom, Cindy Hinds, Andrew Holgate, Dave Hughes, Kevin Hughes, Ray Hughes, Dennis Hutchinson, Joe Johnson, Paul Johnson, Rita Johnson, Christine Jones, Colin Legg, Mike Lowe, Dave Mackie, Hilary McGuill, Billy Mullin, Ted Palmer, Mike Peers, Michelle Perfect, Vicky Perfect, Neville Phillips, Mike Reece, Ian Roberts, Tony Sharps, Aaron Shotton, Paul Shotton, Ian Smith, Carolyn Thomas, Andy Williams, David Williams, David Wisinger and Arnold Woolley

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: Mike Allport, Helen Brown, Geoff Collett, Adele Davies-Cooke, Chris Dolphin, Rosetta Dolphin, Richard Jones, Tudor Jones, Richard Lloyd, Ralph Small, Owen Thomas and Martin White

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive; Chief Officer (Governance); Corporate Finance Manager; Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise); Chief Officer (Planning & Environment); Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation); Chief Officer (Social Services); Chief Officer (Organisational Change); Interim Chief Officer (Education & Youth); Finance Manager; Democratic Services Manager; Democratic Services Officers; and Rev. Maureen Roberts for prayers

Following prayers, the Chairman asked all those present to join him in a minute's silence to commemorate the late Carl Sergeant AM.

The newly elected Member for Buckley Bistre West, Councillor Andy Williams, was welcomed to his first County Council meeting.

57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

On Agenda Item 7, Council Fund Budget 2018/19 Stage One, a personal interest was declared by Councillor McGuill following her comments on business rates for charities, due to having family members involved in the Scout organisation.

58. PETITIONS

None were received.

59. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None were received.

60. QUESTIONS

None were received.

61. NOTICE OF MOTION

Two Notice of Motion had been received from Councillor Aaron Shotton:

- (i) Make Fair Transitional State Pension Arrangements for Women born in the 1950s

'Hundreds of thousands of women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little or no personal notification of the changes. Some women had less than two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age. Some women have had no notice at all.

Many women born in the 1950s are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace and therefore struggle to find employment.

Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60. It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute - But that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with insufficient time to make alternative arrangements.

Resolution:

That this Council recognises and supports the recent formation of a local Flintshire WASPI (Women against State Pension Inequality) Group and that we as a Council resolve to take action to call upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born in the 1950s affected by the changes to the SPA (State Pension Age) and, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the SPA with lack of appropriate notification.'

In support of his Motion, Councillor Shotton hoped that the unfairness of the issue was recognised by all and he gave examples of the personal devastation caused to local individuals. He called upon the Council to support the national WASPI campaign which included a local action group, some of whose members were present.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor Kevin Hughes provided background information to the WASPI campaign. He stressed that the focus of the campaign was about the rapid rise in women's state pension age where changes imposed without notification had left many in hardship and unable to plan for retirement.

Also speaking in favour of the Motion were Councillors Mike Peers, Rita Johnson and Paul Shotton.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was unanimously supported.

(ii) An End to UK Government Austerity

'This Council calls upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer to end the UK Government's policy of austerity in his Budget, due to be presented to Parliament on the 22nd November. This Council believes that after seven years of austerity, as a political and economic strategy, it is completely discredited and has inflicted untold damage on our public services and communities across Flintshire and the UK.

This Council believes that the public sector in Flintshire and across the UK can no longer endure the significant year-on-year reductions in funding. Welsh funding has reduced by 7% in real terms since 2010, equating to a staggering £1.2bn.

It is time for the UK Government to recognise the value of public services by delivering the funding levels required to meet rising demand for services.

This Council agrees to:

- Continue to campaign over the coming weeks to communicate the need for an end to austerity.
- Continue to be open about the scale of the financial challenges that the Council faces in the short and medium term if austerity is not ended, and the damage this could do to our local communities and services.
- Request that the Leader of the Council writes to Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary State for Wales to request an end to austerity and for fair funding be delivered to Wales, particularly to enable the council to meet increasing need pressures in Education and Social Care.'

Councillor Shotton said that the public engagement events being held across the county to highlight the impact of funding cuts were generating widespread support for changes to be made at UK Government level.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Bernie Attridge.

Councillor Peers commented on the approach taken by the Council in previous years. He said that as Flintshire was recognised as a low-funded council in Wales, mention should be made of Welsh Government (WG) on its responsibilities towards the current financial position.

Councillor Heesom spoke in support of the Motion but raised a number of concerns about the impact of outsourcing services, the delivery of equitable services and pre-scrutiny of issues by Overview & Scrutiny which he hoped would be addressed as part of the next stage of the budget process.

As Cabinet Member for Streetscene & Countryside, Councillor Thomas referred to the significant efficiencies achieved in her portfolio and commended the teams involved in maintaining frontline services. In strong support of the Motion and an end to austerity, she expressed concerns about the effect on the workforce and residents, and the lack of financial support to provide vital services and meet statutory obligations.

Also in support, Councillor Bithell said that the UK Government was in a position to provide WG with the funding required to invest and sustain essential services.

Councillor Woolley was unable to support the Motion and remarked on the recognised effects of austerity on the economy and the impact of previous borrowing and spend. He felt that the financial situation could not be resolved without positive alternatives which were not evident.

Councillor Carver commented on the top-slicing of finances by WG to fund unnecessary projects. He proposed an amendment to the third bullet point of the Motion as follows: "Request that the Leader of the Council writes to Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary State for Wales to request an end to austerity and to the First Minister for the fair apportionment of funding be delivered for Wales."

