

EXECUTIVE
21 FEBRUARY 2012

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 21 February 2012

PRESENT: Councillor A. Woolley (Chairman)

Councillors: H. Brown, C. A. Ellis, H. D. Hutchinson, N.M. Matthews, N. Phillips, N. Steele-Mortimer and M. G. Wright

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors: Eng. K. Armstrong-Braun, J. B. Attridge, Q.R.H. Dodd, F. Gillmore and D. I. Mackie

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Environment, Director of Lifelong Learning, Head of Finance, Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of ICT and Customer Services, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development and Committee Officer. For minute number 215: Mr Stephen Martin, Improvement Assessment Lead, Wales Audit Office, and Ms Karen Lees, Improvement Assessment Co-ordinator, Wales Audit Office

APOLOGY: Councillor L.A. Sharps.

212. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2012 were confirmed as a correct record.

213. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

214. ALTERATION TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance Asset Management advised that there would be a change to the order of business and agenda item numbers 4, 8, 17, 19 and 25 would be considered first.

215. ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2011 BY THE AUDITOR GENERAL FOR WALES

The Executive Member for Corporate Management presented the Council's Annual Improvement Report 2011 published by the Auditor General for Wales, and the Council's response. The Chairman introduced and welcomed Mr Stephen Martin, Improvement Assessment Lead, Wales Audit Office (WAO) and Ms Karen Lees, Improvement Assessment Co-ordinator,

(WAO), to the meeting. Mr. Martin was invited to give a presentation on the Improvement Assessment Report.

Mr. Martin advised that the Annual Improvement Report built on the findings of the Improvement Assessment undertaken by the WAO, plus a retrospective assessment of whether the Council had achieved its planned improvements and a summary on the Council's self assessment of performance as reported in the Council's Annual Performance Report 2010/11. He commented on the key statements in the report and the two formal recommendations and proposals for improvement which had been made. He stated that the Auditor General had determined that there would be no intervention by Welsh Ministers or that any Special Inspections would be conducted although a full Corporate Assessment would be undertaken during 2012-13.

Members expressed a number of concerns on the findings of the report which they felt had not sufficiently reflected the progress which had been made by the Authority. Members cited as examples the significant positive outcomes, despite the current economic climate, which had been achieved around housing, economic development, highways, leisure, children's and adult services.

Councillor M. Wright asked how the Authority's performance had compared to other authorities in Wales in terms of the Report's conclusions. Mr. Martin responded that there was no requirement for urgent action. He commented on the two formal recommendations and the issue of political fragility. He said that the good progress and significant developments that had taken place in certain aspects of service delivery had been acknowledged, however, it was too soon in the process to award the status of "excellent" until further reporting had been undertaken.

The Leader and Executive Member commented on the stance taken by the Authority to be open, transparent and accountable. He welcomed constructive criticism which assisted the Authority to focus on those areas where there was a need for further improvement.

Mr. Martin advised that the Report brought together, with the co-ordination of other inspectorates such as Estyn and the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW) a picture of what the Council was trying to achieve and how this would be done. He conceded that some of the CSSIW context was not as up to date as the WAO would have wished and therefore might not have recognised some of the work recently undertaken.

The Chief Executive stated that the Authority was required to make a formal public response to the recommendations within 30 days of receipt of the Report. He gave an overview of the Authority's response to the two formal recommendations and the proposals for improvement as detailed in the report and reiterated that whilst a number of valid points had been made there was no risk of intervention. The Report would be submitted for further

consideration to the meetings of the Audit Committee on 26 March 2012 and County Council on 27 March 2012.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Annual Improvement Report 2011 published by the Auditor General for Wales be received; and
- (b) That the report be noted and the Council's response agreed.

216. IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES MID YEAR REVIEW

The Executive Member for Corporate Management introduced the report to advise on the mid year position of progress against the Authority's ten corporate Improvement Priorities including the development of Outcomes and Key Targets/Evidence.

