

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
10 DECEMBER 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Thursday, 10 December 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Clive Carver (Chairman)

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Peter Curtis, Andy Dunbobbin, Robin Guest, Richard Jones, Richard Lloyd, Vicky Perfect, Nigel Steele-Mortimer and Arnold Woolley

SUBSTITUTIONS:

Councillor Mike Reece for Ron Hampson, Tim Newhouse for David Roney, Paul Shotton for Ian Smith and Dave Cox for Carolyn Thomas

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Haydn Bateman attended as an observer
Chief Officer (Organisational Change)

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Billy Mullin – Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Councillor Brian Lloyd

CONTRIBUTORS:

Councillor Aaron Shotton – Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Chief Executive

For minute number 56

Mr. Winston Roddick (Police & Crime Commissioner), Mr. Julian Sandham (Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner) and Mr. Stephen Hughes (Acting Chief Executive of the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office)

For (minute numbers 57 and 58)

Corporate Finance Manager

For minute number 59

Councillor Bernie Attridge – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment, Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) and Finance Manager Environment,

For minute number 60

Chief Officer (Governance)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Member Engagement Manager and Committee Officer

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Arnold Woolley declared a personal interest in minute number 56 (Police & Crime Commissioner: Consultation on the Crime & Policing Plan for 2016/17) as he was the Vice-Chair of the International Police Association North Wales Branch.

55. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 November 2015 had been circulated to Members with the agenda.

Matters Arising

Councillor Marion Bateman thanked officers for their email response to her request for information about recycling but added that it had not included details of tonnages. She had found some information herself but asked for the quarter 2 data which the Chief Executive agreed to provide.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

56. POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER: CONSULTATION ON THE CRIME & POLICING PLAN FOR 2016/17

The Chief Executive introduced Mr. Winston Roddick (Police & Crime Commissioner), Mr. Julian Sandham (Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner) and Mr. Stephen Hughes (Acting Chief Executive) to the Committee. The full set of answers to the questions submitted to the Police & Crime Commissioner for his previous attendance at the County Council meeting on 23 July 2015 had been circulated to Members earlier in the week.

The Chief Executive provided an overview of the work of the Regional Safer Communities Board, for which Flintshire and Wrexham were the lead authorities, and the 'strategic fit' of the Flintshire Local Service Board priorities of reducing crime and disorder, substance misuse and reducing re-offending with those of the Police and Crime Plan

Mr. Roddick thanked the Chief Executive for the introduction and said that in part it was due to his efforts that there was such a good fit between the Council's policies and the Police & Crime Commissioner's Plan. He added that the Chief Executive had worked hard on the Safer Communities Board. One of the key tasks was to set out the strategic direction for North Wales and he was in the process of obtaining the views of the public, the voluntary sector and the business sector on what they felt was important, which was the reason for attending this meeting. North Wales was one of the safest places to live in and it was important that residents felt safe and that the Police were visible and available where they were needed the most. The Police & Crime Plan was revised each year and set out in detail the level of service that the public could expect. Mr. Roddick commented on a survey that Members could take part in.

Mr. Roddick provided a detailed presentation which covered the following areas:-

- Finance
- The future financial challenge
- Current planning assumptions
- Changes in North Wales Police (NWP) workforce numbers over time
- The current policing objectives
- Priorities
- Volume crime and protective services

He spoke of the financial challenge faced by NWP and the cuts in funding of over £24m by the end of March 2016 which made the delivery of priorities challenging. The force continued to perform well in the unprecedented situation and Mr. Roddick commented on the risks, particularly in the light of the recent attacks in Paris, associated with cutting funding which would affect the service. The final settlement figure would be received on 17 December 2015 and until this was received, there were some elements of funding that could not yet be finalised but the current financial assumptions indicated that £8.201m of savings would be required over the next four years to 2019/20. Mr. Roddick explained that cuts of this level would represent a significant challenge and would lead to a change in the way policing was carried out. He commented on the impact on Police Officer and Police Staff numbers and reflected on the success to date of protecting the front line from the financial cutbacks but acknowledged that further cuts would increase the pressure on the front line. The Commissioner said that the current Police & Crime Plan increased the focus on the most vulnerable which he felt should continue.

