

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
1 MARCH 2013

Minutes of the Meeting of Flintshire County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Mold on Friday 1 March, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor A. Minshull (Chair)

Councillors: A. Aldridge, J.B. Attridge, G. Banks, G.H. Bateman, M. Bateman, R.C. Bithell, A. Bragg, H. Brown, D. Butler, C.S. Carver, D.L. Cox, P.J. Curtis, R. Davies, A. Davies-Cooke, A. Diskin, G.D. Diskin, R. Dolphin, I. Dunbar, B. Dunn, C.A. Ellis, D. Evans, J.E. Falshaw, V. Gay, R.J.T. Guest, A.M. Halford, R.G. Hampson, G. Hardcastle, P.G. Heesom, C. Hinds, H.T. Howorth, R. Hughes, H.D. Hutchinson, H.T. Isherwood, J. Johnson, C.M. Jones, R.B. Jones, R.K. Jones, S. Jones, C. Legg, B. Lloyd, R. Lloyd, M. Lowe, R.P. Macfarlane, D.I. Mackie, N.M. Matthews, H.J. McGuill, W. Mullin, T. Newhouse, M.J. Peers, N. Phillips, M.A. Reece, H.G. Roberts, I.B. Roberts, L.A. Sharps, A.P. Shotton, P. Shotton, I.R. Smith, N.R. Steele-Mortimer, C.A. Thomas, W.O. Thomas, S. Williams, D.E. Wisinger and A. Woolley

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: C.J. Dolphin, E.F. Evans, R. Johnson, P. Lightfoot, D.T. Williams and M.G. Wright

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Director of Environment, Head of Finance, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Corporate Finance Manager, Finance Officers and Committee Officers

132. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services confirmed that no questions had been received.

133. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D. Hutchinson declared a personal interest in section 2.1.5 of page 68 of agenda item 9 Council Fund Revenue Budget 2013/14 because of his business.

Councillor R.B. Jones declared a personal interest in agenda item number 9 Council Fund Revenue Budget 2013/14 because of his wife's business.

Councillor D. Butler declared a personal interest in the additional agenda item on the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) Service Review as his wife was employed by BCUHB.

Councillor H.J. McGuill also declared an interest in the additional agenda item on the BCUHB Service Review as she was a member of the Community Health Council.

134. URGENT ADDITIONAL ITEM – BETSI CADWALADR UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD SERVICE REVIEW

The Chair indicated that she had agreed to the consideration of an urgent additional item on Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board Service Review.

The Chief Executive explained that the Community Health Council (CHC) were statutory consultees and that the deadline for their response was 1 March 2013. He provided details of the grounds upon which the CHC could object and explained that he had been in contact with the CHC to express the concerns raised by the Council of the decision by BCUHB to withdraw local community services before the closing date had passed and before the CHC had made any submission to the Minister.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor A.P. Shotton thanked the Chief Executive for the verbal update on the consultation on changes to health services in North Wales. He said that much seemed to have happened before the CHC had had the opportunity to provide the public with their views and recommendations on the consultation. He spoke of the commentary on the changes which had been provided by the medical profession and the divided views of the clinicians and health professionals. Three surgeries in Flint were supporting the new Hub in Holywell whilst further to the West there was a totally different opinion being expressed in regard to the proposals. He commended the actions of Flint Town Councillors, County Councillors and the Community in Flint in the manner they had evidenced their views on the proposals. Councillor Shotton explained that no patients were occupying any of the wards in Flint Hospital as referrals ceased some time ago and front line and ancillary staff had either been transferred to other establishments or were being notified of changes to their work place.

He said that decisions had been taken by BCUHB ahead of due process and queried why BCUHB had failed in their duty to inform, explaining that Flint Town Councillors had been updating themselves of the changing position via the local media in the absence of any clear reporting lines from BCUHB. He felt that this was unacceptable as they had a right to be informed, especially when the impact of these changes would have a profound effect on their community. He also referred to guidance provided by the Minister.

