

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**28 JANUARY 2025**

Minutes of Flintshire County Council held as a hybrid meeting on Tuesday,  
28 January 2025

**PRESENT:**                   **Councillor Dennis Hutchinson (Chair)**  
Councillors:               Mike Allport, Marion Bateman, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell,  
Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Mel Buckley, Teresa Carberry,  
Tina Claydon, David Coggins-Cogan, Geoff Collett, Steve Copple,  
Bill Crease, Rob Davies, Ron Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke,  
Chris Dolphin, Rosetta Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, David Evans,  
Chrissy Gee, David Healey, Gladys Healey, Ian Hodge,  
Andy Hughes, Dave Hughes, Alasdair Ibbotson, Paul Johnson,  
Christine Jones, Richard Jones, Simon Jones, Fran Lister,  
Richard Lloyd, Gina Maddison, Roz Mansell, Allan Marshall,  
Hilary McGuill, Ryan McKeown, Billy Mullin, Debbie Owen,  
Andrew Parkhurst, Mike Peers, Michelle Perfect, Vicky Perfect,  
Carolyn Preece, David Richardson, Ian Roberts, Dan Rose,  
Kevin Rush, Dale Selvester, Sam Swash, Linda Thew,  
Linda Thomas, Ant Turton, Roy Wakelam, Antony Wren and  
Arnold Woolley

**APOLOGIES:**               Councillors: Bernie Attridge, Glyn Banks, Pam Banks,  
Paul Cunningham, Carol Ellis, Ray Hughes, Dave Mackie,  
Ted Palmer and Jason Shallcross

**IN**                               Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer  
**ATTENDANCE:**           (Housing & Communities), Chief Officer (Social Services), Chief  
Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy), Chief Officer  
(Streetscene and Transportation), Corporate Finance Manager,  
Strategic Finance Managers, Corporate Manager (People and  
Organisational Development), Service Manager (Housing Assets),  
Internal Audit, Performance & Risk Manager and Democratic  
Services team

**69.   PRESENTATIONS ([Link to recording](#))**

Presentations were made to Sabrina Fortune and Rhys Darbey in recognition of their Gold Medal achievements at the 2024 Paris Summer Paralympic Games.

In addition, badges were presented to the Chair and Councillors Ian Roberts, Hilary McGuill, Ron Davies and Chris Bithell, together with former Councillor Neville Phillips, who had all served for 25 years or more as elected Members of Flintshire County Council.

**70. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME ([Link to recording](#))**

The Chair reported that one question had been received, as shown in the agenda. When invited to present his question, Colin Randerson thanked the Chair and Council for the opportunity to attend the meeting and read out his question (agenda item 3).

As Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection, Councillor Chris Bithell provided a [response to the question](#).

Colin Randerson asked a supplementary question and was advised that a response would be provided in writing following the meeting.

**71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ([Link to recording](#))**

None received.

**72. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS ([Link to recording](#))**

A copy of the communications listing events attended from 5 December 2024 to 28 January 2025 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**73. PETITIONS ([Link to recording](#))**

None received.

**74. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) 30 YEAR FINANCIAL BUSINESS PLAN ([Link to recording](#))**

The Chief Officer (Housing & Communities) introduced a [report \(agenda item 7\)](#) to seek approval of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2025/26, the HRA Business Plan and the summary 30 year Financial Business Plan. She gave a joint presentation with the Strategic Finance Manager and Service Manager (Housing Assets) on the key points for consideration.

During the debate, it was suggested that Councillor Mansell contact the Service Manager directly to discuss garage sites in her ward.

On being put to the vote, the recommendations were carried.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the HRA budget for 2025/26, as set out in the report, be approved;
- (b) That the proposed minimum rent increase of 2.7% be approved;
- (c) That the proposed garage rent increase of 2.7% be approved;
- (d) That the proposed increase in service charges to full cost recovery be approved;

- (e) That the pressures and efficiencies set out in Appendix A be approved; and
- (f) That the proposed HRA Capital programme for 2025/26 be approved, as set out in Appendix B.

**75. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2024/25 ([Link to recording](#))**

The Corporate Finance Manager presented a [report \(agenda item 8\)](#) to seek approval of the Treasury Management mid-year report for 2024/25 following endorsement by the Governance & Audit Committee and Cabinet.

The recommendation was supported.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2024/25 be approved.

**76. GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT ([Link to recording](#))**

The Internal Audit, Performance & Risk Manager presented the [report \(agenda item 9\)](#) to seek approval of the Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report for 2023/24.

