

## **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:**           **CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:**               **WEDNESDAY, 28 JANUARY 2015**

**REPORT BY:**       **CHIEF OFFICER, GOVERNANCE**

**SUBJECT:**           **ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 The Code of Corporate Governance is one of the documents included in the Council's Constitution and applies to all aspects of the Council's business. Members and officers are expected in carrying out Council business to conduct themselves in accordance with the high standards expected by the citizens of Flintshire and in accordance with the aspirations set out in the code.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 The code is based on the six core principles contained in the document entitled "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework". Those six core principles are:-

- Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area.
- Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles.
- Promoting value for the authority and demonstrating the values of governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.
- Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risks.
- Delivering capacity and capability of Members and officers to be effective.
- Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

2.02 The Cabinet in consultation with the Constitution Committee were responsible for approving the code and the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer are responsible for ensuring that it is kept up-to-date by way of annual reviews commencing in October each year. In October 2014 the Corporate Governance working group commenced this year's review and update including consulting with appropriate senior officers within the Council. Whilst the majority of the code

remains accurate and appropriate some parts of it needed updating. Attached as Appendix 1 is a copy of the updated code following the review which also indicates the tracked changes that have been made. These tracked changes were approved by the Audit Committee at its meeting on the 10 December 2014.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 The main updating changes this year are:-

- Updates to reflect the new Chief Officers structure.
- To include in 1.13 reference to the in-depth corporate assessment undertaken by the Wales Audit Office.
- In 2.9 to update on the completion of the single status agreement.
- In 3.9 to update on the strategic partnership governance framework.
- To update on improvement and service planning.
- To include reference to the new e-magazine 'Your Council' and the public consultation on the budget process.

3.02 As the Code of Corporate Governance forms part of the Constitution, when the code is amended there is a need to update the Constitution to include the amended version of the code. If the Constitution Committee approve the updates to the code the Democracy & Governance Manager will consult with the political Group Leaders and the Constitution Committee Chair to check that they have no objection to the version in the Constitution being updated to the amended version. In the event of any of them objecting there will be a need for it to be reported to the Council for approval.

### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 For the committee to approve the updating changes proposed to the Code of Corporate Governance as shown in Appendix 1.

### **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 With appropriate Council officers and with the audit Committee.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 With appropriate Council officers and with the audit Committee.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix 1 – Code of Corporate Governance

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

None

**Contact Officer:** Peter Evans  
**Telephone:** 01352 702304  
**Email:** peter.j.evans@flintshire.gov.uk