

EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28 MAY 2024

Minutes of the special Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held as a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, 28 May 2024

PRESENT: **Councillor Teresa Carberry (Chair)**
Councillors: Gladys Healey, Dave Mackie, Gina Maddison, Ryan McKeown, Debbie Owen, Andrew Parkhurst, Carolyn Preece, Jason Shallcross and Arnold Woolley

CO-OPTEEs: Lisa Allen and Lynne Bartlett

SUBSTITUTIONS: Councillors: Helen Brown (for Bill Crease) and Mel Buckley (for Paul Cunningham)

ALSO PRESENT AS OBSERVERS: Councillors: Glyn Banks, Marion Bateman, Chris Bithell, Gillian Brockley, David Coggins Cogan, Ron Davies, Chrissy Gee, David Healey, Dave Hughes, Dennis Hutchinson, Alasdair Ibbotson, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones, Allan Marshall, Hilary McGuill, Mike Peers, David Richardson, Dan Rose, Sam Swash, Linda Thew and Linda Thomas.

CONTRIBUTORS: Councillor Mared Eastwood (Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure); Chief Executive Strategic Executive Officer, and Strategic Finance Manager and Corporate Manager for People and Organisational Development.

IN ATTENDANCE: Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator, Democratic Services Manager and Democratic Services Officer

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair commented that the Council was in favour of disclosing as much information as possible concerning the decision it makes. For the reasons outlined on page 2 of the report the Chair asked for a proposer and seconder from Members of the Committee to exclude the press and public and move into Part 2.

RESOLVED:

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

13. FUTURE OPTIONS: LEISURE, LIBRARIES, AND MUSEUM SERVICES

The Chief Executive introduced the report which outlined the Future Options for Leisure, Libraries and Museum Services for the committee to consider. It was explained that the recommendations from this meeting would be taken to Cabinet later in the week.

The Strategic Executive Officer and Strategic Finance Manager provided a presentation which included an overview of the current operating arrangements and options appraisal for future delivery for the Committee to consider and share opinions on preferred options to Cabinet. The Corporate Manager (People and Organisational Development) provided information on TUPE and explained the Pension implications.

A number of questions were raised by Members, with responses provided by Officers in attendance. Questions asked covered the following areas:-

- The recommendations made by FMG Consulting Ltd;
- Members having sight of additional financial information, specifically around financial implications;
- The continuity of service and possible disruption to service users;
- Members having sight of legal advice;
- Subsidy Legislation;

The Chair referred to the recommendations outlined within the report and suggested that, following the debate, and the comments made by Members, further information was required and that the recommendations should be amended to reflect this.

A recorded vote was requested on the following proposed recommendations:-

- a) That the background information and current position in relation to leisure, libraries, play and museum services had been hard to obtain and lacking in detail;
- b) That the Committee ask Cabinet to seek to continue a contract with Aura; and
- c) That further reports be brought back to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee as the work progressed and as required.

For the recommendations:-

Councillors: Helen Brown, Gladys Healey, Dave Mackie, Debbie Owen, Andrew Parkhurst, Carolyn Preece, Jason Shallcross and Arnold Woolley

Against the recommendations:-

No Members voted against the recommendations.

Abstentions:-

Councillors: Teresa Carberry, Mel Buckley, Gina Maddison and Ryan McKeown

RESOLVED:

- d) That the background information and current position in relation to leisure, libraries, play and museum services had been hard to obtain and lacking in detail;
- e) That the Committee ask Cabinet to seek to continue a contract with Aura; and
- f) That further reports be brought back to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee as the work progressed and as required.

14. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

None.

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

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Chair

Meetings of the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee are webcast and can be viewed by visiting the webcast library at <http://flintshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>