Councillor Shotton, the Leader of the Council, moved the following proposal which he said had not been taken lightly or on the basis of political advantage or expediency:-

“The Council had lost confidence in the way in which BCUHB had conducted its service reviews and was making service changes to local community services as a result. The withdrawal of local community services without a clear transition plan, and before the CHC had made its submission to the Minister on the reviews as the statutory consultee representing the interests of patients, was both premature and unsafe. He therefore submitted a resolution

of no confidence in the proposals made upon the effected communities such as Flint by BCUHB. He added that the Council called on the Minister to direct the Board to reinstate the local community services which had been changed or withdrawn in Flintshire by the Health Board prematurely. The Minister needed to have decided whether changes were to take place once the CHC had made its submission, and before any action was taken, and had to be assured of the safety of any transition plan before it was actioned.”.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor C.M. Jones, Cabinet Member for Social Services. She said that she fully supported what the Leader of the Council had said and that the changes did not reflect public opinion. The opinion of the CHC was key in the review but it appeared that the view of Flintshire residents was not being considered. Councillor Jones said that Councillor C.A. Ellis had resigned from the CHC and that she had also submitted her resignation.

Councillor Ellis said that the decisions of BCUHB had not been thought through and that she had been told that patients being treated at Deeside Hospital were from outside Flintshire. She supported the proposal to revisit the services which had been withdrawn but asked that the proposal be extended to include CHC in the no confidence motion.

Councillor A. Aldridge thanked the Leader of the Council for his comments. He referred to correspondence to Flint Town Council and referred to the Ministerial guidance which said that the CHC must be informed of the changes by the Health Board. He added that changes could be put in place if there was a risk to patients or staff but that this had not been the case at Flint Hospital as it had been performing well. He expressed his concern at the changes being put in place before the consultation period was over and before the CHC had made its submission.

Councillor H.J. McGuill thanked Councillor Ellis for her contribution to the CHC and spoke of the work that they had undertaken together. She commented on the concern raised at the actions of BCUHB before the consultation period had been finalised and reminded Members that the Minister had the power to call in the decision. She felt that a letter should be sent to the Minister to advise her of the Members’ disgust at the way the residents of Flintshire had been treated and that BCUHB had not taken any notice of what residents wanted. The Chief Executive confirmed that a letter would be sent to the Minister and BCUHB following the meeting.

Councillor I.B. Roberts spoke of the process of the service review and those residents in Flint and Mold who had joined protest marches to show their concern. The residents of Flint felt let down by BCUHB and in his opinion, the review had been a re-hash of the previous health board’s proposals. He referred to an article in a local newspaper which said that GP surgeries had been advised not to send patients to Accident & Emergency (A&E) unless it was unavoidable. Councillor Roberts felt that this was because of the reduction of 60 beds from the service without adequate provision for a replacement and he also commented on ambulances which

had to queue outside A&E departments due to a lack of beds which he said was as a result of the actions of BCUHB. He congratulated Councillor Ellis for her actions in resigning from the CHC and spoke of the implications of the review on residents of Flintshire. He supported the Leader on his proposal and urged the Council to speak with one voice for the people of Flintshire and concurred with the comment of Councillor Aldridge that there had never been an issue of safety at Flint Hospital.

In response to a query from Councillor A.M. Halford, the Chief Executive said that the proposal had been that the Minister be advised of the concerns raised so that she could then decide whether to intervene.

Councillor H. Isherwood felt that the residents of Flintshire had been let down by the actions of BCUHB. Councillor M.J. Peers said that it was evident that the proposals had been railroaded through by BCUHB. He referred to the proposals for the health centre in Buckley and said that the Minister had also had to intervene in that decision to unblock the delays. The consultation had been sporadic or non-existent and BCUHB were not listening to the Flint Town Councillors or the County Council; he believed that the decision should be called in.

