

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 28 JANUARY 2015**

REPORT BY: **MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

SUBJECT: **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To enable the Committee to consider proposals for a revised and renewed Overview & Scrutiny committee structure.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 Our current Overview & Scrutiny committee structure has been in place for over four years. At the last Annual Meeting, it was agreed that in the light of the new operating model and senior management team that Overview & Scrutiny structure should be reviewed.

2.02 At the meeting of this committee on 15th October 2014, a report on the draft design principles for a new structure was considered. It was agreed that a range of options, observing those principles for Overview and Scrutiny structural models should be prepared for consideration at the meeting of the Committee on 28 January 2015. The Design Principles are attached as Appendix 1.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 Appendix 2 contains examples of six models for structures which have six Overview & Scrutiny committees, as one of the principles was that there should be six committees of fifteen members. Within each model, one committee will need to be designated as the statutory crime and disorder scrutiny committee.

3.02 For each model, the names of the committees, together with those Cabinet Members and Chief Officers who would be likely to attend it have been identified.

3.03 Detailed terms of reference, on a similar basis to those which we currently have can be drafted for any model or models which the committee recommend should be considered further. It is suggested that discussions will need to take place with key members to help direct the review.

3.04 Model One – Status Quo.

Model Two – Replacing Community Profile & Partnerships with a dedicated Organisational Change Committee and expanding the remit of the Housing O&SC to cover the Community & Enterprise portfolio.

Model Three – Reflecting the new operating model and incorporating the Organisational Change portfolios into the best or nearest fit committees.

Model Four – Reflecting the new operating model and including a dedicated Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Model Five – Reflecting the Improvement Plan priorities.

Model Six – Reflecting current Cabinet portfolios.

3.05 To illustrate how alternative models, with fewer committees could operate three further options have been produced. These are:

Model Seven - Three committee structure: Public Realm (or Place); People and Resources.

Model Eight - Four committee structure: Resources; People; Organisational Change and Public Realm.

Model Nine - Five committee structure: Resources; Organisational Change & Enterprise, Education, Social Care Health & Housing and Public Realm.

3.06 In identifying all of the potential models, we have tried to keep the work of each of the committees as balanced as possible. In view of the complexities, however, it is suggested that the committee should now consider appointing a working group of five to seven Members that can bring forward recommendations to the AGM. That working group could then identify a preferred option or options and include detailed terms of reference for the committees therein. Given the importance of the issue, it is suggested that the working group should include the Chair of the Constitution Committee, the Leader of the Council and some of the Overview & Scrutiny committee chairs.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That having regard to the above, that the committee appoints a working group of five to seven members that can bring forward recommendations for a new Overview & Scrutiny structure to the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, 12th May .

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None directly at this stage.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None directly at this stage.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None directly at this stage.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None directly at this stage.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None directly at this stage.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Publication of this report constitutes consultation.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None.

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Design Principles/questions

Appendix 2– O&S Structures Review 2014/15 Tabulation.

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

Report to and Minutes arising from the Constitution Committee, 15th
October 2014.

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