

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE: TUESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2013
REPORT BY: DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE MANAGER
SUBJECT: COMMUNITY REVIEW

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To inform Council of the planning arrangements for the community review.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The County Council has a duty under the Local Government Act 1972 to keep Town & Community boundaries and the electoral arrangements for communities within its area under review. Over a period of time the numbers living in the communities change as a result of factors such as new housing developments. This can lead to anomalies and inconsistencies, not only between differing communities but also within different wards of a single community.

2.02 It has been several years since the County Council last carried out a community review. The Council has committed to a review and it had been the intention to commence such a community review at the beginning of 2013 to take advantage of the fact that no elections were planned until May 2014 and the Council's elections staff would have the capacity to assist in the community review process.

2.03 On the 29 November 2012 the Welsh Government published the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill. That Bill replicates the existing provisions for community reviews in the 1972 Act but also adds provisions detailing the process that should be followed in conducting a community review.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The detailed provisions in the Bill about how a review must be conducted may be amended as part of the parliamentary process leading to enactment. This creates a potential difficulty in that if the Council conducted a community review in accordance with the provisions in the Bill that work could prove abortive if those provisions were amended as part of the parliamentary process. As currently drafted the Bill provides that the provisions relating to community review will come into effect two months after the Bill receives Royal Assent.

3.02 If however, this was altered so that the provisions only came into effect for community reviews commencing after Royal Assent this problem would disappear and the Council could commence the community review in accordance with the provisions in the Bill without there being a risk that the work would prove abortive.

3.03 Attached as appendix 1 is a draft timetable showing the various stages of a community review and an indicative timescale. The indicative timescale assumes that the Welsh Government will give assurance to the Council in the near future that the Bill will be amended so that its provisions relating to community reviews will only apply to reviews commenced after Royal Assent.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 To note the position of the community review.

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 None as a result of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 With Group Leaders

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 – Draft Timetable

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

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