Councillor R.J.T. Guest said that the CHC had not yet deliberated or made up its mind. He referred to the support given on the proposals for Mold Hospital and said that this was an opportunity to show unity.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Shotton read out his proposal again and the Chief Executive reminded Members of the additional suggestions that the motion include references to the CHC, and that the Minister be asked to call in the decision of BCUHB.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That a motion be adopted as set out by the Leader in his statement with amendments to reflect the discussion by Council; and
- (b) That the Council calls on the Minister to direct Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to reinstate the local community services which had been changed or withdrawn in Flintshire by the Health Board prematurely. The Minister needs to have decided whether changes are to take place once the Community Health Council has made its submission, and before any action is taken, and has to be assured of the safety of any transition plan before it is actioned.

135. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Flintshire County Council held on 29 January, 2013 had been circulated with the agenda.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised that an amendment to paragraph 106 had been circulated to Members.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the suggested amendment, the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

136. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

A copy of the Chair's communication had been circulated to all Members before the meeting.

137. PETITIONS

No petitions were submitted.

138. NOTICES OF MOTION

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services confirmed that no Notices of Motion had been received.

139. QUESTIONS

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services confirmed that no questions had been received.

140. COUNCIL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2013/14

The Chief Executive and Head of Finance jointly presented a report which provided Members with the recommendations of the Cabinet for the Council Fund Revenue Budget 2013/14.

Prior to the presentation the Chief Executive and Head of Finance expressed their thanks to the Finance and other staff across the Council who had been involved in the preparation of the budget and for the valuable input from the Overview & Scrutiny committees.

The Council was informed that at its meeting on 19 February 2013, Cabinet had considered a joint report from the Chief Executive and Head of Finance on the Council Fund Revenue Budget 2013/14 which was attached at Appendix A to the report. The initial budget proposals considered by Cabinet on 18 December 2012 had been referred to Overview and Scrutiny for consideration. A summary of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees' observations and questions, together with responses, was included in the Appendix of the 19 February 2013 Cabinet report.

The Chief Executive and Head of Finance gave a joint presentation and commented upon the following areas:-

- Budget Overview
- Budget Strategy
- Overview & Scrutiny Considerations

- Achieving a Balanced Budget
- Final Budget Proposals
- Estimates & Reserves
- 2014/15 and the Medium Term

Councillor A.P. Shotton, Leader of the Council expressed his thanks on behalf of the Cabinet Members for the work undertaken on the budget. He referred to the unprecedented cuts to jobs which were being made by English Councils and took pride in the shared decisions of the Council to protect services and jobs which he felt should be applauded. At the Overview and Scrutiny budget meetings, he had referred to the budget as a “stepping stone” budget and he explained that this was because of the difficult challenges ahead which would require brave decisions in the future. He spoke of the invitation which he had extended to the Chairman of Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor R.B. Jones, to provide input into developing a Value for Money programme for the Council. He indicated that he was submitting an amendment to the recommendations to Council as set out in the agenda papers and circulated copies of his proposals. He was recommending that the budget be approved as set out in the report subject to the re-allocation of £420,000 from the Invest-to-Save funds for the following areas:-

- Car Parking Charging and Civil Parking Enforcement - £185,000
- Welfare Reform – Discretionary Housing Payments - £135,000
- Youth Service - £50,000
- Community Covenant with the Armed Forces - £25,000
- Flintshire Connects - £25,000

He detailed his proposals and commended the budget to Council; the proposals were duly seconded.

Councillor P.G. Heesom spoke in support of the budget and explained that the budget setting had been difficult this year but that it would be worse in the next few years. He referred to the budget strategy which had been developed within the context of the Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Councillor C.A. Ellis thanked the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council for listening to the residents of Buckley over car parking charges and the provision of a Flintshire Connects centre.

Councillor R.J.T. Guest felt that the last minute changes to the budget were unprecedented as the Administration had had ten months to prepare. He gave notice of an amendment and asked for a short adjournment to allow Members to consider the proposals. On being put to the vote, the proposal to adjourn was lost. Councillor Guest explained that his amendment was to include four additional points to the recommendation to use the additional income to be derived from the anticipated collection fund surplus for Council Tax as reported for the following areas:-

- Playschemes - £105,000

- Public toilets at Caerwys and Cilcain - £15,000
- Swimming subsidy - £23,000
- Support of the Genesis Project for 2013/14 - £95,000

He detailed the proposals for Members which were duly seconded.