Mr. Roddick provided a detailed explanation on the four priorities which were:-

- Prevent crime
- Deliver an effective response
- Reduce harm and the risk of harm
- Build effective partnerships

He added that the NWP force was committed at a tactical and strategic level to keeping residents safe.

Councillor Paul Shotton thanked Mr. Roddick for his presentation. He sought clarification on whether there would be a reduction in the number of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) as it had been announced in the recent Autumn Statement that there would not be any cuts to Police funding. He also asked about a recent audit of funding which had highlighted payments of £70,000 per quarter for a mobile phone service that was not being used. He went on to query what reassurance could be given to encourage residents to report incidents to the Police. Mr. Roddick said that he would need to reflect on the funding allocations on 17 December 2015 before giving an undertaking on PCSOs. However, he advised that he greatly valued them and the work that they carried out and he gave a commitment that any changes to PCSOs would be considered carefully. The Police would not be

able to take any action if they were not aware of the crime/threat/danger and stressed the importance of all crimes being reported.

In response to a question from the Chairman, Mr. Roddick indicated that the continuation of payment for the mobile phone service was a mistake by both the Police and the mobile phone operator. The service had not been used and had been paid for but the phone provider had agreed to refund the payment. The Chairman also referred to the annotation on the Council Tax bills that part of the payment was made for the Police & Crime Commissioner function and he queried how the post was funded. Mr. Roddick indicated that payment for his office was made directly from the Home Office and through local taxation. The funding for the Police Service was through the Home Office grant. The Chairman suggested that the wording on the Council Tax bills should be amended to read 'North Wales Police'. The Chief Executive advised that the core costs of the Police & Crime Commissioner's office were funded directly by UK government. He agreed with the suggestion for the change to the wording on the Council Tax bills and said that he would look into this. Mr. Roddick indicated that the budget allocated for his office was not more than the amount for the Police Authority that preceded him.

Councillor Richard Jones sought clarification on what cuts would not now need to be made because the budget gap had reduced from £15.5m over four years to the £8.2m referred to in the presentation. He also referred to the perception of residents that the Police didn't respond to minor crime and therefore there was no point in reporting it. In response, Mr. Roddick advised there was no extra funding available and that the areas where savings would need to be made had not yet been identified and that decisions would not be decided prior to the receipt of the information on the budget assumptions due on 17 December 2015. On the issue of crimes not being reported, Mr. Roddick said that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) had commended NWP on the level of crimes reported and recorded. Confidence in NWP had been measured as 90% which was positive and Mr. Roddick hoped that this provided reassurance to Members.

Councillor Peter Curtis referred to the good working relationship between the Police and Holywell Town Council as the Police were now located in the Town Hall. He referred to a national press article which reported that some Police forces were not able to respond to burglaries and Councillor Curtis praised the emphasis that NWP had put on the area of domestic abuse, which had been neglected in the past. Mr. Roddick expressed concern about the newspaper article about burglaries as it was not true and said that this area would continue to be investigated. He spoke of the significant challenge faced by the cutbacks and reiterated his earlier comment that the Police should be 'where they were needed the most'.

