

CABINET
17TH DECEMBER 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet of Flintshire County Council held as a hybrid meeting on Tuesday 17th December 2024.

PRESENT: **Councillor Dave Hughes (Chair)**
Councillors: Glyn Banks, Chris Bithell, Helen Brown, Chris Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, Paul Johnson Christine Jones, Richard Jones and Linda Thomas.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor David Healey as an observer.

APOLOGIES: None.

CONTRIBUTORS: Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer Housing and Communities), Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy), Chief Officer (Social Services), Corporate Finance Manager, Corporate Manager - People and Organisational Development, Corporate Manager - Capital Programme and Assets, Service Manager, Housing and Assets, Strategic Finance Manager, Strategic Executive Officer and Democratic Services Manager.

IN ATTENDANCE: Team Leader – Democratic Services and Democratic Services Officer.

119. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

120. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on [19th November 2024](#) were submitted and confirmed as a correct record.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings be confirmed as a correct record.

121. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND BUDGET 2025/26 (10.05)
([link to recording](#))

Councillor Johnson presented the [report \(agenda item number 5\)](#) which set out the changes to the 2025/26 additional budget requirement since it was last reported in September. Also provided were details of the provisional settlement that had been announced.

The recommendations in the report were supported, along with two additional recommendations as detailed in (c) and (d) below.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the revised additional budget requirement for the 2025/26 financial year be noted and received;
- (b) That the progress made to identify solutions to bridge the budget gap be noted, and the remaining options available to set a legal and balanced budget once the provisional settlement was confirmed also be noted;
- (c) That the uplift set out in the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement be noted and welcomed; and
- (d) That a letter be sent to the Welsh and UK Governments setting out the Council's concern that a resolution to the Local Government Employers National Insurance contribution issue cannot be left until the spring and must be resolved before Local Authority budgets in Wales are set.

122. CONSULTATION FOR A PROPOSED NEW NATIONAL PARK FOR NORTH-EAST WALES

[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Dolphin introduced the [report \(agenda item number 6\)](#) which allowed Cabinet, on behalf of the Council, to provide a response to the consultation for a proposed new National Park for North-East Wales.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That on the basis of the currently available information, Cabinet does not support the proposal to create a new National Park for North-East Wales; and
- (b) That the final wording of the response appended to the report be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate in conjunction with the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy).

123. DE-CARBONISATION STRATEGY UPDATE

[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Brown introduced the [report \(agenda item number 7\)](#) which provided an update and overview regarding the Council's obligation to create a decarbonisation strategy.

The recommendation in the report was supported.

RESOLVED:

That the delivery of the next phase of the capital investment programme to ensure compliance with the newly updated Welsh Housing Quality Standards requirements and the proposed De-carbonisation Strategy be supported.

124. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2024/25 (MONTH 7)
(link to recording)

Councillor Johnson introduced the [report \(agenda item number 8\)](#) which provided the latest detailed overview of the budget monitoring position for the 2024/25 financial year for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the estimated financial impact on the 2024/25 budget be noted;
- (b) That funding from the Contingency Reserve for illegal tipping costs be approved; and
- (c) That the measures being put in place to improve the financial position by the end of the financial year be supported.

125. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REVIEW 2024/25
(link to recording)

Councillor Johnson introduced the [report \(agenda item number 9\)](#) which had been presented to Governance and Audit Committee with no specific issues, and was to be presented to County Council on 28th January 2025 for final approval.

The recommendation in the report was supported.

RESOLVED:

That the draft Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2024/25 be recommended to County Council on 28th January 2025 for final approval.

126. BUSINESS RATES – WRITE OFF
(link to recording)

Councillor Thomas introduced the [report \(agenda item number 10\)](#) which recommended the write off of a business debt which was deemed as non-recoverable and was required to be written off.

The recommendation in the report was supported.

RESOLVED:

That the Business Rates write off totalling £30,427.45 for Cineworld Cinemas Limited be approved.

127. HOUSING RENT INCOME SERVICE – CHANGE IN REPORTING PORTFOLIO
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Brown introduced the [report \(agenda item number 11\)](#) which sought approval to relocate the Housing Rent Income service from the Governance portfolio to the Housing & Communities portfolio.

The recommendation in the report was supported.

RESOLVED:

That the Housing Rent Income service be transferred from the Governance portfolio to the Housing & Communities portfolio.

128. RECOMMISSIONING OF HOUSING SUPPORT GRANT (HSG) FLOATING SUPPORT CONTRACTS
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Brown introduced the [report \(agenda item number 12\)](#) which provided an overview of the current floating support provision in Flintshire funded by the Housing Support Grant (HSG) and the changes the Housing Support Team were proposing.

The recommendation in the report was supported.

RESOLVED:

That the re-commissioning / re-tendering of Flintshire's Floating Support Services funded by the Housing Support Grant be approved.

