

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

DATE: **12 DECEMBER 2012**

REPORT BY: **DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE MANAGER**

SUBJECT: **ANNUAL UPDATE OF CODE OF CORPORATE
GOVERNANCE**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To agree the annual update of the code of corporate governance.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The Council's code of corporate governance forms part of the Constitution and applies to all aspects of the Council's business. Members and staff of the Council must in carrying out its business conduct themselves in accordance with the high standards expected by the citizens of Flintshire. The code recognises the emphasis placed upon corporate governance by the Welsh Government and is based upon and reflects the various principles in the CIPFA/SOLACE document entitled "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government : Framework".
- 2.02 The code states that the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer are responsible for ensuring that it is kept up-to-date by way of annual reviews commencing in October each year. This updating review was initially carried out by the Corporate Governance Officer Working Group in consultation with the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Head of Finance. The recommended updating changes were then reported to the Corporate Management Team meeting of the 20 November 2012 when the updates were agreed. Appendix 1 is the code with the proposed updating changes tracked.
- 2.03 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 in April 2012 broadened the terms of reference of Audit Committees to include corporate governance. In the past the annual updates to the code of corporate governance have been reported to the Constitution Committee but in view of the widened terms of reference of the Audit Committee it is more appropriate for it to now be considered by the Audit Committee.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 The code has received detailed consideration by the Corporate Governance Officer Working Group and this is one of the reasons that there appears to be so many updating changes. The other reason is that in the past year there have been more than the usual number of changes as a result of the implementation of the Local Government (Wales) Measure and the changes made at the Council's annual meeting following the elections.
- 3.02 The only substantive (rather than updating) change has been to insert as paragraph 4.11 details of the Council's business continuity arrangements which were not previously referred to in the code.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 For the Audit Committee to agree or amend as appropriate the updated code of corporate governance shown in appendix 1.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 None as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

- 10.01 With the Corporate Governance Working Group, Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 officer.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

- 11.01 With the Corporate Governance Working Group, Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 officer and with Corporate Management Team.

12.00 APPENDICES

- 12.01 Appendix 1 – Code of corporate governance with tracked proposed updates.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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