The Head of Finance clarified that the proposals from Councillor Guest would be utilising the anticipated in-year surplus of £0.750m which would be available if a collection rate of 98.5% was achieved for Council Tax. She commented on the changes made to continue to provide 100% support to those affected by the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2013/14 and the impact of this on assumed collection rates for 2013/14. She said that it was important to say that it was not a guaranteed income and included an element of risk and relied on the collection of Council Tax to the rate reported.

On the proposal to support the Genesis Project for 2013/14, the Chief Executive detailed its background and said that the funding for the project was complicated but that the scheme was fully funded for 2013/14 unless Welsh Government chose to withdraw its funding support.

Councillor M.J. Peers commented on the amendment from Councillor Guest which he felt fitted in with the priorities of the Council. He said that the playschemes were valued by parents and children in all communities and was part of priority 9 along with the request for funding for a swimming subsidy. He felt that the amendment to enable the public toilets in Caerwys and Cilcain to remain open complied with priorities 4 and 9 and he referred to the discussion which had taken place at Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the issue. He supported the amendment as he said that it was for small amounts but affected a large number of people in the County and would allow for tourism in the area.

Councillor L.A. Sharps welcomed the budget and highlighted the proposals by Councillor A.P. Shotton, the Leader of the Council, in particular the changes to car park charging which he felt would help regenerate town centres. He raised concern about the budget setting for 2014/15 which he felt would be difficult and also on the cost of Single Status and maintenance of the Flintshire Bridge. He was also concerned about the lack of progress on the regeneration of Buckley Town Centre and the Deeside Enterprise Zone.

Councillor H.D. Hutchinson thanked the Leader and welcomed the proposals by the Leader and highlighted the car park proposals and the Flintshire Connects scheme in Buckley.

Councillor J. Falshaw spoke in support of the amendment by Councillor Guest and raised concern about the closure of the public toilets in Caerwys and Cilcain. He explained that the cost of keeping them open was £9,318 which was significantly more than could be raised through the precept set by Caerwys Town Council or Cilcain Community Council. He said that the provision of public toilets was shown in Flintshire County Council publications about tourism and referred to the numerous rights of way in the Area of

Outstanding Natural Beauty. Councillor W.O. Thomas referred to discussions which were due to take place with the local Members to try to identify a solution to funding the maintenance of the public toilets. Councillor A.M. Halford said that providing public toilets was a health and community service.

Councillor R.B. Jones referred to the Genesis Project which he said was a front line service based in Buckley which had provided help for children and families. He said that it had saved the Council £4m in six years because it had been funded by Welsh Government but added that this would end in June. Councillor C.A. Thomas sought clarification on the anticipated income from collection of Council Tax. The Head of Finance reiterated her earlier comments that on a collection rate of 98.5%, there would be an in-year surplus of £0.750m but that to use this anticipated income to fund other projects had an element of risk. This varied to the substantive proposal put forward by the Leader of the Council as this was for the allocation of £0.420m which was already included within the budget for Invest to Save initiatives. In response to a query from Councillor Jones, the Head of Finance said that the collection rate for the previous two years had been 99%.

A recorded vote was requested and supported by the requisite ten Members. On being put to the vote, the amendment by Councillor Guest was lost by 39 votes against the proposal and 22 votes for, with 1 abstention. The voting being as follows:-

FOR – THE PROPOSAL BY COUNCILLOR GUEST

Councillors: A. Bragg, C.S. Carver, A. Davies-Cooke, R. Dolphin, B. Dunn, J. Falshaw, V. Gay, R.J.T. Guest, A.M. Halford, H.D. Hutchinson, H. Isherwood, R.B. Jones, R. Lloyd, D.I. Mackie, N.M. Matthews, H.J. McGuill, M.J. Peers, N. Phillips, H.G. Roberts, N.R. Steele-Mortimer, W.O. Thomas and A. Woolley