This was seconded by Councillor Axworthy.

Councillor Attridge requested a recorded vote on the substantive Motion and the requisite number of Members indicated their support.

On being put to the vote, the amendment by Councillor Carver was lost.

In his right of reply, Councillor Shotton said that the Council had reached a "tipping point" on the budget process. Whilst the responsibilities of WG formed part of the next agenda item, the Motion was about recognising and supporting the call for a change to UK fiscal policy.

On being put to the vote, the substantive Notice of Motion was carried as follows:

For the proposal:

Councillors: Brian Lloyd, Paul Cunningham, Bernie Attridge, Glyn Banks, Haydn Bateman, Marion Bateman, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Derek Butler, David Cox, Jean Davies, Ron Davies, Ian Dunbar, Andy Dunbobbin, Mared Eastwood, Carol Ellis, David Evans, George Hardcastle, David Healey, Gladys Healey, Patrick Heesom, Cindy Hinds, Dave Hughes, Kevin Hughes, Ray Hughes, Joe Johnson, Paul Johnson, Rita Johnson, Christine Jones, Colin Legg, Mike Lowe, Hilary McGuill, Billy Mullin, Ted Palmer, Michelle Perfect, Vicky Perfect, Neville Phillips, Mike Reece, Ian Roberts, Tony Sharps, Aaron Shotton, Paul Shotton, Ian Smith, Carolyn Thomas, Andy Williams, David Williams and David Wisinger

Against the proposal:

Councillors: Janet Axworthy, Sian Braun, Clive Carver, Bob Connah, Rob Davies, Veronica Gay, Andrew Holgate, Dennis Hutchinson, Dave Mackie, Mike Peers and Arnold Woolley

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Notice of Motion from Councillor Aaron Shotton be supported as follows: ‘That this Council recognises and supports the recent formation of a local Flintshire WASPI (Women against State Pension Inequality) Group and that we as a Council resolve to take action to call upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born in the 1950s affected by the changes to the SPA (State Pension Age) and, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the SPA with lack of appropriate notification’; and
- (b) That the Notice of Motion from Councillor Aaron Shotton be supported as follows: ‘This Council calls upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer to end the UK Government’s policy of austerity in his Budget, due to be presented to Parliament on the 22nd November. This Council believes that after seven years of austerity, as a political and economic strategy, it is completely discredited and has inflicted untold damage on our public services and communities across Flintshire and the UK. This Council believes that the public sector in Flintshire and across the UK can no longer endure the significant year-on-year reductions in funding. Welsh funding has reduced by 7% in real terms since 2010, equating to a staggering £1.2bn. It is time for the UK Government to recognise the value of public services by delivering the funding levels required to meet rising demand for services. This Council agrees to:
- Continue to campaign over the coming weeks to communicate the need for an end to austerity.
 - Continue to be open about the scale of the financial challenges that the Council faces in the short and medium term if austerity is not ended, and the damage this could do to our local communities and services.
 - Request that the Leader of the Council writes to Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary State for Wales to request an end to austerity and for fair funding be delivered to Wales, particularly to enable

the council to meet increasing need pressures in Education and Social Care.'

62. COUNCIL FUND BUDGET 2018/19 STAGE ONE

The Chief Executive and Corporate Finance Manager presented an update on the Council Fund Budget forecast for 2018/19 following the Provisional Welsh Local Government Settlement announced by Welsh Government (WG). Members' views were sought on a response to WG and to the Council's portfolio business plan proposals which were presented for formal adoption.

Amongst the key outcomes from the announcement, it was reported that a number of specific grants were now included in the Settlement and the impact of a new responsibility for homelessness prevention was being assessed for which no additional base funding had been provided. Further information received since the Provisional Settlement highlighted a reduction in the Education Improvement Grant and Single Environment Grant as areas of concern. The overall effect had increased the previously forecasted £11.7m budget gap to £13.6m and could be further impacted by a projected £1.1m Council Fund overspend in 2017/18.

The portfolio business plan options with a value of £3.1m had been endorsed by Cabinet and reviewed by the respective Overview & Scrutiny committees with no objections raised. The main topic of public interest was the proposed introduction of charges for garden waste collection which was not one of the Council's statutory services. Details were available in the report to the forthcoming Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting. Resilience statements for each portfolio showed the majority of service areas at an Amber risk rating, reflecting the risk of failure prior to entering Stage 2 of the process.

Timescales for the budget process were set out to enable the Council to approve a balanced budget to meet its statutory duty. More challenging options for Stage 2 totalling around £6m-8m would be considered by Members at an informal workshop prior to seeking approval at the next meeting, to allow for early implementation and focus on remaining options at Stage 3 in the New Year.

Whilst some informal representations had already been made to WG on the Provisional Settlement, Members were asked to agree a corporate response to make the case that both WG and UK Government should recognise their own responsibilities for better funding to meet the needs of local government in protecting services, as was the case for the Health service. As a reminder of the representations made to WG, copies of a letter previously sent to Mark Drakeford AM were circulated, highlighting the national impact, the importance of making a collective case and the need for Flintshire to receive sufficient funding to deliver its mandatory services.