129. COST RECOVERY FOR SUPPORTING PUBLIC EVENTS AFFECTING THE HIGHWAY
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Banks introduced the [report \(agenda item number 13\)](#) which set out a methodology for achieving full cost recovery for public events on or impacting the highway to achieve the approved budget.

The recommendation in the report was supported.

RESOLVED:

That in order to achieve the savings target set within the budget for 2024/25 by Council, the following be approved:

- i) the introduction of a formalised policy; and
- ii) the methodology for achieving full cost recovery for public events impacting or on the highway.

130. PROPOSALS BY THE LAW COMMISSION TO REFORM BURIAL AND CREMATION LEGISLATION

[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Banks introduced the [report \(agenda item number 14\)](#) which outlined the Law Commission's consultation paper and detailed the Council's proposed response to the consultation.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed changes to burial and cremation law that are being consulted upon by the Law Commission be noted; and
- (b) That the submission of the proposed response to the public consultation on behalf of Flintshire County Council be approved.

131. FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM INVESTMENT ZONE

[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Hughes introduced the [report \(agenda item number 15\)](#) which provided details of the Investment Zone proposals.

The recommendations in the report were supported, with an additional recommendation as shown in (d) below.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the identified Tax Sites (Deeside Gateway, Warren Hall and Wrexham Industrial Estate) and Retained Rates Areas (Deeside Gateway and Wrexham Industrial Estate) be approved;
- (b) That the proposed Governance Model be approved;
- (c) That the Investment Zone Themes (Innovation, Skills and Transport) and the high-level interventions, which will be refined as part of Gateway 4, be approved; and
- (d) That a briefing session be arranged for all Members.

132. SOCIAL SERVICES CARE INSPECTORATE WALES, PERFORMANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION NOVEMBER 2023 – ACTION PLAN UPDATE

[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Jones introduced the [report \(agenda item number 16\)](#) which provided an update on the progress of implementing the action plan following the Performance Evaluation Inspection of both Adult's and Children's Services.

The recommendation in the report was supported.

RESOLVED:

That the progress made in implementation the action plan be acknowledged and supported.

**133. FUTURE OF INTEGRATED COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH TEAM (CMHT)
[\(link to recording\)](#)**

Councillor Jones introduced the [report \(agenda item number 17\)](#) which sought approval to cease an integrated Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) partnership with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB). This would involve withdrawing Social Workers from the three CMHT Teams and locating them alongside the existing Well Being and Recovery Team within Social Services.

It had been agreed at Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee that a letter would be sent to Welsh Government to outline the reasons for the change.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposals contained in the report be approved; and
- (b) That the process to achieve political support for the proposal be determined.

**134. FLYING START CHILDCARE EXPANSION FLINTSHIRE PROPOSAL
[\(link to recording\)](#)**

Councillor Jones introduced the [report \(agenda item number 18\)](#) which proposed three options for submission to Welsh Government (WG) to seek funding for the local childcare expansion programme.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Flying Start Phase 3 expansion be endorsed and supported, building upon the developments from Phase 1 and Phase 2, and the large and small capital schemes; and
- (b) That the inclusion of the three options be approved for inclusion in a Business Case to Welsh Government (WG) for future programme roll out. WG will base the future grant award on their availability of funding and the bids received from across Wales.

135. CALL-IN REPORT – RESIDUAL WASTE COLLECTION CHANGE IMPLEMENTATION AND POLICY REVIEW
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Banks introduced the [report \(agenda item number 19\)](#) following the recent meeting of Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee where the decision of Cabinet ‘Residual Waste Collection Change Implementation and Policy Review’ was called in.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the decision of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee call-in meeting regarding Record No. 4307 be noted; and
- (b) That the previous decision of Cabinet be amended to include the comments received at the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Household Recycling Centres and the vehicle permit policy (details of the amendment were shown in appendix 2 to the report).

136. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS
[\(link to recording\)](#)

An information [item \(agenda item number 20\)](#) on the actions taken under delegated powers was submitted and noted.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 – TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
[\(link to recording\)](#)

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting for the following items by virtue of exempt information under paragraph(s) 14 and 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

137. STRATEGIC TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

Councillor Jones introduced the report which intended to review Council working practices thereby saving money. Councillors would approve projects for inclusion in the programme and monitor the delivery of savings.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the criteria used to determine which projects qualified for inclusion into the Strategic Transformation Programme (STP) be approved; and

- (b) That the five projects, each having met the criteria, be approved for inclusion in the STP.

138. CAMBRIAN AQUATICS

Councillor Jones introduced the report which was an update report as requested.

A recommendation was moved and seconded.

RESOLVED:

That additional financial support to Cambrian Aquatics be approved, subject to an assessment of compliance with subsidy control legislation and in alignment with the conditions discussed during the meeting.

139. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the press or public in attendance.

(The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and ended at 12.05 p.m.)

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Chair