Councillor Arnold Woolley spoke of recent reports of low morale in NWP and asked what could be done to alleviate this. He asked how satisfied Mr. Roddick was about the reliability of the statistics produced, referring in particular to a robbery that had been recorded as lost property. Councillor Woolley commented on the prevention of crime and the fact that Police

Officers and PCSOs were rarely seen patrolling the streets, which he felt emphasised the public perception of not reporting a crime because the Police would not respond. In response, Mr. Roddick reiterated his earlier comments on the measure by HMIC on the reliability of reported and recorded crimes. He also published statistics regularly to address the perception by the public. Mr. Roddick said that he did not accept the statement from the Police Federation on low morale but if it was the case, then it would need to be addressed. Mr. Roddick suggested that the good performance levels of the force, as measured independently, did not support the assertion of low morale but suggested an effective and efficient workforce. On the issue of incorrectly recorded crimes, Mr. Julian Sandham referred to the crime recording system which had a compliance rate of 94% and said that considerable reassurance should be taken from the reliability expressed in the HMIC report.

Councillor Richard Lloyd referred to the 101 phone service, about which he received a large number of complaints from residents and sought assurance that a review of the service would be carried out. Mr. Roddick indicated that this had been a matter for discussion and debate at the Strategic Executive Board. The concern was if the 101 service was not effective, then the 999 service would become overloaded. Mr. Sandham spoke of abandoned calls to the 101 service but advised that in June 2015 over 93% of calls had been answered within 40 seconds and 96.5% in 90 seconds. There was a procedure that had to be followed before calls could be put through to the relevant Police Force and it was understood that this could take up to 40 seconds. The matter had been raised with the Police & Crime Panel and negotiations on what should be considered an acceptable figure for abandoned calls was still being discussed; this was currently 5%. He added that there was also an 0300 number which would allow callers to directly contact NWP and that he could provide the details following the meeting.

In response to a query from Councillor Andy Dunbobbin, Mr. Roddick agreed to provide a list of savings made and proposed efficiencies following receipt of the final budget settlement figure due on 17 December 2015.

Councillor Marion Bateman commented on an incident that had occurred where a witness statement had been made to NWP but had been subsequently lost, requiring the witness to provide a second statement sometime after the event. Mr. Roddick advised that he could look in to the details following the meeting but added that it was extremely unusual for a statement to be lost. He also referred to the introduction of a service called 'Track My Crime' where those who had reported a crime would be able to find out what stage the investigation was at; this would be available bilingually.

The Chief Executive referred to the assumptions of Council Tax funding being 3.5% for 2016/17 and 2.5% in subsequent years and questioned the rationale. Mr. Roddick confirmed that this information was subject to change based on the budget figure due in December 2015.

Mr. Roddick thanked the Committee for the invitation to address the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee supports the four priorities in the Police & Crime Plan:
 - 1. Crime Prevention;
 - 2. Delivering an effective response;
 - 3. Reducing harm and the risk of harm;
 - 4. Building effective partnerships
- (b) That the Police & Crime Commissioner provide his list of savings made and his proposed efficiencies in due course;
- (c) That the Council will investigate changing the wording on the Council Tax demand letter from 'Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales' to 'North Wales Police'; and
- (d) That the Police & Crime Commissioner and his colleagues be thanked for attending the meeting.

57. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The Chief Executive provided a verbal update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

He explained that the provisional settlement had been received the previous day and a full presentation would be provided to Cabinet at its meeting on 15 December 2015. The provisional settlement was a draft but it rarely changed prior to the publication of the final version. However, there was a longer consultation period to March 2016. Based on intelligence from Welsh Government (WG) to expect the same rate of cut for 2016/17 as for 2015/16, the Council had been working on a reduction of 3.5% in Revenue Support Grant (RSG). The average cut for Wales had been 1.4% and Flintshire County Council was to receive a reduction in RSG of 1.5% which put the authority at 12th out of 22 Councils. The difference between a reduction of 1.5% compared to 3.5% equated to £3.8m. Details of specific grants had not yet been provided but it had been indicated that the Supporting People grant would not change which was positive. It was anticipated that the Single Environment grant would be reduced by 6% to 7% and clarification was still awaited on the Families First grant. However, the Council Tax Reduction Scheme was not inflation protected and therefore provision of the scheme would become a budget pressure of approximately £350,000 over the two years to date. The Chief Executive said that it was important to remember that even though Flintshire was 12th in the table for RSG, it was 19th out of 22 for 'per capita' funding. The average 'per capita' was £1309, Flintshire received £1196 and the highest figure was £1576 which was a substantial difference. Discussions would be undertaken at a later date on the remaining budget gap. The Chief Executive added that the Pupil Deprivation grant allocation per head was to increase from £1050 to £1150 which amounted to £250,000 but this figure was passported directly to schools.

