

Just FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 18 JUNE 2013**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

SUBJECT: **OUTCOME AGREEMENT WITH WELSH**
 GOVERNMENT - ASSESSMENT OF 2012/13

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To present an end of year position of progress against the Outcome Agreement for 2012/13.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 **Outcome Agreements**

The Outcome Agreements were introduced by Welsh Government to identify how we work towards improving outcomes for local people against the Government's National priorities. In addition Outcome Agreements had to have a strong collaborative content and evidence of partnership working to have the greatest impact.

2.02 The Outcome Agreement is a three year agreement (from 2010/11 to 2012/13) based on ten strategic themes, with one broad outcome selected from within each theme. The themes and outcomes were agreed by Welsh Government and approved by Executive and the Local Service Board.

2.03 The Council received full payment of the grant (£1.48m) for 2011/12 and 2010/11. Payment is based on a pro rata scoring system which measures achievement of the authority's performance. Last year we received a score of 25/30 points (full payment is made to scores of 25 and over). Full payment of the grant can only be achieved if collaborative action is demonstrated and is successful in at least nine of the ten outcomes.

3.00 **CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 **Outcome Agreement 2012/13**

The final year's performance (2012/13) of the Outcome Agreement is complete and a self assessment of performance against the actions and measures has been undertaken. This assessment currently shows 6 fully successful themes, 3 partially successful themes and 1 unsuccessful theme.

Outcome Agreement Theme	Self-Assessment Categorisation
Theme 1 - Improved quality and length of life, with fairer outcomes for all	Fully Successful
Theme 2 - Good social care allows people a better quality of life	Partially Successful
Theme 3 - A strong and prosperous economy helps reduce poverty	Fully Successful
Theme 4 - Children and young people grow up as active citizens and achieve the highest possible standards of wellbeing	Unsuccessful
Theme 5 - People have the education and skills to live prosperous, fulfilled lives	Fully Successful
Theme 6 - Communities are vibrant and safe, with access to good housing and sustainable transport	Fully Successful
Theme 7 - Wales is an energy efficient, low carbon and low waste society	Partially Successful
Theme 8 - The environment is protected and sustainable	Fully Successful
Theme 9 - Our language, culture and heritage thrives	Fully Successful
Theme 10 - Public Services are efficient and provide value for money	Partially Successful

3.02 Given the assessment above, it is expected that Flintshire County Council will achieve 25 points, the minimum required to achieve full grant (approximately £1.467m).

3.03 Further detail is provided in the following paragraphs for those areas which are assessed as 'partially successful' or 'unsuccessful':

3.03a **Theme 2 – Good social care allows people a better quality of life**

Three DFGs for children were completed in Quarter 4 in an average of 245 days. However, in the data validation process at the end of the year a number of completions were identified that had not previously been reported. This included 3 particularly long and complex cases, which took the overall average for the year to 482 days, (significantly above the 350 day target). There were a relatively small number of children's adaptations (18 in the year) but these tend to take far longer than adaptations for adults as they are more likely to require extensions.

3.03b **Theme 4 – Children and young people grow up as active citizens and achieve the highest possible standards of wellbeing**

Year end data for the achievement of outcomes for clients (young people only) leaving supported housing is now measured using a scale from 1 (not achieved) to 5 (fully achieved) rather than 'full', 'partial' or 'not achieved'. The introduction of this new method for assessment means that direct comparison is not possible. A method of comparison has been agreed with the service, however the results indicate that none of the 5 outcome measure targets can be evidenced to have been achieved. Work is currently being undertaken to collect alternative evidence to support the achievements of the projects and the outcomes of the clients.

3.03c **Theme 7 – Wales is an energy efficient, low carbon and low waste society**
Welsh Government place most emphasis on 1 measure within this theme; "Flintshire Local Service Board (LSB) is committed to the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions". At present the final year end figures are only available for Flintshire County Council.

It should be noted that the decrease of 12.68% reported for 2011/12 was incorrect due to inaccurate utility invoicing. The absolute decrease for 2011/12 has now been recalculated as 7.19%.

The figures reported in previous years for the carbon reduction calculations for the Outcome Agreement have not been weather corrected to take account of particularly cold years and therefore do not allow for a more accurate comparison. For Flintshire County Council the absolute increase for 2012/13 is 5.57%, but weather corrected the outturn would be a 2.66% reduction.

However it cannot be assumed that all partners will achieve a weather corrected reduction as some have acquired new buildings and the effectiveness of their carbon reduction measures on existing assets is currently unknown. Early indications for some of the other North Wales Councils estimate absolute increases of 10%+ on 2011/12, which indicates that Flintshire County Council's interventions have had a positive effect in reducing emissions.

3.03d **Theme 10 – Public Services are efficient and provide value for money**

Full roll out of the P2P system will not be complete by the end of March 2013 as originally targeted due to issues arising with the integration of existing service back office systems. It is now scheduled to be complete by the end September 2013. It is estimated that the roll out is currently 50% complete.

3.04 A full copy of the self assessment is available in the Members' Library and on request.

3.05 Welsh Government will undertake their own assessment during the summer. We should know the outcome in the autumn and will report this to Cabinet following the evaluation. During this assessment additional evidence will be provided (where available) to support that improvement has been achieved in those areas which are not assessed as 'fully successful'.

- 3.06 A new model to replace the current Outcome Agreement model is being introduced for 2013/14 by Welsh Government. This new model means that achievement will be assessed over the next three years in two ways: -
- firstly by an assessment of achievement against five newly selected outcomes taken from the strategic themes of the Programme for Government (as opposed to the current ten) and;
 - secondly by an assessment of 'performance and governance' including service performance, governance and existing forms of intervention or tailored programmes of support.

The new Outcome Agreement for 2013/14 will be shaped during the next few months prior to seeking Cabinet approval in autumn.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 Cabinet to note the progress made against the Outcome Agreement for 2012/13 and receive a further report following the evaluation by Welsh Government.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 Full grant will not be paid by Welsh Government if their assessment is that we have achieved less than 25 points. If they assess that the achievement is between 20 and 24 points the total grant payable will be 75% (approximately £1.1m).
- 5.02 The Council's budget assumes receipt of the full grant of £1.467m, so receipt of a lower amount would result in a pressure on the budget for the year.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 There are no specific anti-poverty implications within this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 There are no specific environmental implications within this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 There are no specific equality implications within this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 There are no specific personnel implications within this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 A report of the self assessment will be presented to the Local Service Board.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Consultation has been undertaken with Corporate Management Team in the self assessment of our Outcome Agreement.

12.00 APPENDICES

None

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

None.

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