

SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
26 JANUARY 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Monday 26 January 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Carol Ellis (Chair)

Councillors: Amanda Bragg, Peter Curtis, Veronica Gay, Mike Lowe, Hilary McGuill, Dave Mackie and Dave Wisinger

APOLOGY:

Councillor: Cindy Hinds

SUBSTITUTE:

Councillor: Ron Hampson (for Andy Dunbobbin)

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors: Richard Jones and Mike Peers

CONTRIBUTORS:

Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Chief Executive, Cabinet Member for Social Services, Chief Officer (Social Services), Corporate Finance Manager, Senior Manager Commissioning and Provider Services Manager

IN ATTENDANCE:

Environment & Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Housing & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

49. BUDGET CONSULTATION FOR 2015/16

The Chairman welcomed the contributors to the meeting.

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 and Chief Officer (Social Services) gave a detailed presentation which covered the following areas:-

- National Position
- Revised Local Position
- Strategy to close the extended gap
- Up to date Strategy position
- Remaining Strategy Actions
- Big Budget Conversation
- Member Involvement
- Final Steps in the Budget
- Social Services Budget 2015/16
 - Previous years decisions
 - Targeted price inflation
 - Pressures and investments
 - Our Strategy
 - Our approach
 - Managing the change
 - Principles for change
 - Voluntary Sector
 - Recovery of CHC
 - 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).

During discussion, 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.

50. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the public and one member of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 11.55 am)

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Chairman