Members were advised that the ten primary priorities were supported by the more detailed secondary priorities set out in the three Directorate plans for Community Services, Environment and Lifelong Learning and in the corporate governance plans. The mid-year assessment provided an overview of progress against scheduled activity for each of the secondary priorities and also an assessment against the Authority's level of confidence at this point in time in achieving the outcome for each secondary priority. An assessment summary of the Red Amber Green (RAG) status against progress and outcome had been presented to Executive in January 2012. The updated version which was appended to the report detailed the progress to date, further actions, outcomes and key targets/evidence. It also took account of changing circumstances and identified the priorities which needed to be merged, deleted or refreshed. The final priorities would be referred to within the Improvement Plan for 2012/13 which would be submitted to County Council for endorsement in June 2012.

The Chief Executive commented that the outcomes in the revised document demonstrated significant progress.

RESOLVED:

That the mid year assessment of the Improvement Priorities be endorsed noting the development of Outcomes and Key Targets/Evidence.

217. SINGLE STATUS – PROJECT UPDATE

The Executive Member for Corporate Management introduced the report which provided an update on the progress achieved in moving towards implementation of a Single Status Agreement for Green Book employees across the Council.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development advised that the Single Status Project Board had met in December 2011 and considered the Project Plan and timeframe for completion of phase two of the

project. This included the key milestones and stages of the project through to implementation, together with a proposal for amending the approach for reviewing the final set of jobs resulting from the sore thumb exercise to achieve the Rank Order of jobs for the Council.

The Board fully endorsed the work that had been delivered under the Project and supported the next phase of the Project Plan which included the target implementation date of November 2012. Group Leaders, Trade Union representatives and Senior Management had expressed their collective commitment in ensuring that the project was delivered in accordance with the Project Plan. A communication had been sent to all employees on 8 February 2012. Further information was posted on the Council's Infonet site and on Moodle for schools-based employees to explain the stages of the project in detail.

The Chief Executive commented on the complexity of the project and the need for change. He said that the agreement of all three parties on the Board was essential to proceed forward to the pay and grading modelling.

RESOLVED:

That the progress of the Single Status project and the agreed Project Plan, together with the target implementation date of November 2012 be noted.

218. MATRIX CONTRACT UPDATE (MANAGED AGENCY STAFF SOLUTION)

The Executive Member for Corporate Management introduced the report to provide an update on the contract for the provision of agency workers. The report showed quarter 3 of 2011/12 savings and gave an update on the development of procedures to maximise efficiencies and improve practice in relation to the use of agency workers.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development outlined the key considerations as detailed in the report. She advised that further work was to be undertaken to reduce the number of long term placements across the organisation, however, there had been a reduction of between 15% and 25% in the number of agency placements in each Directorate, apart from Environment, when compared with the last quarter. The rationale for the number of agency placements in Environment was explained.

The total spend and savings on agency workers during the third quarter of 2011/12 were outlined and the net saving achieved for the third quarter was given.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted and the approaches being taken to manage the use of agency workers more closely and to explore further options for increasing efficiency savings for Flintshire be endorsed.

219. COMPLIMENTS, CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS POLICY

The Executive Member for Corporate Management introduced the report to seek approval for the adoption of the following two Customer Service policies from 1 April 2012:

Policy 1 - Compliments, Concerns and Complaints

Policy 2 – Unacceptable Actions by Complainants

The Head of ICT and Customer Services explained that the proposed Compliments, Concerns and Complaints policy was based on a model policy and guidance issued by the Welsh Government (WG) to all public services in Wales involved in dealing with public service complaints. The policy was open and accessible and designed to deal with complaints in the most efficient and effective way and use the outcome of, and learning from, complaints resolution to inform the delivery of high-quality customer focused services. The policy would replace the existing Compliments, Comments and Complaints policy introduced in 2006.

The Unacceptable Actions by Complainants policy provided formal information and advice to customers and employees on how situations would be managed by the Council if a complainant's behaviour was considered unacceptable. The intention was to implement the two policies with effect from 1 April 2012.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the implementation of the new Compliments, Concerns and Complaints policy be adopted with effect from 1 April 2012; and
- (b) That the implementation of the new Unacceptable Actions by Complainants policy be adopted with effect from 1 April 2012.

220. REGIONAL SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPROVEMENT SERVICE – FULL BUSINESS CASE

The Executive Member for Education introduced the report which sought approval for the Full Business Case for a new Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (RSEIS). He advised that the report had been favourably received by the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee at a meeting held on 20 February 2012, and outlined the service, financial and collaborative benefits of the RSEIS.

