

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
18 OCTOBER 2022

Minutes of Flintshire County Council held as a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, 18 October 2022

PRESENT: Councillor Mared Eastwood (Chair)

Councillors: Mike Allport, Bernie Attridge, Glyn Banks, Pam Banks, Marion Bateman, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Mel Buckley, Teresa Carberry, Tina Claydon, Geoff Collett, Steve Cople, Paul Cunningham, Rob Davies, Ron Davies, Chris Dolphin, Rosetta Dolphin, Carol Ellis, David Evans, Chrissy Gee, David Healey, Gladys Healey, Ian Hodge, Ray Hughes, Dennis Hutchinson, Alasdair Ibbotson, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones, Richard Jones, Simon Jones, Richard Lloyd, Dave Mackie, Gina Maddison, Roz Mansell, Allan Marshall, Hilary McGuill, Ryan McKeown, Billy Mullin, Debbie Owen, Ted Palmer, Andrew Parkhurst, Michelle Perfect, Vicky Perfect, Carolyn Preece, David Richardson, Ian Roberts, Dan Rose, Kevin Rush, Dale Selvester, Jason Shallcross, Sam Swash, Linda Thew, Linda Thomas, Roy Wakelam, Arnold Woolley and Antony Wren

APOLOGIES: Councillors: Adele Davies-Cooke, David Coggins Cogan, Jean Davies, Andy Hughes, David Hughes, Mike Peers, and Ant Turton

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy), Chief Officer (Social Services), Chief Officer (Housing and Community), Corporate Finance Manager, Head of Democratic Services, Corporate Manager – Capital Programme and Assets, Strategic Finance Manager, and Democratic Services team

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chief Officer (Governance) advised that a personal interest would be recorded for all Members on item 7: Schedule of Remuneration for 2022/23, and on item 8: Amendments to Clwyd Pension Fund Constitution

41. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair referred to her communication which had been circulated prior to the meeting and listed the events she had attended between 27 July - 18 October 2022.

42. PETITIONS

None were received.

43. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2021/22

The Chief Executive presented the Annual Performance Report for 2021/22. He provided background information and advised that the Annual Performance

Report reviewed progress against the Council's Priorities as detailed in the Council Plan 2021/22 and supporting measures document (Part 2).

The Chief Executive drew attention to the performance indicator out-turns as detailed in section 1.04 of the report and explained that performance against the Council Plan measures was positive with 73% of the performance indicators meeting or exceeding target for the year, compared to 67% the previous year. Referring to Regulation, Audit and Inspection activity the Chief Executive reported that the Auditor General had not made any statutory recommendations with which the Council must comply so far.

In moving the recommendation in the report Councillor Ian Roberts said it was important to note that the Council's achievements within the Improvement Plan 2021/22 were gained as it had emerged from the impact of the Covid pandemic and the implications of economic turmoil in world markets. He reiterated that despite the challenges performance within services had been positive with 73% meeting or exceeding targets. Councillor Roberts spoke of the "good" work which was delivered in local communities in Flintshire and said the Council would continue to strengthen and improve systems overall during the current financial year. He applauded officers and staff for their work during recent unprecedented and difficult years.

Councillor Ian Roberts was seconded by Councillor Billy Mullin.

Councillor Andrew Parkhurst raised concern that insufficient weight was given in the Annual Report to those areas which were known to need improvement and cited the Corporate Contact Centre and completion of action following Risk Management Assurance reviews as examples. The Chief Executive acknowledged that some areas required further development and said he had given a commitment to follow through on progress and would continue to do so.

In response to the comments made by Councillor Parkhurst concerning the Corporate Contact Centre, the Chief Officer (Governance) provided background information and context to explain the reasons for performance.

Councillor Richard Jones expressed concern that 19% of performance measures had missed target by a significant margin and said this was the highest level in the last 5 years. The Chief Executive explained why some of the measures had not achieved target and commented on the challenges presented by the UK economic situation, and changes to Welsh Government policy (citing delivery of the Quality Partnership as an example), which had impacted on performance measures. In response to the further comments raised by Councillor Jones concerning the 11 performance measures referred to in the report which had significantly missed target it was agreed that this figure would be cross-checked against the portfolio improvement areas which were identified in the Annual Performance Report.

Councillor Sam Swash raised a point of accuracy on page 14 of the report and said the reference to social value and the target of £2854 was incorrect and should read £2,854,266 as stated on page 27.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Performance Report 2021-22 be approved.

44. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

The Corporate Finance Manager presented the Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22. He advised that as required by the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, the Annual Report was reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee on 27 July 2022 and Cabinet on 26 September 2022. There had been no significant issues raised. The Corporate Finance Manager reported on the main points as detailed in 1.05 – 1.09 of the covering report.

In moving the recommendation in the report Councillor Paul Johnson thanked the Corporate Finance Manager and his team for their work on producing the Annual Report. This was seconded by Councillor Ted Palmer.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Treasury Management Report 2021/22 be approved.

45. SCHEDULE OF REMUNERATION FOR 2022/23

The Head of Democratic Services presented the report on the Schedule of Remuneration for 2022/23. He advised that each year, the Council was required to produce a Schedule of Remuneration for elected and co-opted members. The Schedule was appended to the report and following approval would be published and sent to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

The Head of Democratic Services drew attention to an amendment to be made to page 73 of the report and said that Councillor Alasdair Ibbotson had since been appointed as Chair of the Climate Change Committee and the appropriate remuneration would be added.

Councillor Bernie Attridge moved the recommendation in the report and this was seconded by Councillor Ian Roberts.

RESOLVED:

That the completed Schedule of Remuneration for 2022/23 be approved for publication.

46. AMENDMENTS TO CLWYD PENSION FUND CONSTITUTION

The Chief Officer (Governance) presented the report to review and update the Delegation Scheme for the Clwyd Pension Fund. He provided background information and advised that the report outlined the proposed changes to the Constitution and the Pension Board's Protocol to:

- reflect the proposal that the Head of Clwyd Pension Fund is the senior

- officer with responsibility for operational delivery of the Pension Fund, rather than the Chief Executive; and
- ensure that the Constitution is fully reflective of the status of pension fund management as a non-executive function.

Other incidental changes were included in the Appendix.

Councillor Ted Palmer moved the recommendation in the report and this was seconded by Councillor Rob Davies.

RESOLVED:

That the changes outlined in the appendix to the Clwyd Pension Fund Constitution and the Pension Board Protocol be approved.

47. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Head of Democratic Services presented the report to seek approval to the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for each of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees. He provided background information and said the proposed changes to the terms of reference were shown in appendix 2 of the report.

The Head of Democratic Services explained that the new proposed terms of reference were considered by each of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees at their meetings in July 2022, where specific changes were presented. In response to questions around matters that fell within the remit of one or more Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members were advised that the decision as to which Overview and Scrutiny Committee would consider it would be resolved by the Constitution & Democratic Services Committee, but that it would be possible for Members of both Committees to take part in consideration of a relevant report. Following consideration of the report each Overview & Scrutiny Committee supported the proposed amendments to its terms of reference.

Councillor Rob Davies moved the recommendation in the report and this was seconded by Councillor Bernie Attridge.

Councillor Richard Jones referred to page 123 of the report and proposed that the reference to Clwyd Pension Fund, under the heading Corporate Resources, be amended to read 'as an employer/member of the Pension Fund' to give clarity around the Council's role. The amendment to the recommendation was agreed by Councillors Rob Davies and Bernie Attridge.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for each of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees be approved: and
- (b) That the reference to Clwyd Pension Fund, under the heading Corporate Resources, be amended to read 'as an employer/member of the Pension Fund'.

48. RECRUITMENT OF A TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Chief Officer (Governance) presented the report. He provided background information and advised that all Councils had been asked whether they wished to nominate candidates. Six were nominated and each prepared a pen portrait which was sent to all Town and Community Councils. Councils were asked to select their 1st preference candidate. The candidate with the most 1st preference votes would be chosen. In case this produced a tie they were also asked to nominate their 2nd preference candidate, which could be used to choose between any candidates with an equal number of 1st preference votes. Councillor Ian Papworth, Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor Community Council, had a clear majority of both 1st and 2nd preference votes.

Councillor Billy Mullin moved the recommendations in the report and this was seconded by Councillor Helen Brown.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That candidates be thanked for their interest; and
- (b) That Councillor Ian Papworth be appointed as the Town and Community Council representative to the Standards Committee until the elections in May 2027.

49. QUESTIONS

The Chief Officer (Governance) advised that none had been received by the deadline.

50. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chief Officer (Governance) advised that none had been received by the deadline.

51. NOTICE OF MOTION

The Chief Officer (Governance) advised that none had been received by the deadline.

52. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 2.45 pm)

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Chair