

## **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:**           **HOUSING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DATE:**               **WEDNESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2014**

**REPORT BY:**       **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**SUBJECT:**           **COLLABORATIVE WORKING IN HOUSING**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To provide Scrutiny Committee with an update on current collaborative work across North Wales in Housing services.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 The North Wales Heads of Housing meet quarterly to share good practice, problem solve and take forward any joint work which could provide added value, performance and service improvement to the benefit of our individual local communities. This is framed in the context of support and direction from Welsh Government to develop joint working as appropriate.

2.02 In March 2011, the Simpson report was published recommending service collaboration as an important activity to deliver economies of scale in service cost, performance and leadership. Flintshire Council has had a programme of change called Flintshire Futures for the last 3 years and one of the work streams has been regional collaboration alongside internal service change and modernisation.

2.03 The North Wales region is geographically large with different population needs, economic issues and a diverse culture with a number of urban areas and significant numbers of very small rural communities. This means that although collaboration may be technically possible over this large area sometimes local issues and needs have meant that sub regional working has been the preferred approach. Each potential opportunity has been considered on a case by case basis.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 Appendix 1 provides a table of current activity and joint work across the North Wales region. The most significant joint work to date has been the partnership established to deliver a Community Alarm service to vulnerable older people (Galw Gofal), the work to develop a regional allocations policy (SARTH), and the single administration of the national empty homes scheme (Houses to Homes), for the North Wales region.

3.02 Less formally there is good local collaboration on best practice and problem solving which can lead to reduced cost for service delivery and/or improved performance. This has been ongoing through work to commission specialist supporting people services regionally.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 Scrutiny committee is asked to consider and discuss this report and to support the collaborative work undertaken to date and currently in development.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 There are no new financial implications arising from this report.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 There are no direct impacts arising from this report.

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 There are no direct impacts arising from this report

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 There are no direct impacts arising from this report.

#### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 There are no direct impacts arising from this report.

#### **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 No new requirements at this stage.

#### **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 Where consultation has been needed for specific projects this has been undertaken.

#### **12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix 1- Table of current Regional Collaborative Work.

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

None

**Contact Officer:** Clare Budden  
**Telephone:** 01352 703800  
**Email:** [clare.budden@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:clare.budden@flintshire.gov.uk)