The Executive Member for Education commented on the governance arrangements for the new service and said that it was a matter of concern that the Host Authority selected should be the best possible for the role. He proposed that an additional recommendation be included to ensure that Members' decision on the identification of a host authority for the RSEIS should be made following full consultation of the business case offered by each potential host which was agreed.

The Director of Lifelong Learning expressed his thanks to Headteachers and teaching colleagues for their input into the development of ideas and protocols and support for the Full Business Case. He reiterated the positive discussions and suggestions which had arisen from consideration of the Outline Business Case and the Full Business Case by the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee. He also outlined the key considerations for Flintshire as an individual constituent local authority partner.

The Chief Executive commented that the Full Business Case reflected the fair issues around the reasons and benefits for the new RSEIS and why it was believed to be in the best interests of the Authority for financial and service reasons. He reported on the interest expressed by three local authorities for the position of host authority and the need for rigour in the selection process.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Full Business Case for a new Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service be approved;
- (b) That the Executive is satisfied that the Full Business Case demonstrates the agreement to collaborate is in the best interests of the Council, that there will be service and financial benefits, and any risks of moving to a collaborative model can be managed and mitigated; and
- (c) That Members' decision on the identification of a host authority for the Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service should be made following full consultation of the business case offered by each potential host.

221. A COMPACT FOR CHANGE BETWEEN THE WELSH GOVERNMENT AND WELSH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report to seek approval for the adoption of the Compact between the Welsh Government (WG) and Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) for referral to and adoption by the County Council.

The Leader advised that the Compact for Change, which followed the recommendation of the Simpson Review, had been agreed and signed up to by the WLGA and the WG on 5 December 2011. Both parties had requested that each of the 22 individual Local Authorities in Wales should also sign up to the Compact to demonstrate commitment to collaboration and national policy. The three Implementation 'Contracts' which underpinned the Compact related to Education, Social Services and other services which set out the actions and outline timetables for the collaborative work. Flintshire had already committed to working in collaboration not only with local authorities but across all public

sector organisations, and a significant number of collaboration programmes were already underway.

The Chief Executive reported that the Compact had been considered by the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee which had recommended that the Authority should be a signatory but with the caveat "That having considered the contents and the implications of the Compact, both for Flintshire and the wider Local Government family and its relationship with the Welsh Government, the Committee recommends that Flintshire should be a signatory, with the following caveat "that this Council's commitment to collaboration with other local authorities and public bodies be re-affirmed, whenever this can either provide existing services more efficiently and/or provide better services at no additional cost, as long as a business case is provided and local sovereignty is protected through appropriate levels of democratic input and scrutiny". He gave an outline of the protocol, based on current practice, which was proposed to strengthen the Compact and address the concerns raised by Overview and Scrutiny and Audit Committee around governance of collaboration and performance monitoring arrangements to protect the interests of Flintshire.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That it be recommended to County Council that Flintshire become a signatory to the Compact for Change subject to sufficient governance arrangements being in place; and
- (b) That the Council reaffirm its commitment to collaboration with other local authorities and public bodies where the interests of Flintshire to protect/improve public services and to achieve efficiencies can be met.

222. NORTH WALES SAFER COMMUNITIES BOARD

The Executive Member for Leisure Services and Public Protection introduced the report to present the recommendation of the North Wales Regional Leadership Board to form a Regional Safer Communities Board and present the underpinning Partnership Agreement for the Board.

The Chief Executive advised that the recommendations of the Project Group set up to propose a Safer Communities Board, were endorsed by the Regional Leadership Board, and were detailed in the report. He commented on the key actions to be undertaken and progress made to date and made reference to the draft Partnership Agreement which set out the remit and function of the Board. The next step was for the formal member organisations of the Board to formally adopt the proposal and agree to nominate members for the new Municipal Year. The first meeting of the North Wales Safer Communities Board would be held no later than July 2012.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposal to create a Regional Safer Communities Board be approved and the organisation fully participate in the Board from July 2012 onwards;
- (b) To agree to appoint to the Board at the Annual General Meeting (if a Local Authority), or through other formal mechanisms if a partner organisation; and
- (c) To endorse the Partnership Agreement which accompanies this report.

