

LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
23 JANUARY 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Friday 23rd January 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Roberts (Chair)

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Ian Dunbar, Ron Hampson, Phil Lightfoot, Mike Lowe, David Mackie, Nancy Matthews, Vicky Perfect, Paul Shotton, Nigel Steele Mortimer Carolyn Thomas

Mrs. Janine Beggan, Mr. David Hytch, Mrs. Rebecca Stark

APOLOGIES: Councillor Colin Legg

SUBSTITUTIONS: None

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor: Veronica Gay and Richard Jones

CONTRIBUTORS:

Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Chief Executive, Cabinet Member for Education, Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure, Chief Officer Education and Youth, Chief Officer Organisational Change, Chief Officer Organisational Change, Corporate Finance Manager, Principle Leisure Services Officer, Secondary Schools Officer,

IN ATTENDANCE:

Housing & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Overview & Scrutiny Support Officer

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

52. BUDGET CONSULTATION FOR 2015/16

The Chairman welcomed the contributors to the meeting.

Councillor David Mackie referred to the budget factsheets document circulated at the beginning of the meeting and raised concerns that Members of the Committee had not been given sufficient time to read the information. The Chief Executive explained that the budget factsheets were further detail of budget proposals together with responses to questions Members had raised during the budget workshop sessions.

The Chair agreed to adjourn the meeting until 2.40 pm to allow Members of the Committee time to read the budget factsheet document.

The meeting resumed at 2.43 pm.

The Leader outlined the budget consultation process to date, which included briefing meetings with Group Leaders and Chairs of Overview & Scrutiny Committees, culminating with the Overview & Scrutiny mop-up session scheduled to be held on Friday, 30th January, 2015, prior to the final budget proposals being presented to County Council on the 17th February, 2015. Regular updates had been given to Members over recent months and the Leader commented on the unprecedented financial challenges facing all Councils across Wales. The draft budget report, presented to Cabinet on 16th December, 2015 highlighted a £16.4m budget gap for 2015/16. Following intensive work a balanced budget had been achieved. The risk to frontline services was a unique challenge with no magic formula and no additional money available.

The Leader commented on the consequential revenue provision and briefed Members on his lobbying of Ministers and the Welsh Government (WG). He expressed his disappointment following the Autumn Statement that no additional funding for service protection was being allocated to Local Government.

The Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Education & Youth), Chief Officer (Organisational Change (1)) and Chief Officer (Organisational Change (2)) gave a detailed presentation which covered the following areas:-

Education and Youth

- National Position
- Revised Local Position
- Strategy to close the extended gap
- Big Budget Conversation
- Final Steps in the Budget

- Education and Youth Budget 2015/16
 - Schools
 - School Funding
 - School Budgeting
 - Education and Youth (Central)
 - Business Plan Efficiencies

- Operational Change (2)
 - Leaning service areas
 - Increased income
 - New ways of delivering Facilities Management services
 - Increased marketing and product growth
 - Business Plan Efficiencies

- Organisational Change (1) Leisure and Libraries Budget Proposals 2015/16
 - Leisure and Libraries
 - Business Plan Efficiencies
 - Static Libraries
 - Mobile Services
 - Sports Development – Lets Walk Cymru
 - Leisure Centre – above inflation increase in tariff

- Clwyd Threatr Cymru – Budget 2015/16
 - Challenge
 - Proposal
 - Business Plan Efficiencies

The comments and questions which were raised by Members of the Committee on the presentations, together with the responses given, are detailed in Appendix 1 (attached).

Members welcomed the opportunity once all the information had been digested to refer any further questions to the mop up session of Corporate Resources. The Chair thanked Officers for the openness in which the workshops and verbal updates had been delivered to Members and felt members of the public were better prepared for the year ahead.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

40. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

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

(The meeting started at 2.00 p.m. and finished at 5.00 p.m.)

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Chairman