

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 30 JANUARY 2013

REPORT BY: MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

SUBJECT: FOUR PROTOCOLS FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
WITH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To enable the committee to consider and agree the four draft public engagement protocols for Overview & Scrutiny which have been produced pursuant to Section 62 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and Paragraph 5.26 of the Statutory Guidance from the Local Government Measure 2011.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 From the outset, public engagement has been recognised as an essential for effective Overview & Scrutiny. It was identified as being one of the 6 conditions for effective scrutiny in the 2002 report which was produced by the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
- 2.02 Subsequently, despite the best efforts of the majority of Local Authorities, the Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and the Centre of Public Scrutiny (CfPS), public engagement with Overview & Scrutiny and visa versa has not been successful as hoped.
- 2.03 Flintshire has had a number of initiatives for public engagement, including a facility on our website since 2003 to enable members of the public to suggest topics for Overview & Scrutiny, together with attending meetings of town and community councils, school VIth forms and the Over-50s forum. However, it is reasonable to say that the response received has not justified the amount of resource which we have put into this.
- 2.04 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Guidance arising from that have recommended that Local Authorities develop Four Protocols to assist in the consistent application of public engagement practices. This report deals with the draft protocols which have been prepared.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The Four Protocols are :-

- Public speaking arrangements at Scrutiny Committee / joint Overview & Scrutiny Committees (to include call in)
- Public involvement in sub-committee and all Task & Finish Group meetings
- Managing a request for Scrutiny (including Petitions)
- Dealing with requests for public co-option.

3.02 The “Four Protocols document” is attached as appendix one for the committee’s consideration. Appendix two is a list of topics which have previously been considered by Overview & Scrutiny: it is intended that this will be included, for illustrative purposes, on the website. (www.flintshire.gov.uk/scrutiny)

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That the Committee considers and comments on the Four draft Public Engagement Protocols for Overview & Scrutiny

4.02 That having regard to the above, the Committee approves the Protocols for use in our engaging with the public.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 There are no financial implications arising directly out of this report

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None as result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 The Four Protocols are intended to make Overview & Scrutiny more accessible to members of the public and as such would be published in both English and Welsh.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 The public engagement protocols may result in an increase in the workload for the Overview & Scrutiny Team

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Publication of this report constitutes consultation

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Publication of this report constitutes consultation

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 (1) Four Protocols for Public Engagement
 (2) List of previous topics considered by Overview & Scrutiny.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None other than those identified in the report.

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