223. COUNCIL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2012/13

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report to propose the Council Fund Revenue Budget for 2012/13 and the actions to close the previously reported budget 'gap' following consultation with all Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

He commented that the budget proposals provided a balanced budget which had been formed within the current financial constraints and reflected the Welsh Government (WG) requirements to protect the delivery of Education and Social Services.

The Chief Executive and Head of Finance gave a presentation on the draft Council Fund Revenue Budget 2012/13. It was proposed to recommend the final Council Revenue Fund Budget to Council on 1 March 2012. The Chief Executive advised that there were no significant cuts to services or new job reductions. The key issues arising from Overview and Scrutiny had been helpful in formulating the final budget proposals.

The Executive Member for Education expressed his appreciation to Officers for their hard work in achieving a balanced budget and specifically for the additional investment to support the schools budget.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Executive recommend to County Council on 1 March 2012:-
 1. That the 2012/13 Council Fund Revenue Budget Requirement be set at £241,201,131 which is £1,738,306 below the calculated Standard Spending Assessment
 2. That there be a 3% increase in Council Tax at Band D and an assumed 99% collection rate
 3. The inclusion of the Outcome Agreement Grant of £1.475M in the budget
 4. That the budget will be adjusted to reflect the actual level of specific grant received
 5. The levels of inflation assumed in the budget

6. That items of non-standard inflation are only allocated out to services when the actual increase in cost is known
 7. The amounts included in the budget relating to transfers into and out of the settlement
 8. The inclusion of £5.145M of pressures in the budget
 9. That the Council's adopted stance continues that resources to fund new pressures be approved for the purpose set out. Any proposals to vary the use of sums are to be the subject of a further report to Executive
 10. The inclusion of estimated one-off costs totalling £0.973M in the budget to be funded from the contingency reserve
 11. The inclusion of efficiencies of £4.716M in the budget
 12. That if it should become apparent that achievement of any of the savings (in full or part) is proving to be not as anticipated that this is dealt with corporately, with the Corporate Management Team bringing alternatives to Executive for consideration; and
- (b) That it be noted that the effect of the budget proposals will be to increase the budget requirement by £1.307M over the level in 2011/12 and increase the Band D Council Tax Rate by 3.0% on the level in 2011/12.

224. COUNCIL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2012/13 TO 2021/22

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report to propose the Council Fund Capital Programme for 2012/13 which provided indicative details for 2013/14 to 2021/22 following consultation with the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

He reported that the development of the Capital Strategy and Capital Programme 2012/13 had been considered by Executive on 20 December 2011. He advised that the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the Executive's recommendations at its meeting on 23 January 2012 and a number of key issues had arisen which were detailed in 2.04 of the report. Details of the questions and comments raised by the Committee were outlined in appendix 5 to the report.

The Leader commented on the need to look beyond the immediate year for financial programming and advised that the potential capital spend for the next 10 years as detailed in appendix 2 of the report was a starting point subject to rolling review. He also drew attention to paragraph 3.04 of the report which made reference to the use of unsupported (prudential) borrowing and emphasised the need for clear understanding of the long-term implications of intended prudential borrowing on the Council's future Revenue Budgets.

The Executive Member for Social Services stated that whilst she acknowledged the need to plan ahead she was unable to agree to the recommendation to commit to a 10 year programme.

In response to a question raised by the Executive Member for Housing concerning the list of "needs" identified in appendix 5, the Chief Executive explained that there was no commitment beyond the next financial year. He

advised that the list projected what would need to be addressed from one year to another and did not constitute a commitment.

RESOLVED:

- (a) Taking account of the detail contained in the report to Executive on 20 December 2011 and the positive response from Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Executive recommend that County Council on 1 March 2012:-
- (a) Note the work which has been undertaken (and continues) to develop a Council Fund Capital Strategy and 10 year capital programme
 - (b) Note the estimated capital funding available over the 10 year period 2012/13 to 2021/22
 - (c) Approve the inclusion in the programme of the core allocations for 2012/13 and the proposed new capital investment schemes 2012/13, noting that some projects had prior approval
 - (d) Note the total Council Fund Capital Programme for 2012/13 which arises from these approvals, and the indicative core programme details for 2013/14 to 2021/22; and
 - (e) Note the further funding being provided by Welsh Government to support highway improvement investment

225. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2012/13 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2012/13

The Executive Member for Housing introduced the report which detailed the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget following consultation with the Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and receipt of the final HRA Subsidy and Item 8 determinations received from Welsh Government (WG) on 1 February 2012. The report also highlighted the revenue budget proposals for the 2012/13 financial year, including proposed rent and service charge changes, key areas of income and expenditure and the level of closing balance at the year end. The budget proposals for the HRA capital programme 2012/13, which was year one of a six year improvement programme, were also outlined.

