# Your Council

News from Flintshire County Council

## November Edition 2015

## Public Engagement Events

### Meeting the Financial Challenge

Over 300 people have already registered to attend a series of public engagement events to hear about the financial challenge being faced by Flintshire County Council.

Local services and community facilities are under threat because of big reductions in public spending,and the Council is calling on the public to stand up for their local services.

The public engagement events start on Monday, November 16 when people can hear how they can get involved in shaping services for the future and make their views count in the budget debate. People can still register to attend one of seven events being held around the county.

Those attending will hear how the council is addressing the financial challenge and how local communities can get involved and play their part. A film animation will illustrate the funding gap and there will be interactive voting on a range of questions asking people for their views.

The Council needs to significantly reduce its budget and make unprecedented changes to the way services are delivered in light of substantial government funding reductions year on year.

This comes at a time when the Council is facing unavoidable increases in costs and demand for services. An efficient and innovative Council, Flintshire has a strong track record of managing within its available funding, saving over £22m in the past three years. In doing so, key services such as maintaining roads, keeping communities clean and tidy, leisure centres, local schools, welfare support and services for older people, vulnerable children and those with disabilities have been protected.

But between now and 2018 the forecast is bleak with the Council facing a further budget gap of £53m. This year alone £18.3m has been saved towards this target, and a serious ‘tipping point’ has now been reached. The Council has published a detailed Medium Term Financial Strategy setting out how it proposes to meet the challenges ahead. It needs the support of Welsh Government and the public to achieve it.

Council Leader Aaron Shotton said: "We are one of the lowest funded Councils in Wales and charge around the Welsh average for Council Tax, but this low funding level combined with the effects of the continuing UK austerity agenda does expose us to particularly high levels of budget reductions.I'm encouraged that more than 300 people have so far shown an interest in taking part in the debate."

Chief Executive Colin Everett added: "This is the moment for the public to get involved. We are already supporting and working with local people to find local solutions to provide services and are encouraged by the response so far."

People can register to attend one of seven public engagement events being held at venues across the County starting on 16 November.

People need to register to attend now as numbers will be limited to 200 at each venue. They can do this by going on line at http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/OurMoment (http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/OurMoment) or by telephoning a special registration line on 01352 701701 from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

The events will be from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at the following locations:

Monday, November 16: Elfed High School, Buckley

Tuesday, November 17: Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint

Wednesday, November 18: Holywell High School

Monday, November 23: Ysgol Bryn Coch,Mold

Tuesday, November 24: Broughton CP School

Thursday, December 3: Civic Hall, Connah's Quay

Monday, December 7 : Sandycroft CP School

## Register Now

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