

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
**DATE:** TUESDAY, 27 MARCH 2012  
**REPORT BY:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
**SUBJECT:** RESULT OF THE HOUSING BALLOT

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform Council of the result of the Housing Ballot.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

The Council has been required under Welsh Government policy to ballot its tenants on the options to transfer to a new registered social landlord (Dee Housing) or to stay with the Council.

The Council adopted the Choices Document on 22 November 2011 as the prospectus on which tenants would vote.

The Ballot was administered independently by Electoral Reform Services and ran from 20 February to 20 March 2012.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

The result of the Ballot was announced on the evening of 20 March. The result is summarised in the following official Council statement and is set out in the official confirmation of Electoral Reform Services, the ballot administrator, which is attached as an appendix.

*Flintshire County Council has taken a principled neutral stance on the ballot and has not sought to influence tenants one way or the other. The tenants have made their views known - this is local democracy in action.*

*The tenants of Flintshire have decided to opt to stay with the Council, with 88% of tenants voting in the ballot voting no to a transfer from the Council, and 12% of tenants voting yes.*

*This is the highest turnout in a housing ballot in Wales with 71% of tenants using their vote.*

*The County Council will be recommended to accept the outcome of the ballot at its coming meeting on 27 March.*

*The Council could see this outcome as a resounding vote of trust and confidence in it as a landlord providing good quality housing and support services for local people. Our performance has improved significantly in recent years and this is clearly recognised by our tenants as our customers.*

*We will now discuss with Welsh Government how we can bridge the funding gap and achieve its policy of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard.*

The democratic view of the body of tenants is without question given the level of turnout and the margin of the result against transfer. A council cannot agree to transfer its stock and services without a majority of voting tenants being in favour. It is notable that 62.42% of all tenants who were eligible to vote, voted against the option to transfer from the Council.

The new Council will need to meet with Welsh Government Ministers and officials early in its new term to review how it can meet the Welsh Government policy of achieving the Welsh Housing Quality Standard in an acceptable timescale, in partnership, noting that the capital resources under local control are insufficient. In the interim the Council will be obliged to meet the retention business case as set out in the Choices Document and to continue to implement the Asset Management Strategy adopted for Council housing.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Council is recommended to accept the outcome of the Housing Ballot and to commit to early engagement with the Welsh Government post-election as set out in the report.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no immediate or direct financial implications from the Ballot.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

None directly

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

None directly

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

None directly

#### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

None directly

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

None directly

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

There has been considerable consultation in the development of the Choices Document and the preparations for the Ballot as reported to Council previously.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

The notice of poll official result from the Electoral Reform Services organisation dates 20th March.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985  
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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