She advised that the Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee had welcomed the proposals for the Revenue Account and Capital Programme and no changes had been requested. The Director of Community Services commented on the significant improvement in housing services and gave a presentation on the HRA Budget final proposals, Revenue Account and Capital Programme. Reporting on the WG final determinations he said there had been no change to the consultation stage. He detailed the proposed guideline rent increase and the impact on Flintshire tenants, and heating charges. In summary he outlined future developments budget proposals

The Chief Executive said that the Authority was making the best use of the resources available based on the needs which had been expressed by tenants.

RESOLVED:

That Executive recommend to County Council on 21 February 2012:-

- i The proposed HRA budget for 2012/13 incorporating the Pressures and Efficiencies
- ii The level of rent and service charges for 2012/13 including the communal heating proposals
- iii The level of projected balances at 31 March 2013 of 3.25% of total expenditure; and
- iv The proposed HRA capital programme

226. MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION 2012/13

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report which outlined the proposals for the setting of a prudent minimum revenue provision for the repayment of debt in 2012/13, as required under the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2008. He explained that local authorities were required each year to set aside some of their revenues as provision for the repayment of debt in respect of capital expenditure financed from borrowing or credit arrangements. The options for prudent provision and the conditions for using the options were detailed in the report.

RESOLVED:

That Executive recommend to County Council on 1 March 2012:-

- (a) Option 1 (Regulatory Method) be used for the calculation of the minimum revenue provision in 2012/13 for all supported borrowing; this represents a continuation of the approved and adopted policy for 2011/12; and
- (b) Option 3 (Asset Life Method) be used for the calculation of the minimum revenue provision in 2012/13 for all unsupported (prudential borrowing); this also represents a continuation of the approved and adopted policy for 2011/12.

227. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2012/13 TO 2014/15

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report which detailed the proposals for setting a range of prudential indicators in accordance with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

He provided background information and advised that prudential indicators were required to be calculated for the forthcoming financial year and two subsequent financial years which linked in with the development of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Predictions regarding the levels of future Housing Revenue Account (HRA) funding beyond 2012/13 were pending the outcome of the housing ballot in February and March 2012. He drew attention to the unsupported borrowing needs detailed in the report, and commented on the reassurance also given that there would be no difficulty in meeting CIPFA's requirement. Members were asked to note the detail in the report concerning external debt.

RESOLVED:

That Members approve and recommend to County Council on 1 March 2012:-

- a) The prudential indicators as detailed in Section 3 of the report
 - Capital expenditure
 - Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream
 - Incremental impact of capital investment decisions on the council tax
 - Incremental impact of capital investment decisions on housing rents
 - Capital financing requirement
 - Net debt and the capital financing requirement
 - Authorised limit for external debt
 - Operational boundary for external debt
 - Adoption of the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services; Code of Practice and Cross-Sectional Guidance Notes; and

- b) Delegated authority be approved 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.

228. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY & STRATEGY STATEMENT 2012/13

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report to seek approval for the Treasury Management Policy Statement for 2012/13 to be referred to County Council for adoption.

He provided background information and advised that at a meeting of the Audit Committee on 30 January 2012, the Committee had reviewed the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement for 2012/13 and the Treasury Management Practices. It had been recommended that Executive recommend to Council that it approve the Policy and Strategy Statement for 2012/13 which included all Treasury Management Indicators and limits required by CIPFA and Welsh Government (WG). He commended the Audit Committee for their work.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Executive recommend to County Council the adoption of The Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2011; and
- (b) That the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement for 2012/13 be approved and recommended to County Council.

229. SOCIAL SERVICES REGIONAL COMMISSIONING HUB

The Executive Member for Social Services introduced the report which detailed the establishment of a Regional Commissioning, Procurement and Monitoring Hub in North Wales for local authorities (education and social services) and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board for high cost, low volume residential placements. A decision was required by partners to the establishment of a Regional Commissioning, Procurement and Monitoring Hub for North Wales.