Draft response to the Provisional Settlement

The Chief Executive asked Members to support the following draft response to WG which had been informed by discussions throughout the budget process:

That:

- the Settlement is inadequate for the Council's needs;
- the Council re-supports the case made on 22 August as set out in the letter to Mark Drakeford AM;
- the Council supports the three specific asks under consideration in Stage 2 - ICF funding ringfenced for the next three years, the £100 per week domiciliary care cap and 50% of the Apprentice Tax Levy paid by the Council to be returned to sustain the existing scheme;
- the latterly announced reductions to specific grants - Education Improvement Grant and Single Environment Grant - be reversed by WG irrespective of the UK Settlement;
- additional funding is needed for the whole of local government as per the WLGA and Flintshire case made in the letter to WG;
- Flintshire is at particular risk due to its low funding base as shown by the set of resilience statements;
- WG Ministers and senior officials are invited to meet with Flintshire urgently to review our special case - to be facilitated by the WLGA;
- if additional funding is not to be given to local government at a sufficient level for Flintshire under the distribution formula, then a strong evidenced based case be made for Flintshire, as a high performing Council with social responsibilities, to be awarded a specific supplementary funding package to assist in reaching a balanced budget for 2018/19 due to the risks to Council services and governance.

The Chief Executive thanked Members for contributing to the campaign to raise awareness of the complexities of the financial position and conveying the significance of the matter to the public. Public engagement events currently being undertaken across the County had been well received although turnout had been low. In responding to councillors and officers asking what they could do personally to help make the Council's case for fair and adequate funding, he asked for care in campaigning. Whilst initiating/supporting local campaigns and petitions was one way to help, if the campaign or petition aligned to the Council's position then colleagues (including officers) should be free to make a personal decision to lend their support. Their support was for the campaign message and not necessarily for the initiator. So if the initiator was, for example, a political party or a trade union, where support was simply given for the campaign, this should not be read as endorsement for the party or the union. It was important that this distinction be made clear in campaigning to protect impartiality - particularly for officers.

In moving the recommendations put forward by the Chief Executive, Councillor Aaron Shotton spoke about alignment with the objectives of the Council Plan and the challenges in identifying proposals to balance the budget. Whilst every attempt was being made to protect services, it was inevitable that the pressures would result in real impacts.

This was seconded by Councillor Attridge.

Councillor Heesom said that he conditionally supported the Stage 1 proposals but raised strong concerns about the prospect of Stage 2 and the impact of any further increase to the budget gap. He said that resources were not evenly distributed and that the impact of structural plan elements on communities, which had previously been raised, had not yet been acknowledged. He felt that there were critical issues in the resilience statements which had not been adequately addressed through the Overview & Scrutiny process, for example investment for the Youth Service and small rural schools.

The Chief Executive gave a reminder that Overview & Scrutiny committees reviewed their own work programmes which enabled them to take an active role on issues within their remit, for example the item on garden waste charges. In response to further comments by Councillor Heesom, he clarified that the Council would continue to provide the large majority of its current services directly, provided that performance and value for money were maintained.

Clarification was given to Councillor Peers on the Waste Strategy and the restructuring of teams in Corporate Property Maintenance and Design & Project Management Services. On the suggestion to merge Organisational Change into one portfolio to achieve savings, the importance of retaining these as two separate work projects was highlighted to support the digital and building strategies.

On Flintshire Connects, the Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise) provided details of plans to re-designate posts and review opening hours, particularly in Mold and Buckley as the facilities with the lowest footfall, to achieve efficiencies.

The Interim Chief Officer (Education & Youth) said that the proposal to reduce the Council's funding for nursery education provision to the statutory minimum would achieve minor savings and present a cost pressure for schools.

Councillor McGuill raised concerns about the impact of 20% business rates imposed on charities and groups such as the Scout organisation, which could also affect groups with Community Asset Transfers. Whilst the Chief Executive shared the concerns, he said that if the Council was to meet this cost, this would result in an additional budget pressure. A hardship fund was available to help with specific cases.

In response to a question from Councillor Carver, the Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise) provided information on options being developed for 2019/20 to offer a broader range of services as part of the Registration Service.

On being put to the vote, the recommendations were carried.

The Chief Executive confirmed that a copy of the response to the Cabinet Secretary would be shared with Members, together with his response to the previous letter of the Council (22 August).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the details of the Provisional Local Government Settlement and the impact on the budget forecast for 2018/19 be noted;
- (b) That the Stage One Budget proposals as set out in Appendix A be approved;
- (c) That the remaining stages of the budget process and timescales be noted; and
- (d) That the approach to the Provisional Settlement consultation be approved in accordance with the outline response to WG suggested in the presentation.

63. 2018 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

The Chief Executive presented a report to seek views on the revised proposals made by the Boundary Commission for Wales on the 2018 review of Parliamentary Constituencies of Flint & Rhuddlan and Alyn & Deeside.

Councillor Peers spoke in support of the report and highlighted an error in the wording for Alyn & Deeside in section 3.3 of the Assistant Commissioner's report.

Concerns were raised by Councillor Bithell on the impact of the review on Wales.

On the naming of constituencies, Councillor Neville Phillips asked if the Council could make representations for Alyn & Deeside to be changed to East Flintshire. Following officer advice, this was proposed as an amendment and duly seconded.

Councillor Evans questioned whether such a request could be made at this stage of the process. The Chief Executive advised that whilst it may be a belated request, it could be submitted on the basis that it was a more recognisable name than Alyn & Deeside.

On being put the vote, the amendment was carried.

The recommendations of the report were proposed by Councillor Bithell and duly seconded. On being put to the vote, they were carried.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That there be a formal response seeking a change to the name Alyn & Deeside to East Flintshire;
- (b) That the revised proposals made by the Boundary Commission for Wales on the 2018 review of the Parliamentary Constituencies of Flint & Rhuddlan and Alyn & Deeside be noted; and
- (b) That the Chief Executive be authorised to make a response on behalf of the Council.