AGAINST – THE PROPOSAL BY COUNCILLOR GUEST

Councillors: A. Aldridge, J.B. Attridge, G. Banks, G.H. Bateman, M. Bateman, R.C. Bithell, H. Brown, D. Butler, D. Cox, P.J. Curtis, R. Davies, A. Diskin, G. Diskin, A.I. Dunbar, C.A. Ellis, R.G. Hampson, G. Hardcastle, P.G. Heesom, C. Hinds, H.T. Howorth, R. Hughes, J. Johnson, C.M. Jones, K. Jones, S. Jones, B. Lloyd, M. Lowe, R.P. Macfarlane, A. Minshull, W. Mullin, T. Newhouse, M. Reece, I.B. Roberts, L.A. Sharps, A.P. Shotton, P. Shotton, I.R. Smith, S. Williams and D.E. Wisinger

ABSTAINED FROM VOTING

Councillor C.A. Thomas

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services explained that the debate would now be on the substantive proposal put forward by Councillor A.P. Shotton, the Leader of the Council.

Councillor P.J. Curtis thanked the Leader for the proposals to remove car parking charges for Holywell. On the issue of public toilets, he said that he understood from the Head of Streetscene that the issue was to be submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet for consideration.

Councillor H.G. Roberts thanked the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and officers for their work in preparing the budget. He commented on the need to spend up to the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) to ensure that Flintshire was not penalised for this by the Welsh Government (WG) in future years. He proposed that the Council Tax increase be set at 4%. This amendment was not seconded.

Councillor Guest raised concern at a budget which was agreed by Cabinet on 19 February 2013 and then alternative proposals submitted to this meeting. He said that the reduction to 97.5% collection rate for Council Tax was to take account of changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme which had been resolved for 2013/14 with funding from WG. He felt that there would be some surplus as a result of Council Tax being collected at a rate above 97.5% and asked how this would be accounted for. Councillor Jones concurred and asked questions on the Invest to save proposals, the reduced energy income generation from Landfill Sites and whether the figure for targeted inflation incorporated two figures; the Chief Executive, Head of Finance and Corporate Finance Manager provided full responses to the questions.

A recorded vote was requested and supported by the requisite ten Members. On being put to the vote, the amendment by Councillor Shotton, Leader of the Council was carried by 45 votes for the proposal and 12 votes against, with four abstentions. The voting being as follows:-

FOR – THE PROPOSAL BY COUNCILLOR SHOTTON

Councillors: A. Aldridge, J.B. Attridge, G. Banks, G.H. Bateman, M. Bateman, R.C. Bithell, H. Brown, D. Butler, D. Cox, P.J. Curtis, R. Davies, A. Diskin, G. Diskin, A.I. Dunbar, C.A. Ellis, V. Gay, R.G. Hampson, G. Hardcastle, P.G. Heesom, C. Hinds, H.T. Howorth, R. Hughes, H.D. Hutchinson, J. Johnson, C.M. Jones, K. Jones, S. Jones, B. Lloyd, R. Lloyd, M. Lowe, R.P. Macfarlane, D.I. Mackie, A. Minshull, W. Mullin, T. Newhouse, M.J. Peers, M. Reece, I.B. Roberts, L.A. Sharps, A.P. Shotton, P. Shotton, I.R. Smith, C.A. Thomas, S. Williams and D.E. Wisinger

AGAINST – THE PROPOSAL BY COUNCILLOR SHOTTON

Councillors: A. Bragg, C.S. Carver, A. Davies-Cooke, J. Falshaw, R.J.T. Guest, A.M. Halford, H. Isherwood, R.B. Jones, N.M. Matthews, N. Phillips, N.R. Steele-Mortimer and W.O. Thomas

ABSTAINED FROM VOTING

Councillor: C. Legg, H.J. McGuill, H.G. Roberts and A. Woolley

RESOLVED:

That the County Council approve the recommendation of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 19 February 2013 as set out in Section 8 of the Cabinet report attached to the Council report subject to an amendment to recommendation 8.01.8 to include £3.155m of pressures in the budget (from £3.261m as per the report), and 8.01.11 to include efficiencies of £5.331m in the budget (from £5.437m as per the report) and to include an additional recommendation (8.01.14) that the appendices included in the report be amended to reflect the changes approved on the re-allocation of £420,000 from the Invest-to-Save funds for:-

- (i) Car Park Charging and Car Park Enforcement - £185,000
- (ii) Welfare Reform – Discretionary Housing Payments - £135,000
- (iii) Youth Service - £50,000
- (iv) Community Covenant with the Armed Forces - £25,000
- (v) Flintshire Connects - £25,000

141. COUNCIL TAX SETTING FOR 2013-14

The Council received the report which requested the Council to agree the statutory and other necessary resolutions for the purpose of administering Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates for 2013-14.

RESOLVED:

That the resolutions within Appendix A of the report be approved.

142. COUNCIL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013/14 – 2022/23

The Chief Executive and Head of Finance jointly presented a report which provided Members with the recommendations of the Cabinet for the Council Fund Capital Programme 2013/14 to 2022/23.

The Chief Executive and Head of Finance gave a joint presentation and commented upon the following areas:-

- Member consideration of capital
- Local and national context
- Key issues from Scrutiny
- 2013/14 Programme (All funding)
- Indicative General Funding (post final settlement)
- Summary

Councillor A.P. Shotton, the Leader of the Council submitted amended recommendations to those detailed in the report and an amended appendix 2 which supported the amendment and which included alternative proposals for Renewable Energy Installations, School Buildings Repairs and Maintenance, ICT infrastructure, capital receipts and unallocated – (Headroom))/Under Financing. The proposals were seconded.

Councillor A.M. Halford queried the value of the key site land which had been sold and how it impacted on the budget. The Chief Executive explained that he was unable to provide the information requested in a public meeting as it was commercially sensitive and negotiations with a third party were in final stages.

In response to a query from Councillor P.G. Heesom on whether the provision of £0.025m for Clwyd Theatr Cymru was in addition to the £1m it already received, the Chief Executive explained that the £0.025m was an allocation for capital funding for repairs, whereas the £1m was the annual revenue support.

Councillor R.J.T. Guest put forward an amendment to the proposals which was circulated to Members. His proposal was to (1) increase the sum allocated for School Buildings Maintenance and Repair by £0.205m and decrease the sum allocated for Renewable Energy Installations from £0.350m by £0.100m and decreasing the sum allocated for ICT Infrastructure from £0.200m by £0.105m, (2) that the provision in Clause 4.1 of the report to limit capital spend on core allocations to 80% of the amount shown, pending certainty on capital receipts, should not apply to Schools Building Repairs and Maintenance. He raised concern at the late changes put forward by the Leader which almost mirrored the proposals he was suggesting. He felt that the issue of school maintenance would receive support across the chamber. The amended proposals were also seconded.

In summing up, Councillor Shotton, the Leader of the Council, raised concern at the suggestion to ring fence the area of School repairs and maintenance and asked Members to vote against the amendment put forward by Councillor Guest.

A recorded vote was requested and supported by the requisite ten Members. On being put to the vote, the amendment by Councillor Guest was lost by 37 votes against the proposal and 18 votes for, with no abstentions. The voting being as follows:-

FOR – THE PROPOSAL BY COUNCILLOR GUEST

Councillors: A. Bragg, C.S. Carver, A. Davies-Cooke, J. Falshaw, V. Gay, R.J.T. Guest, A.M. Halford, H. Isherwood, R.B. Jones, D.I. Mackie, N.M. Matthews, H.J. McGuill, M.J. Peers, N. Phillips, H.G. Roberts, N.R. Steele-Mortimer, W.O. Thomas and A. Woolley

