

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

DATE: TUESDAY, 24 JULY 2012

REPORT BY: DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE MANAGER

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF INTERNAL MEMBER FORA

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To formally commence a review of internal Member informal fora such as panels and working groups.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 At the annual Council meeting on the 15 May the Head of Legal & Democratic Services' report on constitutional matters included a section on internal Member bodies. It explained that in the light of the recent implementation of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and at the start of a new Council it was an opportune time to review the various internal Member bodies. The Council agreed to the recommendation that the review be undertaken by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services in consultation with Group Leaders and a report submitted to the Constitution Committee and Council. It also agreed that pending the outcome of the review the existing internal bodies be retained.
- 2.02 The review covers those internal Member Fora that have been established for an indefinite period rather than those set up to deal with a specific task and to automatically end once that task has been completed. The review therefore does not include any Task and Finish Working Groups set up by Overview & Scrutiny Committees.
- 2.03 The review does include those informal Member Fora that are assisting the Cabinet in the discharge of executive functions. A decision taken by County Council on such Fora can only take effect as a recommendation to Cabinet or to the Leader as the Council does not have the legal power to effect change to those bodies undertaking executive functions. Attached as appendix 1 to this report is a list of the internal Member Fora that have been identified through consultation with the Council's Heads of Service. If Members are aware of any other Fora not included in the list please could they inform the Democracy & Governance Manager.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 All internal bodies require resources from both Members and officers in terms of preparation, attendance and actioning outcomes. The review may identify that whilst the internal body is discharging a valuable function, there is a more efficient way of doing so that is less resource intensive.
- 3.02 The committee is asked to consider how best to progress the review. The committee may wish to consider the information it needs which could be shared with the political Group Leaders prior to the review being further considered at a subsequent meeting of the Constitution Committee.
- 3.03 In addition to the list of internal bodies, further information that may prove useful to the review includes for each internal body:-
- a. The membership.
 - b. The terms of reference or function.
 - c. The frequency of meetings.
 - d. The view of the relevant senior officer as to whether the body should continue or not and the reason for this view.
 - e. For those internal bodies that relate to executive functions to obtain a view as to whether the body should continue from the appropriate Cabinet member.
 - f. The view of the Chair for each forum
- 3.04 The committee may wish to consider recommending that some of the fora do not meet pending the outcome of the review.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 To obtain the view of the committee as to how to progress the review of internal Member fora.

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 political Group Leaders and deputies.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 List of internal Member fora

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Report of the Head of Legal & Democratic Services on Constitutional
Matters to the Council meeting 15 May 2012

Minute of Council meeting 15 May 2012 relating to internal bodies

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