64. COMMUNITY REVIEW GUIDANCE AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION CONSULTATION ON COMMUNITY REVIEWS

The Chief Executive presented a report to seek views on updated draft guidance on the conduct of community reviews by principal councils which had been produced by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales.

The report contained the key findings from the guidance and the consultation process ending on 21 December 2017. Details were shared on the community review carried out in Flintshire in 2013.

Following a query by Councillor Bithell, the Chief Officer (Governance) explained that proposals previously recommended by town/community councils, which would have resulted in differing boundaries at town/community and ward level, had not been implemented as part of the County Council's most recent community review. Those proposals had been forwarded to the Boundary Commission with a request that they be considered as part of the County Council ward boundary review in late 2018.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the comments on the guidance document for principal councils on the review of communities be noted; and
- (b) That the Chief Executive be authorised to make a response on behalf of the Council.

65. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

The Democratic Services Manager presented the Annual Report for 2016/17 to give assurance that the Overview & Scrutiny function was fulfilling its constitutional role. Minor changes had been made to the report following consideration by the Constitution and Democratic Services Committee, including a foreword in tribute to the late Councillor Ron Hampson.

Councillor Heesom referred to capacity issues which had been mentioned in an audit report and he asked if consideration could be given to additional administrative support for Overview & Scrutiny to assist Members.

The Democratic Services Manager agreed to check committee membership dates which had been queried by Councillor Bithell at an earlier stage.

Councillor Peers asked about the outcome of recent discussion groups between Members and Wales Audit Office colleagues. The Chief Executive expected that a report on the findings of this national exercise was likely to be published and that feedback would be shared with Members once this work had concluded.

RESOLVED:

That the Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/17 be received.

66. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There was one member of the press and three members of the public in attendance.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and ended at 4.05pm)

.....
Chairman

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Notices of Motion
Flintshire County Council – 12th December 2017

Councillor Richard Jones:

- “(1) That this Council invests equitably in each of the towns in Flintshire in respect of the Infrastructural Support of any revenue or capital investment to:
- (a) Build or improve highway and transport networks (road, rail, cycle way or footpaths), including parking
 - (b) Redevelop or regenerate towns, streetscapes, or recreation spaces including CCTV
 - (c) Build or redevelop housing including community housing such as extra care
- (2) That the respective investment levels, showing external and internal funding, are reported as part of the Revenue and Capital Strategy reports”.

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 12 th December 2017
Report Subject	Financial Forecast and Stage Two of the Budget 2018/19
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager and Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The annual budget for 2018/19 is being developed in three stages:

Stage One - Portfolio Business Plan proposals endorsed by Cabinet were reviewed by the respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees throughout October before approval by Council on 14 November.;

Stage Two - Options were shared with Members initially at a workshop in November and then considered at Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 December. Verbal feedback will be provided at the meeting on the views of the Committee; and

Stage Three - Final Balancing options will be need to be considered through January and February for the Council to be able to approve a balanced budget to meet its statutory duty.

Stage One budget proposals of £3.1m were approved by Council 14 November 2017 reducing the budget gap from £13.6m to £10.5m, excluding the impact of any in-year risks and pressures which might continue into the new financial year.

Council is invited to consider the advice and recommendations of Cabinet on Stage Two of the budget strategy as summarised in the Scrutiny report presented to Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 December. This advice will be given verbally.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Consider the Stage Two Portfolio Budget options within the Scrutiny report included as Appendix A with the advice and recommendations of Cabinet.
2	Note the remaining stages of the budget process and the timescales.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE LATEST POSITION ON THE BUDGET 2018/19
	Budget Process and Timeline
1.01	The annual budget for 2018/19 is being developed in three stages.
1.02	<p>The stages are:-</p> <p>Stage One - Portfolio Business Plan proposals endorsed by Cabinet were reviewed by the respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees throughout October before approval by Council on 14 November.;</p> <p>Stage Two - Options were shared with Members initially at a workshop in November and then considered at Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 December. Verbal feedback will be provided at the meeting on the views of the Committee; and</p> <p>Stage Three - Final Balancing options will be need to be considered through January and February for the Council to be able to approve a balanced budget to meet its statutory duty.</p>
	Stage One budget proposals
1.03	Stage One budget proposals of £3.1m were approved by Council in November reducing the forecast budget gap from £13.6m to £10.5m, excluding the impact of any in-year risks and pressures which might continue into the new financial year.
	Stage Two – Portfolio Budget Options
1.04	Stage Two budget options were shared at a Member workshop in November where initial feedback was sought on proposals. These proposals were also considered by Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 6 December.
	Emerging Issues Affecting the forecast
1.05	In 2017/18 there is a projected budget Council Fund overspend of £1.3m which will impact, to some extent, on the forecast gap for 2018/19. The variances in expenditure which are at the cause of the over-spend are under critical examination. Any carry-forward of any recurring overspend in the

	base budget will increase the budget gap for 2018/19 and will be considered within Stage Three of the budget.
	Next Steps and Timescales
1.06	The Final Local Government Settlement, due to be received on 20 December, will determine the amount of grant funding to be received from Welsh Government for 2018/19.
1.07	Stage Three of the budget – the closing stage in January and February – will be the most challenging.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	As set out within the report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	All Member Workshops in July, September and November.
3.02	Overview and Scrutiny Meetings in October
3.03	School Budget Forum in October.
3.04	Public Engagement Sessions throughout October and November

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The Settlement is provisional only at this stage. The Final Settlement is due to be announced on 20 December 2017.
4.02	Within the Settlement there is limited information on specific grants. Proposed reductions in and change to specific grants pose a significant risk. The Education Improvement Grant and Single Environment Grant are of particular concern.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix A – Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee report 6 December 2017

