

Flintshire County Council – Decisions taken by the Flintshire County Council on Tuesday, 24 September 2024

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
Part A – Items considered in public		
A1	Public Question Time	<p>The Chair reported that two questions had been received, as shown in the agenda, and invited Amy Chesworth to present her question to Council. Amy Chesworth thanked the Chair and Council for the opportunity to attending the meeting and read out her question (agenda item 2).</p> <p>Councillor Mared Eastwood provided a response (agenda item 2).</p> <p>In response to Amy Chesworth’s supplementary question, Councillor Eastwood advised that a response would be provided in writing following the meeting.</p>
A2	Declarations of Interest	<p>As a point of clarification, the Chief Officer (Governance) advised that Members who receive the Winter Fuel Allowance could declare a personal interest offline.</p> <p>Councillors Preece and Rush declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item number 9.</p> <p>Councillors Peers and Shallcross declared a personal interest in agenda item number 9.</p> <p>Councillors Bithell, Lloyd, Maddison and Peers declared a personal interest in agenda item number 13 – Notice of Motion (Winter Fuel Allowance).</p> <p>Councillors Buckley, Coggins-Cogan, Christine Jones, Mansell and Parkhurst declared a personal interest in agenda item number 13 – Notice of Motion (Flintshire Teachers and School Employees to Take Oath to Work with Children).</p>
A3	Minutes	That subject to the amendment, the minutes of the meetings held on 16 April and 22 July, 2024 be approved as a correct record.
A6	Election of the Leader of the Council	That Councillor Dave Hughes was appointed Leader of the Council for the remainder of the municipal year 2024/25.

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A7	Appointment of the Cabinet by the Leader of the Council	Councillor Dave Hughes proposed that the Cabinet remain unchanged for the time being.
A8	Council Tax Premium Scheme for Second Homes and Long-Term Empty Properties	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>(a) That Council support an increase to the premium of long term empty properties with an uplift from 75% to 100% to take effect from April 2025 giving 6 months’ notice to those directly impacted;</p> <p>(b) To introduce an escalator approach as follows: after 3 years a rise of 150% Council Tax premium; 5 years a 200% rise and 10 years a 300% rise; and the historical data of when a property becomes empty to be used to determine the level of premium, to take effect from April 2026 giving 18 months’ notice to those directly impacted; and</p> <p>(c) That a discretionary exemption be created to avoid the purchase of long term empty properties being disadvantaged though the Council Tax premium charge.</p>
A9	Review of Political Balance	<p>(a) That seats on committees be allocated in accordance with political balance as shown in appendix A; and</p> <p>(b) That any changes to nominees be notified to the Democratic Services Manager as soon as possible before the next meeting of each committee.</p>
A10	Recruitment of a Lay Member to the Governance and Audit Committee	<p>(a) That a lay member be recruited to the Governance and Audit Committee to replace the departing lay member;</p> <p>(b) That the recruitment panel consisting of the Chair of Council, Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee plus the Cabinet Member for Finance makes a recommendation to Council for appointment; and</p>

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		(c) That Council thank Sally Ellis for her 7 year service as a lay member on the Governance & Audit Committee.
A11	Petitions received at Council	That the report be noted.
A12	Notice of Motion	<p><u>Notice of Motion 1</u></p> <p>(a) That Council instructs the Leader of Flintshire County Council to write to the Prime Minister, copying in the leaders of all political groups and local Members of Parliament and Members of the Senedd, expressing the council’s strong opposition to this policy, including a copy of this motion, and calling on him to abandon this plan; and</p> <p>(b) That Council instructs the Leader of Flintshire County Council to write to both Members of Parliament and Members of the Senedd representing communities in Flintshire, copying in the leaders of all political groups expressing the council’s strong opposition to this policy, including a copy of this motion, and calling on them to set out their views on this matter in reply.</p> <p><u>Notice of Motion 2</u> This Notice of Motion was deferred to the next scheduled meeting of County Council.</p>
A13	Questions	The Questions (agenda item 14) were deferred to the next scheduled meeting of County Council.