She advised that the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee had considered the issue on a number of occasions and at the meeting on 13 February 2012 had supported the proposal for the establishment of a Regional Commissioning Hub. Members of the Committee had felt that additional items should be considered in the Hub's performance management framework, that the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee should receive annual updates on progress and that the phrase "The apportionment of costs can be reviewed once the hub has begun operating" should be included in the full business case.

The Director of Community Services commented on the financial impact for Flintshire in relation to the anticipated savings which could be achieved and the improved quality of service for service users.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the establishment of a Regional Commissioning, Procurement and Monitoring Hub in North Wales to serve the six local authorities and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board following completion of the Full Business Case be approved;
- (b) That the Executive is satisfied that the Final Business Case demonstrates that agreement to collaborate is in the best interests of the Council, that there will be service and financial benefits, and any risks moving to a collaborative model can be managed and mitigated; and
- (c) That the Executive agrees that the Social & Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee should receive annual updates on progress, and that the phrase "The apportionment of costs can be reviewed once the

hub has begun operating” should be included in the Full Business Case.

230. THE COUNCIL’S HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Director of Environment introduced the report to seek approval of the Council Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) and approval of the Council’s bid to Welsh Government (WG) for highway maintenance funding through their prudential borrowing initiative. Approval was also sought for the continued involvement in the all Wales Highway Asset Management Group and the joint financial contribution to the consultant engaged by the County Surveyors Society (Wales) to advise each authority on HAMP development.

The Director stated that the highway network was key to maintaining the economic and social development within the County and needed to be “fit for purpose” at all times. The WG had announced a new three year initiative to provide additional highway funding to each Council in Wales to assist with current repairs, address long standing maintenance issues and to carry out significant highways improvements. The additional money was to be provided through prudential borrowing with funding for future repayments to be made available by WG. The Director reported that the indicative figure for funding available in Year 1 of the WG initiative was £2.7M and gave an outline of the anticipated level of funding for the future. He advised that details of the bid for Year 2 of the funding would be presented for approval to Executive later in 2012.

The Chief Executive said that the WG initiative on prudential borrowing was to be welcomed.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Highway Asset Management Policy (HAMP) be approved;
- (b) That the content of the HAMP as the mechanism for allocating future highway maintenance funding and method of delivering its statutory duty to maintain each individual asset within the Highway infrastructure be approved;
- (c) That the outline bid for the first year of funding from Welsh Government under the Prudential Borrowing initiative be approved; and
- (d) That the continued membership of the all Wales HAMP development group utilising the consultant engaged by the CSS to co-ordinate the development of the HAMP document and ensure national consistency in the format of the current bids to Welsh Government be approved.

231. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2011/12 (MONTH 8)

The Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report which detailed the revenue budget

monitoring information at Month 8 for the Council Fund and the Housing Revenue Account in 2011/12.

Members were asked to note the projected year end position as estimated at Month 8 which was a net underspend of £0.901M on the Council Fund and a net underspend of £0.130M on the Housing Revenue Account. The Head of Finance commented that the report had been favourably received by Members at a meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 20 February 2012.

Amounts of £0.049M (Project team costs) and £0.070M (HR costs) were currently held by Human Resources & Organisational Development as invest to save costs relating to Flintshire Futures. Approval was given to carry forward funding into 2012/13 to meet those ongoing costs.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That the carry forward request included in the report be approved;
- (c) That the Council Fund Contingency Sum available as at 31 March 2012 be noted; and
- (d) That the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account be noted.

232. ESTYN INSPECTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY EDUCATION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Executive Member for Education introduced the report which detailed the outcome of the recent Estyn Inspection into Local Authority Education Services for Children and Young People (LAESCYP).

He said that the Authority had registered concerns about Estyn's judgement of 'adequate' in relation to 'Standards' and commented that the current report did not clearly identify the progress and achievement being made by children, young people and schools in Flintshire. He continued that the narrow interpretation of data by the inspectors, within an inflexible inspection framework, was believed to have been responsible for a doubtful judgement.