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Contact Officer: Gary Ferguson Telephone: 01352 702271 E-mail: gary.ferguson@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS): a written strategy which gives a forecast of the financial resources which will be available to the Council for a given period, and sets out plans for how best to deploy those resources to meet our priorities, duties and obligations.</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, a share of the national “pool” of National Non-Domestic Rates and a number specific grant where funds are provided for councils to spend on specified services to achieve pre-set outcomes, for Example education and waste collection.</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 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.</p> <p>Budget: a statement expressing the Council’s policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. It includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them.</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>Specific Grants: An award of funding from a grant provider (e.g. Welsh Government) which must be used for a pre-defined purpose.</p> <p>Office of Budget Responsibility: created in 2010 to provide independent and authoritative analysis of the UK public finances.</p> <p>Institute of Fiscal Studies: formed in 1969 and established as an independent research institute with the principal aim of informing public debate on economics in order to promote the development of effective fiscal</p>

policy.

Independent Commission on Local Government Finance in Wales: established to examine how local government funding can be made more sustainable with a view to providing specific recommendations for improvement and reform.

Welsh Local Government Association: the representative body for unitary councils, fire and rescue authorities and national parks authorities in Wales.

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CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Wednesday, 6 December 2017
Report Subject	Financial Forecast and Stage Two of the Budget 2018/19
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

The purpose of the report is to provide the Committee with an update on the current financial forecast for 2018/19 and to consult on the Stage 2 Revenue budget proposals for 2018/19.

The annual budget for 2018/19 is being developed in three stages:

Stage One - Portfolio Business Plan proposals endorsed by Cabinet were reviewed by the respective Overview and Scrutiny Committee throughout October and approved by Council on 14 November 2017;

Stage Two - Secondary Options were shared with Members at a workshop on 21 November and further details of these are outlined within this report for consultation by the Committee;

Stage Three - Final Balancing options will need to be considered through January and February for the Council to be able to approve a balanced budget to meet its statutory duty.

The previously forecast budget gap for 2018/19 was reported as £11.7m. This was prior to the announcement of the Provisional Welsh Local Government Settlement which was announced in October. The impact of this is that the Council faces a reduction of 0.9% in AEF – equal to £1.703m - once adjustments for transfers of funds into the Settlement have been taken into account. The total reduction has increased to £1.9m through the impact of a new responsibility for Homelessness Prevention, costed at £0.197m, for which there is no budget provision.

Further negative changes to several major specific grants which sit outside AEF

have also been confirmed by Welsh Government.

The financial impact of the Provisional Settlement is that the gap has increased to £13.6m, excluding in-year risks and pressures.

The Committee is invited to review and comment on the Stage Two budget options which are detailed within the report. This review follows the internal member workshop held recently. The value of all of the stage two options ranges between £7.592m and £9.001m with the main variable being the decision on Council Tax.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Members of the Committee consider the Stage 2 budget options and provide feedback prior to County Council on 12 December 2017.
2	That Members note the remaining stages of the budget process and the timescales.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE LATEST POSITION ON THE BUDGET 2018/19
1.01	Budget Process and Timeline The annual budget for 2018/19 is being developed in three stages.
1.02	These stages are:- Stage One - Portfolio Business Plan proposals endorsed by Cabinet were reviewed by the respective Overview and Scrutiny Committee throughout October and approved by Council on 14 November. Stage Two - Secondary Options have been developed for consideration as set out for in this report. Stage Three - Final Balancing options will need to be considered through January and February for the Council to be able to approve a balanced budget to meets its statutory duty.
1.03	Updated Financial Forecast 2018/19 The previously forecast budget gap for 2018/19 was reported as £11.7m. This was prior to the announcement of the Provisional Welsh Local Government Settlement.

1.04	<p>Provisional Welsh Local Government Settlement</p> <p>The Provisional Settlement was received on 10th October 2017 and the headline financial impact was reported in detail in November. The financial impact of the decrease of 0.9% in AEF is equal to £1.703m in cash terms (having adjusted for transfers into the Settlement). When taking the new responsibility for Homelessness Prevention into account, at an additional cost of £0.197m, there is an overall negative impact of £1.9m on the budget forecast for 2018/19. This has the result of increasing the budget gap from £11.7m to £13.6m (excluding in-year risks and pressures).</p> <p>This excludes the impact of grant reductions for specific grants which are continuing to be assessed.</p>
1.05	<p>Stage One – Portfolio Business Plans</p> <p>Stage One budget proposals were approved by Council on 14th November 2017 and these reduced the gap by £3.1m which leaves a remaining gap of £10.5m (excluding in-year risks and pressures).</p>
1.06	<p>Stage 2 Budget Options</p> <p>The Second stage budget options were shared at a Member Workshop on 21 November 2017 and the options have been split into the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1: High Level of Control/Certainty – Local • Category 1a: High Level of Control/Certainty – Local taxation • Category 2: Low Level of Control/Certainty – Local • Category 3: No Level of Control/Certainty – National <p>Details of the options within each category are set out below.</p>
	<p>Category 1: High Level of Control/Certainty – Local</p>
1.07	<p>Schools Demography (£0.288m) – Apply a reduction to the quantum invested in the schools formula based on school population to reflect demographic changes.</p>
1.08	<p>Schools Budgets (£1.143m) – School budgets to remain at “cash flat” with no increase for inflationary pressures such as pay or other inflationary increases.</p>
1.09	<p>Theatre Clwyd (£0.075m) – The Council to receive a share of the Theatre Tax Relief by means of an income stream on a recurring basis to fund 100% of the Music Service subsidy (£0.035m) and 50% of the Community Arts Team (£0.040m)</p>
1.10	<p>Car Parking (£0.468m) – Increase car parking in the current pay and display locations for Council owned car parks.</p>
	<p>Category 1a: High Level of Control/Certainty – Local Taxation</p>
1.11	<p>Council Tax and Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) - Council tax is a</p>