The recommendation was supported.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Governance and Audit Committee's annual report for 2023/24 be approved.

**77. NOTICE OF MOTION ([Link to recording](#))**

The Chief Officer (Governance) advised that the following Notices of Motion had been submitted:

**Notice of Motion: The Crown Estate**

Councillor Simon Jones introduced the [Notice of Motion \(agenda item 10\)](#) which was seconded by Councillor David Healey.

During discussion, Councillor David Healey moved an amendment that the UK Government be asked to devolve funds directly to Welsh authorities and was seconded by Councillor Marion Bateman. Councillor Simon Jones explained his reasons for rejecting the amendment and Councillor Healey subsequently withdrew his amendment.

Councillor Simon Jones agreed to include additional wording on 'tidal riverbeds' within the scope of Crown Estate assets in his Notice of Motion.

On being put to the vote, the substantive Notice of Motion, as amended, was supported.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Flintshire County Council supports the campaign to devolve management of the Crown Estate and its assets, including tidal riverbeds, in Wales to the Welsh Government and that the funds raised to be shared equitably to Welsh Local Authorities to support the social needs of the people who live in our communities; and
2. That Council instructs the Leader of the Council to write to the Welsh Government and the Members of Parliament and the Senedd representing Flintshire outlining our support to help persuade Westminster to devolve the Crown Estate.

**Notice of Motion: Aggregates Levy**

Councillor Andrew Parkhurst introduced the [Notice of Motion \(agenda item 10\)](#) which was seconded by Councillor Fran Lister.

The Notice of Motion was supported.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Council requests the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council to write to Mark Drakeford MS as Cabinet Member for Finance and call on Welsh Government to negotiate with the UK Government the devolution of the Aggregates Levy in such a way as to ensure that local authorities in whose areas minerals are extracted benefit directly and proportionately from the Levy; and
2. That Council elicits support for this approach from other local authorities through its membership of the North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party and through other appropriate channels.

**Notice of Motion: Home Schooling**

Councillor Hilary McGuill introduced the [Notice of Motion \(agenda item 10\)](#) which was seconded by Councillor Mared Eastwood.

Councillor Teresa Carberry advised that a letter had been sent by the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee to Welsh Government (WG) in 2023 in support of a register for home schooled children. She read out the response which confirmed that this was amongst a number of options being considered by WG to strengthen the framework.

Following discussion, Councillor McGuill agreed that the comments raised by Members would be reflected in the letter to WG. On that basis, the Notice of Motion was supported.

## **RESOLVED:**

That Council requests a further letter to be sent to the Cabinet Secretary for Education to link with Westminster to develop legislation to support children who are home educated, making reference to the response previously given by Jeremy Myles MS, including the following points:

- To reiterate the need for a register of all children of school age who are home educated including those who have never attended a school.
- To introduce a system to assign a unique identification number to all children from birth, similar to an adult National Insurance number, including children residing in the UK after birth.

*The Chair called a brief adjournment prior to the next agenda item.*

## **78. PAY POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2025/26 ([Link to recording](#))**

The Corporate Manager, People and Organisational Development presented a [report \(agenda item 11\)](#) to seek approval of the Pay Policy Statement for 2025/26 due for publication within the statutory deadline.

In response to comments about the potential to expand performance-related pay for all employees, the Chief Executive advised that this would be included in one of the workstreams in the Transformation Programme.

The recommendations were supported, subject to amendment of the typographical error on page 16 of the Pay Policy Statement.

## **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That subject to the amendment on page 16, the appended draft Pay Policy Statement for 2025/26 be approved; and
- (b) That County Council delegate authority to the Corporate Manager, People and Organisational Development to update the Pay Policy Statement 2025/26 during the year to reflect any changes required by legislation, Government policy or national negotiations so that it remains accurate and current.

## **79. QUESTIONS ([Link to recording](#))**

Five [Questions \(agenda item 12\)](#) had been received by the deadline. They were read out by the Members who had submitted them and answered by the relevant Cabinet Member. Some supplementary questions were asked, to be followed up by a written response.

An urgent question submitted to the Cabinet Member for Streetscene & Transportation had been received after the deadline and was permitted. A written response was circulated on behalf of the Cabinet Member who was not present.

**80. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE**

There were nine members of the public present at the start of the meeting.

(The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and ended at 4.34pm)

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**Chair**