The Director of Lifelong Learning commented on the positive performance outcomes for 2010 and 2011 which reflected well on the commitment of learners, families, staff, governors and support services. He reported that Flintshire was one of the top performing education services in Wales. He continued that whilst the Estyn report contained a number of factual inaccuracies, the good progress and performance achieved in the provision of support for additional learning needs, promoting social inclusion

and well-being, access and school places, partnership working and resource management, had been recognised.

The Chief Executive said that the Authority would continue to work with Estyn to resolve the concerns raised about the judgement which the Authority deemed inappropriate.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Estyn Report and the conclusions about the Local Authority's Education Services be received and noted;
- (b) That the Director of Lifelong Learning be commissioned to prepare an Action Plan in response to Estyn's recommendations; and
- (c) That the Action Plan be considered by the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to adoption by the Executive and submission to Estyn.

233. CHILDREN'S FIXED PLAY AREAS – MATCH FUNDING SCHEME 2012/13

The Executive Member for Leisure Services and Public Protection introduced the report which detailed the outcome of the consultation with Town and Community Councils for the 2012/13 Children's Fixed Play Areas Match Funding Scheme.

He said that the Authority had achieved total funding of £1.8M through partnership working for children's play development. The Director of Lifelong Learning advised that the outcome had been a good example of partnership working with all Town and Community Councils across the County and would achieve much needed improvement to widen fixed play provision in a number of communities.

RESOLVED:

That the final outcome be noted and the 2012/13 scheme be supported enabling the Authority and Town and Community Councils, by working in partnership, to improve County wide fixed play provisions through a total investment of £253,000 on the basis of the increase in the allocation of £21,500.

234. SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2013/14

The Executive Member for Education introduced the report which detailed the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise on the admission arrangements for September 2013 and to seek approval for onward submission to County Council.

He advised that there were no changes proposed to the current admissions policy or oversubscription criteria. However, to clarify the process

for offering a place at the next nearest school should the school applied for be full, it was proposed that the following be added after criterion (d) in the oversubscription criteria for primary and secondary and after criterion (f) in respect of junior schools: "If the authority is unable to comply with the parental preference(s) expressed then the parent will be offered a place at the next nearest appropriate school with an available place".

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, for clarification, the following be added to the admissions policy after criterion (d) for primary and secondary and after criterion (f) for junior schools: "If the authority is unable to comply with the parental preference(s) expressed then the parent will be offered a place at the next nearest appropriate school with an available place"; and
- (b) That the proposed admission arrangements for 2013/14, as amended, be approved and recommended to County Council.

235. PANEL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF LEA GOVERNORS

The Executive Member for Education introduced the report to consider a recommendation that the Panel for the appointment of LEA Governors ceases to exist.

He explained that the Panel was created due to the need for transparency in decision making and to assist in the determination of disputed nominations and to make recommendations in circumstances where a request for the removal of an LEA governor was received. The Panel did not have power to make decisions and could only make recommendations to Executive or the Director of Lifelong Learning. Following consideration of the matter by the Constitution Committee at its meeting on 19 October 2011, the Committee agreed that the existing arrangements be amended as detailed in the report submitted to that meeting. Subsequent to the meeting of the Constitution Committee the Executive Member for Education advised that he had made a further recommendation that the Panel should cease to exist.

RESOLVED:

That the requirement for the Appointments Panel be removed.

236. REVIEW OF THE MANAGED WEEKLY COLLECTION SERVICE

The Executive Member for Waste Management introduced a report to provide an update following a Council Resolution on 31 January 2012. She advised that a commitment had already been given to undertake a review of the new managed weekly collections service which was scheduled to be considered by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 21 March 2012. As a result of the resolution by County Council the review had been brought forward and was detailed in the report.

The Director of Environment advised that there was an amendment to the timetable as outlined in the report and the report to County Council would be submitted on 27 March 2012 not 17 April 2012.

RESOLVED:

That the Terms of Reference and Timetable for the Review be approved

237. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS

An information report on the actions taken under delegated powers was submitted.

The actions taken were as set out below:-

Environment	A5014 Warren Bank, Broughton 30/40MPH speed limit
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	A5119/B5126 Northop to Connah's Quay Proposed changes to speed limits
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238. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 9.30a.m. and ended at 1.00p.m.

239. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were 2 members of the press in attendance.

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Chairman

SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S
CODE OF CONDUCT

EXECUTIVE	DATE: 21 FEBRUARY 2012
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
NONE WERE MADE		