	<p>local decision and as yet has not been reflected in the financial forecast. Detailed below are options for potential increases and the relevant yield that would be provided as a contribution to the gap:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3% - £2.435m • 3.5% - £2.788m • 4% - £3.140m • 4.5% - £3.492m • 5% - £3.844m <p>These amounts take into account an increase in the property base of 0.46% for 2018/19.</p> <p>In addition, there is a current in-year underspend on CTRS due to a reduction in demand and further modelling of this position being continued into 2018/19 gives a further saving of £0.323m from the removal of the current pressure within the MTFS.</p> <p>Any increase would therefore contribute between £2.758m and £4.167m to the “gap”.</p>
	Category 2: Low Level of Control/Certainty – Local
1.12	Pensions Auto-Enrolment (£0.100m) – Reduce the provision for auto enrolment by £0.100m. There is currently a provision of £0.270m within the forecast. A half year provision was made for this scheme in 2017/18 which has just come into effect on 1 st October. The actual impact of this is currently being assessed including the potential to reduce the provision further.
1.13	Price Inflation (£0.139m) – Services to manage standard price inflation (but not Non Standard Inflation (NSI)). This provision is made up of potential increases to the Fire Authority levy, increase in Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) and Information Technology (IT) software increases.
1.14	Commissioned Social Care Services (£0.831m) – Increases in fees to providers of commissioned care services are forecast annually and based on a combination of national, regional and local modelling. Through negotiation with providers and the management of commissioned services within budget estimates a reduction in cost pressures is possible.
1.15	Provision for Autism Support (£0.100m) – A reduction to the provision currently included within the forecast until actual need can be assessed from clients presenting for services.
1.16	County Hall (£0.300m) – Acceleration of the scheme to demolish Phases three and four of County Hall and partial transition to Unity House Ewloe would result in the reduction of premises costs.
1.17	Planning Fee Income (£0.050m) - This reflects a reduction in the current pressure within the forecast for planning fee income based on an increase in the current trend.

Category 3: No Level of Control/Certainty – National																			
1.18	Domiciliary Care Fee Cap (£0.490m) – The Council will make an application to Welsh Government to apply the full cap limit of £100 per week (subject to assessment on the ability to pay) from April 2018. The current cap for 2018 is set at £80 per week and is due to rise to £100 per week in 2020.																		
1.19	Intermediate Care Fund (ICF) (£0.500m) - The Council currently receives a share of ICF funding which is allocated to Betsi Cadwaladar University Health Board (BCUHB). This funding is used as a contribution to support core Social Care Services and is currently allocated on an annual basis. As ICF funding is now confirmed to continue the Council will seek to “lock down” this contribution to ensure continuation of funding.																		
1.20	Apprentice Tax Levy (£0.350m) – The Council will make an application to Welsh government for the recovery of 50% of the cost of our internal apprenticeship/trainee scheme with the guarantee to protect and grow the scheme. Welsh Government has a projected £40m of new funds for apprenticeship schemes in Wales from the new UK Levy which was introduced in April 2017.																		
1.21	The above three national requests may not be resolved prior to the end of the calendar year and may be deferred until Stage 3 of the budget. Welsh Government have been formally invited to meet these requests.																		
1.22	<p>Summary of all Stage 2 Options</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Lower Range (£m)</th> <th>Higher Range (£m)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1: High Level of Control/Certainty – Local</td> <td>1.974</td> <td>1.974</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1a: High Level of Control/Certainty – Local Taxation</td> <td>2.758</td> <td>4.167</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2: Low Level of Control/Certainty - Local</td> <td>1.520</td> <td>1.520</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3: No Level of Control/Certainty - National</td> <td>1.340</td> <td>1.340</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>7.592</td> <td>9.001</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Lower Range (£m)	Higher Range (£m)	1: High Level of Control/Certainty – Local	1.974	1.974	1a: High Level of Control/Certainty – Local Taxation	2.758	4.167	2: Low Level of Control/Certainty - Local	1.520	1.520	3: No Level of Control/Certainty - National	1.340	1.340	Total	7.592	9.001
Category	Lower Range (£m)	Higher Range (£m)																	
1: High Level of Control/Certainty – Local	1.974	1.974																	
1a: High Level of Control/Certainty – Local Taxation	2.758	4.167																	
2: Low Level of Control/Certainty - Local	1.520	1.520																	
3: No Level of Control/Certainty - National	1.340	1.340																	
Total	7.592	9.001																	
	Emerging Issues Affecting the forecast																		
1.23	In 2017/18 there is a projected budget Council Fund overspend of £1.3m which will impact, to some extent, on the forecast gap for 2018/19. The variances in expenditure which are at the cause are under critical examination. Any carry-forward of any recurring overspend in the base budget will increase the budget gap for 2018/19.																		
	Next Steps and Timescales																		
1.24	County Council will be requested to approve Stage 2 of the budget on 12 December.																		

