

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CABINET
DATE: TUESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2013
REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
SUBJECT: FLINTSHIRE FUTURES UPDATE

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To provide an update on progress of achievement against the Flintshire Futures efficiency targets.
- 1.02 To provide an update on the strengthened Flintshire Futures governance arrangements.
- 1.03 To consider capacity building proposals recommended by the Flintshire Futures Programme Board for agreement.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The Flintshire Futures programme is a “whole” Council approach to organisational change and efficiencies. The programme has been structured to include a mixture of short (up to 12 months), medium (up to 3 years) and longer (up to 5 years) term projects.
- 2.02 Over the past 12 months organisational change projects under the themes of Assets, Customer, Finance, Procurement and Workforce have been the priority.
- 2.03 A report was considered by the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October, 2012 which provided an update on the progress of the programme and particularly the Corporate Change Projects.
- 2.04 Although there have always been programme and project management arrangements in place using the Council’s project management methodologies member involvement in programme governance had been limited. The new Cabinet and Corporate Management have since improved and strengthened Programme Governance arrangements.
- 2.05 The forecast budget gap within our Medium Term Financial Strategy has reinforced the need to inject pace and ambition in to the programme to contribute to the level of efficiencies needed whilst protecting public services.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 The budget report setting out the initial budget proposals for 2013/14 considered by Cabinet on 18th December included forward predictions. Even though the Flintshire Futures programme will secure over £4M of efficiencies for 2013/14 there is still a gap of £1.5M to be filled, with further cumulative efficiencies of £30M to be achieved over the 5 year period to 2017/18.
- 3.02 Plans are in being to bridge the 2013/14 gap; but the Council needs to develop and accelerate its corporate change programme for future years. To do this we need to allocate invest-to-save funds to specific programmes and projects.
- 3.03 The Flintshire Futures Programme Board is now in place with strengthened Member involvement. The Terms of Reference of the Board have been agreed and are attached for information at Appendix 1. The Member representation on the Board is made up of the Leader (Chair), Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and the Chair of Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.04 The Board met on the 10th December, 2012 and considered capacity proposals from each of the Corporate Change theme lead officers. The proposals set out the requirements, business case, anticipated return on investment and whether the capacity was likely to be resourced internally or externally. A summary of the agreed proposals is attached at Appendix 2. The target return on investment ratio agreed for the programme as whole is 5:1, the proposals as agreed by the board estimate a 9:1 return.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That Cabinet note the level of Flintshire Futures efficiencies included in the current Medium Term Financial Plan which will be updated and reported in the final 2012/13 budget report.
- 4.02 That Cabinet note the Flintshire Futures governance arrangements and the Terms of Reference for the main Programme Board.
- 4.03 That Cabinet approve the capacity proposals agreed and recommended by the Board.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 Funding of the approved capacity bids can be fully met from the balance in the previous year's change budget brought forward and the allocation for change and improvement in the 2012/13 budget which

was allocated following the 2011/12 outturn. A summary of the costs and efficiencies is attached at Appendix 2.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None directly from this report

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None directly from this report

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None directly from this report

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None directly from this report

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference Flintshire Futures Programme Board.

Appendix 2 – Flintshire Futures Capacity Proposals Summary – as approved by programme board.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Contact Officer: Chris Guest
Telephone: 01352 702800
Email: chris.guest@flintshire.gov.uk