Councillor Aaron Shotton said that the timelines currently set for the budget meetings in December 2015 remained unchanged and further meetings would be arranged for January 2016 which would allow for the opportunity to consider the remaining budget gap. He felt that the improved position in funding should be welcomed along with the strong case put forward by Flintshire County Council to argue the case against cuts to public services. He felt that without the lobbying by the Council, the cuts by WG would have been greater and that the fact that the reduction was only 1.5% should be recognised as a success. He commented on the additional Social Care funding which had been announced totalling £50m but indicated that this was already included in the RSG allocation which was based on a formula. On the issue of Council Tax Reduction Scheme, further discussions needed to take place on exemptions to the scheme. Councillor Aaron Shotton welcomed the lower than anticipated reduction in funding, as a result of lobbying, which he felt was positive.

The Chief Executive said that WG had made a commitment to review the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) in the longer term. He added that WG had set the budget in the context of the Chancellor's four year plan.

Councillor Paul Shotton felt that recognition should be given for the commitment by WG for the slowdown in cuts as opposed to the devastating cuts seen across England. Councillor Marion Bateman thanked the Chief Executive and Councillor Aaron Shotton for their hard work and determined lobbying to WG.

Councillor Richard Jones suggested that the lower than anticipated cut in RSG was not as a result of lobbying and referred to the CTRS which was not a fully funded scheme and would therefore result in a budget pressure. He spoke of the extra investment in Social Care that had been lobbied for but added that the additional funding for health had been included in the RSG already allocated and was therefore not extra money. Councillor Jones said that the lobbying had not changed the funding formula and referred to the smaller reductions in RSG for many South Wales Councils.

In response to a query from Councillor Tim Newhouse, the Chief Executive explained that using the funding formula, Flintshire County Council were 19th out of the 22 Councils per capita and received £1196, the average was £1309 and the highest, which was Blaenau Gwent, received £1576. Councillor Newhouse suggested that if Flintshire received the average, the Council would be £17.5m better off and felt that the figure required to plug the gap was £25 per person which he felt was realistic. He added that he hoped that lobbying would continue.

The Chief Executive felt that there was expectation that a new WG would address the funding formula and commented on some of the rural counties that had seen significant reductions in their RSG based on the current formula.

Councillor Peter Curtis concurred with the comments of Councillor Bateman and welcomed the efforts of the Leader and all those who had lobbied.

Councillor Shotton reminded Members that the settlement would not be finalised until March 2016 and suggested that there was still more work to be done on lobbying WG. He gave thanks to those Members who had supported the proposals to carry out discussions with WG. The Chief Executive said that even though the indicative settlement had been better than anticipated, there was still a significant budget gap and some difficult decisions would still need to be made. On the issues raised by Councillor Jones, he said that discussions would be held on the unsustainability of the CTRS and on funding of the NHS and Social Care.

In response to a question from Councillor Newhouse about longer term budget forecasting, Councillor Aaron Shotton confirmed that the MTFS covered the period to 2018 and that the details had been included without any detail from WG of the indicative funding for 2017/18. Clarity from WG was important to allow the Council to plan accordingly but if the figures for 2016/17 were replicated, then the MTFS would need to be reassessed. Following a query from the Chairman, the Chief Executive said that indications had been given that the reduction for RSG for 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 was expected to be 3.5% as had been the case in 2014/15 and it had only been confirmed the previous day that the reduction for 2016/17 was 1.5% for Flintshire County Council.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Executive and Councillor Shotton for their lobbying work.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the verbal update on the Provisional Settlement and the Medium Term Financial Strategy be received; and
- (b) That the Leader and the Chief Executive be thanked for their efforts in lobbying on the Council's behalf.

58. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 (MONTH 6) AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING (MONTH 6)

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 6)

The Corporate Finance Manager introduced a report to provide Members with the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 6) for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) which was to be submitted to Cabinet on 15 December 2015.

For the Council Fund, the projected net in-year expenditure was forecast to be £0.291m higher than budget which was a reduction of £0.304m on the overspend at Month 5. Appendix 1 detailed the movements from

Month 5 which included a higher than expected income as a result of an ongoing rental review for the premises in Ewloe. Appendix 3 provided details of the latest position of the programme of efficiencies and it was projected that £10.770m (84%) would be achieved resulting in a net underachievement of £2.104m. Taking into account the current overspend at Month 6, the balance on the contingency reserve at 31 March 2016 was projected to be £4.245m. A summary of Earmarked Reserves as at 1 April 2015 was reported and the Month 6 estimate for the amount of reserves at 31 March 2016 was £15,922,928. The section on risk management included details of the levy of 15% that the Council was required to pay for Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) and the requirement to increase this levy in the future. Options were being considered for meeting the potential significant liability and would need to be met from the contingency reserves.

The Month 6 monitoring report for the HRA was projecting in-year expenditure to be £0.147m lower than budget and a projected closing balance as at 31 March 2016 of £1.384m.

In response to a query from Councillor Robin Guest on the amount of the increase for the MMI, the Corporate Finance Manager explained that it was anticipated that it would be an increase of 20% from 15% to 35% which equated to £0.800m.

Councillor Richard Jones referred to the lower than anticipated income from the Telecare Service, which he had calculated as being 1,000 fewer people using the service over a 26 week period, and queried whether this was correct. The Corporate Finance Manager indicated that the shortfall in income was for 52 weeks and explained that further information on the reason for the variance had been shared with Members in the summary circulated by the Member Engagement Manager the previous day.

Councillor Jones also queried the overspend in Democratic Services of £0.110m for an efficiency that was agreed within the 2014/15 budget and the revised efficiency for Staff Car Parking Charges of £0.030m. In response, the Chief Executive reiterated that a detailed explanation on the reduction in Telecare income had been provided to Members. On the Democratic Services efficiency, he indicated that there had been a delay in the completion of the staffing review but confirmed that it would be implemented. The Chief Executive added that the revised efficiency for Staff Car Parking was due to a delay in the implementation of the scheme within the County Hall complex. The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) confirmed that a revised date for charging had been agreed as 1 February 2016 and that implementation had been delayed due to a number of objections raised which had now been addressed. There would be an impact on the amount of income raised for 2015/16 due to the delayed implementation as this would now be for two months rather than a whole year. The Strategy had been agreed in April 2015 and this had to be consulted upon and the objections received considered before the scheme could be rolled out. The Chief Executive explained that parking charges had been the subject of complex discussions with the Trade Unions and a number of objections had been

raised during the consultation period which had now been addressed; it was anticipated that parking charges for the County Hall complex would be in place from 1 February 2016.

In referring to Flint, Councillor Peter Curtis asked when car parking charges were to be introduced. Councillor Bernie Attridge responded that due to the number of changes because of the provision of the extra care facility, the health centre and regeneration of Flint, and the need to use temporary parking areas for a short term period, a decision had been made not to implement charges for car parking until longer term parking solutions had been identified. He added that it was anticipated that charges would be introduced in the next financial year.

Councillor Paul Shotton commented on the dramatic fall in the recycling values and suggested that the implementation of car parking charges and proposals for the Household Recycling Centres could have been delayed because the decisions had been called-in by Members. He also commented on the increased level of property related income (£0.514m) and higher than projected income as a result of the Rent Review for Unilever (£0.173m). The Corporate Finance Manager indicated that the £0.173m was a one-off income for backdated rent.