1.25	The Final Local Government Settlement is due to be received on 20 December 2017 and careful analysis will be needed to assess any variable to the amount notified within the Provisional settlement. Following the Council debate and resolution at the special meeting on 14 November a formal response has been made to Welsh Government on the inadequacy of the Provisional Settlement.
1.26	Stage Three of the budget – the closing stage in January and February – will be the most challenging.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	As set out within the report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Member Workshops in July, September and November. Overview and Scrutiny Meetings in October. School Budget Forum in October. Public Engagement Sessions throughout October and November.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The Settlement is provisional only at this stage. The Final Settlement is due to be announced on 20 December 2017.
4.02	Within the Settlement there is limited information on specific grants. Proposed reductions in and change to specific grants pose a significant risk. The Education Improvement Grant and Single Environment Grant are of particular concern.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Contact Officer: Gary Ferguson Telephone: 01352 702271 E-mail: gary.ferguson@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS): a written strategy which gives a forecast of the financial resources which will be available to the Council for a given period, and sets out plans for how best to deploy those resources to meet our priorities, duties and obligations.</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, a share of the national “pool” of National Non-Domestic Rates and a number specific grant where funds are provided for councils to spend on specified services to achieve pre-set outcomes, for example education and waste collection.</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 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.</p> <p>Budget: a statement expressing the Council’s policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. It includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them.</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>Specific Grants: An award of funding from a grant provider (e.g. Welsh Government) which must be used for a pre-defined purpose.</p> <p>Office of Budget Responsibility: created in 2010 to provide independent and authoritative analysis of the UK public finances.</p> <p>Institute of Fiscal Studies: formed in 1969 and established as an independent research institute with the principal aim of informing public debate on economics in order to promote the development of effective fiscal policy.</p>

Independent Commission on Local Government Finance in Wales:

established to examine how local government funding can be made more sustainable with a view to providing specific recommendations for improvement and reform.

Welsh Local Government Association: the representative body for unitary councils, fire and rescue authorities and national parks authorities in Wales.



FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 12 th December 2017
Report Subject	Appointment of Independent Member
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council has 1 vacancy for an independent (co-opted) member on the Standards Committee, and North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (NWFRA) has 2 such vacancies. The Council therefore undertook a joint recruitment exercise with NWFRA. The two authorities shared the cost of advertising and used each other's networks to promote the vacancies to give them greater profile. They also appointed a joint recruitment panel to consider the applications and make the recommendation on who should be appointed.

In total 8 applications were received. They were shortlisted against criteria that were previously approved by Council. 5 candidates were invited for interview by a panel consisting of the Chair and Arnold Woolley from Flintshire's Standards Committee, the Chair of and another member (Cllr Susan Lloyd Williams) from NWFRA and the statutorily required "lay person" (Noella Jones).

The panel agreed to recommend Julia Hughes to both Flintshire County Council and NWFRA with Sally Ellis being recommended for the second vacancy on NWFRA.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Council appoints Julia Hughes to the Standards Committee until 2022.
2	That Noella Jones be thanked for her participation.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE APPOINTMENT
1.01	The Standards Committee has 1 vacancy for an independent (co-opted) member. The North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority also needs to fill vacancies for independent members on its standards committee.
1.02	When recruiting such members there is a statutory process to follow including publishing criteria for appointment and advertising in 2 or more newspapers. The composition of the recruitment panel is also prescribed and must include a lay member who must also have been appointed following open advertisement.
1.03	To reduce the costs of the required publicity, establishment of requisite criteria and establishment of an appropriate appointment panel, the Council and the Fire Authority have worked together. This enabled the recruitment to have greater prominence. A joint panel consisting of the Chair and Arnold Woolley from Flintshire's Standards Committee, the Chair of and another member (Cllr Susan Lloyd Williams) from NWFRA and the "lay person" was Noella Jones.
1.04	<p>There were 8 applicants in total of whom 5 were shortlisted. Interviews took place at NWFRA Headquarters on 29th November. The panel was impressed with the quality of applicants and agreed that it would be beneficial to recommend Julia Hughes for appointment to both committees (and Sally Ellis for the second vacancy at the NWFRA).</p> <p>A short pen portrait drafted by Julia Hughes is attached at Appendix 1.</p>
1.05	Flintshire's Standards Committee meets roughly 6 – 8 times per year whereas the NFWRA committee meets once. By making a joint appointment the two authorities will be able to share the investment in training, give the member wider experience and also cross fertilise between the two organisations.
1.06	The term of office for an independent member must be between 4 and 6 years. The periods of office for the existing independent members were staggered so that the committee retained continuity of experience. To reduce advertising costs it is suggested that the term of office for this independent member should coincide with one other independent member thereby reducing recruitment cost. 1 member is due to retire in 2018 and another 2 members are due to retire in 2019, each will only have served 1 terms and will be eligible for reappointment for a further 4 years. The term is therefore recommended to be until 2022.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The statutory process required adverts to be placed in 2 newspapers. The cost of advertising was therefore £2,968.14. Talking to the applicants however more interest and the most number of applicants was actually gained by promoting the role to the Standards Committee members of other councils.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	The Standards Committee agreed with the recommendation of the panel.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The recruitment process was conducted in a fair manner using published, objective criteria.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Pen portrait of Julia Hughes.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Advert, application pack. Contact Officer: Gareth Owens, Chief Officer (Governance) Telephone: 01352 702344 E-mail: Gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	NWFRA – North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority. Independent Member – a person who is neither a councillor nor an officer who is co-opted on to the Standards Committee thereby giving the committee a degree of impartiality and independence. Lay person – a person recruited by open advertisement to sit on interviewing panels for independent members

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Julia Hughes

Julia Hughes lives in Denbighshire close to the Flintshire border and is currently an Independent member of the Denbighshire County Council Standards Committee having been appointed to that position in May 2015.

