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Jocelyn Davies AM
Chair, Finance Committee
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MSO/AJB
25 October 2012
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Dear Ms Davies

Finance Committee – 17 October 2012

In response to the question asked at the Committee, I provide the further information requested on the proportion of Wrexham Council's Adult Social Care budget which is spent on Care Home Fees. The 2012/13 planned spend equates to 33% of the Adult Social Care net budget.

Budgetary Planning for the Future

Wrexham County Borough Council has an approved Medium Term Financial Plan and has estimated the likely impact of the reduction in Local Government spending over the next five years. It's main focus has been to the end of the current spending review period and this is being further updated following the publication of the provisional settlement.

Sustainability

Wrexham County Borough Council has made good progress in addressing both the current and future environmental targets. Its Waste Recovery Facility has been contracted on the basis that the landfill and recycling targets will be delivered. Consequently the financial impact of this in contractual terms has been built in to the Medium Term Financial Plan. In terms of carbon measures, then the Council performed well in the first year of the Carbon Reduction Tax finishing in the top quartile. The approach utilised was to establish an internal invest to save fund which paid for energy efficiency improvements and the savings were fed back into the fund to enable further works to take place. Some external funding has been levered into the Authority and prudential borrowing used for specific schemes eg solar panels.

It is important that Wales Government continue such specific grants as ARBED and NEST. There may also be some scope for a similar scheme to the road improvements borrowing initiative where Councils are able to borrow for energy efficiency measures with the Wales Government guaranteeing revenue funding of the borrowing costs.

Yours sincerely

Head of Finance