Capital Programme 2015/16 (Month 6)

The Corporate Finance Manager introduced the report to provide Members with the Capital Programme Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 6) which was also to be submitted to Cabinet on 15 December 2015.

Table 2 reflected changes during this period which included an increase for the Queensferry Roundabout Scheme totalling £0.800m which included £0.572 of Welsh Government (WG) grant funding. A WG grant of £0.145m had also been received and this was to be used to upgrade the communal heating system in the Flint tower blocks. The amount of expenditure for the Capital Programme was reported in table 3 and a rollover of £0.435m into 2016/17 was being proposed for approval by Cabinet for the Education & Youth Service and for Organisational Change. The position on funding of 2015/16 approved schemes was reported in table 6 and showed a projected surplus of £1.179m to 2016/17.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Month 6 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report be received; and
- (b) That no formal recommendations be made to the Cabinet on this occasion.

59. PERIOD 5 – OVERSPEND IN THE STREETSCENE AND TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) introduced the report to provide more information on the reasons behind the projected overspend of £1.108m for the financial year 2015/16 in the Streetscene and Transportation Portfolio.

He explained that the projected overspend was due to a number of elements which had been as a result of the delay in implementation of some proposals. He assured Members that these delays would not reoccur in the future and were therefore one-off overspends.

Waste Collection Policy

The Council's revised waste collection policy was approved by Cabinet in April 2015, which created a delay in the introduction of a number of revised working arrangements for the waste service. The policies required significant consultation and could therefore not be implemented immediately after approval by Cabinet. The cessation of the waste container delivery service which was introduced in July 2015 had resulted in an overspend of £50,000 and the new service charge for a second garden waste bin was to be introduced from March 2016 resulting in a loss of income of £25,000. Following extensive public engagement and resident/member notifications, the seven day waste collection service had been introduced from mid-September which meant that the full year benefit had not been achieved.

The proposed rationalisation and changes to Household Recycling Centre provision (HRC) were further delayed by a Call-in on the original Cabinet decision and as a result of the delay, the total overspend was £175,000.

Car Parking Strategy

The Strategy was approved in April 2015 and had been delayed due to the need for a full statutory consultation period which resulted in a loss of income amounting to £110,000 against the full year target at period 5.

Grass cutting policy

The grass cutting policy was also approved by Cabinet in April 2015 which included the reduction in the frequency of some grass cutting services and the decision to outsource some of the provision. The decision came after the commencement of the grass cutting season and the delay resulted in the partial loss of the full year saving of £50,000.

Zero tolerance for littering

The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) explained that a later than expected introduction of the proposals had contributed to the overspend within the service which he was confident was a one-off.

Other areas, including the reduced electricity sales from the gas engines at Brookhill and Standard landfill sites (shortfall in income of £150,000), the under achieving income levels in the waste recycling market (loss in income at period 5 of £236,000) and Denbighshire County Council reviewing its own contractual arrangements for composting their domestic garden waste (loss of £60,000 income), had all contributed to the overspend within the service. The Chief Officer provided details of the reduction in rates per tonnage of glass, aluminium, steel and paper and said that, because this was a national problem, it had been identified as a corporate risk rather than a risk to the service.

In response to a question from Councillor Marion Bateman about the gas engines at Brookhill, the Chief Officer confirmed that the old engines were still being used. He spoke of options being considered to store the gas and use it during peak demand and added that the engines should be downgraded when the gas was low but this was prohibitively expensive. Councillor Bateman also spoke about recyclates and asked whether new ways of dealing with waste in relation to the national problem of fluctuating recycling sale values were being considered, particularly as landfill charges were increasing. The Chief Officer advised that WG recognised the problem and he spoke of the ongoing discussions with WG in an attempt to introduce a national merchant arrangement for the sale of recycling products across Wales.