AGAINST – THE PROPOSAL BY COUNCILLOR GUEST

Councillors: A. Aldridge, J.B. Attridge, G. Banks, G.H. Bateman, M. Bateman, R.C. Bithell, H. Brown, D. Butler, D. Cox, P.J. Curtis, R. Davies, A.I. Dunbar, C.A. Ellis, R.G. Hampson, G. Hardcastle, P.G. Heesom, C. Hinds, R. Hughes, J. Johnson, C.M. Jones, K. Jones, S. Jones, C. Legg, R. Lloyd, M. Lowe, R.P. Macfarlane, A. Minshull, W.

Mullin, T. Newhouse, I.B. Roberts, L.A. Sharps, A.P. Shotton, P. Shotton, I.R. Smith, C.A. Thomas, S. Williams and D.E. Wisinger

A vote was then taken on substantive motion which was the proposal from Councillor Shotton, the Leader of the Council and was carried.

Councillor A. Aldridge commented on the capital funding for the coastal protection works in Flint and asked whether any additional grants were expected. He said that the coastal erosion was significant and thanked Councillor L.A. Sharps for his work on the issue. Councillor P.G. Heesom, on behalf of the local Member Councillor R. Johnson, welcomed the concern shown by Councillor Aldridge on the flood risk area.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the County Council approve the recommendations of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 19 February 2013 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet attached to the Council report subject to the amended Appendix 2 of Appendix 'A' for 2013/14; and
- (ii) That an additional recommendation be included that Cabinet periodically reviews the confirmation of capital receipts from the disposal of the assets, and authorises expenditure over 80% and up to 100% of the revised service allocations within the Capital Programme, in-year, according to confirmed capital availability.

143. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY & STRATEGY STATEMENT 2013/14

The Council received the report of the Head of Finance which presented to Council the recommendations of the Cabinet on the Treasury Management Policy & Strategy Statement 2013/14.

Councillor J.B. Attridge, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment proposed the acceptance of the recommendations as outlined within the report. This was seconded by Councillor R.K. Jones.

RESOLVED:

That the Council's Treasury Management Strategy 2013/14 in conjunction with Treasury Management Policy Statement 2013-2016 and Treasury Management Practices 2013-16 be approved.

144. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2013/14 – 2015/16

The Council received the report of the Head of Finance which presented to Council the recommendations of the Cabinet in relation to the setting of a range of prudential indicators.

Councillor J.B. Attridge, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment proposed the acceptance of the recommendations as outlined within the report. This was seconded by Councillor R.K. Jones.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the prudential indicators as detailed in Section 3 of the Cabinet report dated 19 February 2013 be approved; and
- (b) That delegated authority be given for the Head of Finance to effect movements between the separately agreed limits within the authorised limit for external debt and the operational boundary for external debt (section 3.11 and 3.12 of the Cabinet report dated 19 February 2013).

145. MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION 2013/14

The Council received the report of the Head of Finance which presented to Council the recommendations of the Cabinet in relation to the setting of a prudent minimum revenue provision for the repayment of debt.

Councillor J.B. Attridge, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment proposed the acceptance of the recommendations as outlined within the report. This was seconded by Councillor R.K. Jones.

RESOLVED:

That the Council accept the recommendations of the Cabinet, being that:-

- (1) Option 1 (Regulatory Method) be used for the calculation of the minimum revenue provision in 2013/14 for all supported borrowing.
- (2) Option 3 (Asset Life Method) be used for the calculation of the minimum revenue provision in 2013/14 for all unsupported (prudential) borrowing.

146. PAY POLICY STATEMENT

The Council received a report of the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development which sought approval on the Council's Pay Policy Statement, to be effective from 1 April 2013.

Councillor J.B. Attridge, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment proposed the acceptance of the recommendations as outlined within the report. This was seconded by Councillor R.K. Jones.

RESOLVED:

That the Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14 be accepted.

147. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. and ended at 5.01 p.m.

148. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were two members of the press in attendance.

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Chair