Since July 2014, she has also been a Non-Executive Director on the Board of Grŵp Cynefin Housing Association which operates in the six North Wales counties and North Powys. She is a member of many of the sub committees including the Audit and Resources Committee (currently the Chair), Governance Committee and Pensions Group.

She has spent nearly 32 years of full time work in the education sector, in substantial Leadership and Management roles for much of that period and her final role was the Director of Adult and Community Learning in Conwy and Denbighshire for Coleg Llandrillo (part of Grwp Llandrillo Menai) with responsibility for four college sites, outreach provision in Conwy and Denbighshire, college provision in public libraries and some Higher Education, Work Based Learning and Commercial work.

Julia is still involved with the sector, offering educational consultancy services and her contracts have included Welsh Government projects and EU project evaluation.

Additionally she assists with the running, operation and business compliance of the family farm.

Her varied career and background and current activities including voluntary roles, together with her regular continuous professional development experience, provide her with a wide and varied transferable skills set and personal attributes which are very relevant to the membership requirements and work of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority and Flintshire County Council Standards Committees.

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 12 December 2017
Report Subject	Recommendation from the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the meeting of Council on 24th October, the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) was considered. Within the regulations, Flintshire can pay up to 18 senior salaries. Since Council allocated those 18 senior salaries to Cabinet members, Committee chairs and the Leader of the largest opposition group, we have set up the Clwyd Pension Fund committee. The work and profile of that committee has increased considerably, but Council was unable to pay a senior salary to the committee chair, because the allocation had been used up.

Council agreed to apply to the IRPW for a specific, additional salary to be paid to the Chair of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee. Determination 8 provides for such an application to be made. The payment which is made to committee chairs as a senior salary is £8,700, in addition to the basic £13,400 which is paid to all councillors. The proposal would be to pay the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee chair on the same basis as other committee chairs.

In discussing the specific issue about the Chair's allowance with the IRPW, it has been established that the Clwyd Pension Fund is not in the remit of the IRPW, and therefore any allowances which are recharged to the Pension Fund are a matter for the Council, as the administering authority for the Fund.

The Clwyd Pension Fund Committee, at its meeting on 29th November agreed to make a recommendation to Council that an allowance of £8,700 be paid to the Chair of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee, which will be back dated to the start of the municipal year. This means that the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee chair would be paid the same as the other committee chairs.

The Council is invited to approve an allowance of £8,700 to the Chair of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee, which will be back dated to the start of the municipal year. This cost will be borne by the Clwyd Pension Fund.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	The Council approves an allowance of £8,700 to the Chair of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee, which will be back dated to the start of the municipal year, 18 th May 2017.
2	That details of the payment be included within the Council's Schedule of Member Remuneration as being additional to the regulated 18 senior salaries.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	PAYMENT OF A SENIOR SALARY TO THE CHAIR OF THE CLWYD PENSION FUND COMMITTEE
1.01	For several years, the number of senior salaries (this excludes the civic salaries) which a Group B Council such as Flintshire has been able to pay has been fixed at 18. This provides payment to 8 Cabinet Members, (including the Leader and Deputy), 6 Overview & Scrutiny Chairs, the Chairs of Audit, Planning and Licensing and the leader of the largest opposition group. Since the Council decided that those posts identified above should be the 18 salaried posts for Flintshire, we have been required to set up a new committee, the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee. The work of that Committee is growing in scale and importance, particularly following the pooling arrangements where the Chair of the Clwyd Pension Fund will sit on a joint committee with the Chairs of the other 7 Pension Funds across Wales. On that basis it was considered reasonable to apply to the IRPW for a specific, additional salary to be paid to the Chair of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee. Determination 8 provides for such an application to be made.
1.02	In discussing the specific issue about the Chair's allowance with the IRPW, it has been established that the Clwyd Pension Fund is not in the remit of the IRPW, and therefore any allowances which are recharged to the Pension Fund are a matter for the Council, as the administering authority for the Fund.
1.03	The Clwyd Pension Fund committee, at its meeting on 29 th November agreed to make a recommendation to Council that an allowance of £8,700 be paid to the Chair of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee, which will be back dated to the start of the municipal year.

2.00 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

2.01	The additional £8,700, if approved will be paid from the Clwyd Pension Fund.
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3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	The IRPW were consulted on this proposed payment.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The role of the Chair is a key part of the overall risk management of the Fund.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Report to Council on 24th October 2017 – Draft IRPW Report for 2018. Report to the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee 29th November 2017</p> <p>Contact Officer: Robert Robins, Democratic Services Manager Telephone: 01352 702320 E-mail: Robert.robins@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>IRPW – Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales is the independent body established by the Welsh Government to determine the level of Local Authority payments to Members.</p> <p>Determinations - the decisions which the IRPW makes</p> <p>Senior Salary - a senior salary is payable to a Councillor with special responsibility such as the Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and the leader of the largest opposition group (a Group B Council such as Flintshire may pay up to 18 senior salaries).</p> <p>The Fund – Clwyd Pension Fund – The Pension Fund managed by Flintshire County Council for local authority employees in the region and employees of other employers with links to local government in the region</p> <p>Administering authority or scheme manager – Flintshire County Council is the administering authority and scheme manager for the Clwyd Pension Fund, which means it is responsible for the management and stewardship of the Fund.</p>

<p>The Committee – Clwyd Pension Fund Committee - the Flintshire County Council committee responsible for the majority of decisions.</p>