Councillor Robin Guest was sympathetic on the issue of the volatile recycling rates and agreed that it should be identified as a corporate risk rather than for the service. He felt that there was little chance of recovering the amount, which accounted for 25% of the overspend, in year which was a cause for concern. He also suggested that lessons needed to be learned about the timing of when policies or strategies were agreed and that appropriate implementation dates and efficiencies from their introduction needed to be considered carefully.

The Chief Executive accepted the comments on the pace and expectation of the introduction of such policies/strategies. He reminded Members that discussions were also being undertaken for allocation to the new portfolios during the debates on the budget for 2015/16. He added that he was confident that the implementation of the car parking changes would overachieve on the amount of income expected to be raised. He concurred that the actual level of income was above the projected levels. On the recycling figures he advised that approximately a third of the overspend within the service was as a result of the reduction of income from recyclates.

Councillor Richard Jones said that the Council was unable to control the recyclate market rates but was in control of the remaining overspend of

£645,000 and suggested that more accurate estimates could have been made, referring in particular to estimation of Out of County Placements which were also estimated. He commented on the issue of the HRC sites and the delays in the implementation of car parking charges and requested a breakdown of the overspend of £645,000.

Councillor Peter Curtis commented on the reintroduction of the car parking charges in Holywell and spoke of a previous arrangement that had been in place for the car park at St. Winifred's Well where the charges were dropped for church users. He queried whether this arrangement was still in place and the Chief Officer indicated that he would provide a response following the meeting.

The Chief Executive welcomed the comments on the lessons to be learned on consideration of policies and their implementation dates and agreed that some policies took longer to implement than expected and that this had not been possible to reflect in the business plans.

Councillor Mike Reece referred to the loss of £60,000 income from the review undertaken by Denbighshire County Council for the composting of their domestic garden waste, and queried whether the introduction of a woodchip machine was to be considered. In response, the Chief Officer explained that this had been discussed but there were no immediate plans to do so.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee accepts the reasons for the overspend in the Streetscene and Transportation Portfolio and is assured by the on-going work within the service to mitigate the overspend.

60. QUARTER 2 IMPROVEMENT PLAN MONITORING REPORT

The Chief Executive introduced a report to provide an explanation of the progress being made towards the delivery of the impacts set out in the 2015/16 Improvement Plan.

He commented on the new format as a result of the purchase of performance management software, CAMMS, which he felt was an excellent system. There were two high level (Red) risk areas for this Committee which were the scale of the financial challenge, which was self-explanatory, and the second risk area on capacity and capability of the organisation to implement necessary changes.

Councillor Richard Jones referred to the actions on Developing Communities and suggested that a figure to identify the numbers involved should be shown alongside the percentage completed figure. He also queried the 'yellow' rating shown for the risk for 'public attitude to accessing services on-line' and was advised by the Chief Officer (Governance) that risks had five categories (green, amber, yellow, red and black) rather than the three of red, amber and green for performance indicators.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee is assured by the progress and performance reported on within the Quarter 2 Improvement Plan Monitoring report.

61. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Member Engagement Manager introduced the report to consider the Forward Work Programme for the Committee.

He advised that the budget meeting for this Committee would take place on the morning of the 18 December 2015 with a 'mop up' meeting to which all Members would be invited, being held in the afternoon of the same day in the Council Chamber. The Chief Executive indicated that the Corporate Services budget and Corporate Finance issues would be considered at the morning meeting.

The Member Engagement Manager detailed the items for consideration at the 14 January 2016 meeting of the Committee. He explained that a further round of budget meetings would be held between 15 and 29 January 2016 and that Members would be advised once the dates for each Committee had been confirmed.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme, as submitted with the verbal amendments, be approved; and
- (b) That the Member Engagement Manager, in consultation with the Chair, Vice-Chair and officers, be authorised to vary the work programme between meetings.

62. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

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

(The meeting started at 10.00am and ended at 12.53 pm)

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Chairman