

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2012**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

SUBJECT: **IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2012 - 2017**

1.00 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.01 To re-set the Improvement Priorities within the Improvement Plan 2012 - 2017 for endorsement by County Council.
- 1.02 To note the addition of the three additional Improvement Priorities in line with the Leadership's Programme for Change.

2.00 **BACKGROUND**

- 2.01 It is a requirement of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to set Improvement Objectives and publish an Improvement Plan.
- 2.02 The Improvement Objectives were adopted within the Improvement Plan 2011/12 as the set of Council Priorities by Executive in June 2011.
- 2.03 These priorities have been shaped by Councillors in the previous Council across the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny functions and provide continuity for past, present and future performance against which the Council can be judged. This level of engagement led to widespread ownership of the priorities for further planning. The Improvement Priorities were then re-adopted for ongoing review by the new Council in July 2012.
- 2.04 The Improvement Plan is audited by the Wales Audit Office as part of their annual assessment work.

3.00 **CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.01 The Improvement Plan builds upon the 10 Council Priorities and the Directorate priorities presenting them in a single document.
- 3.02 The current set of 10 Council priorities (the Improvement Objectives), are extensive and are supported by a more detailed set of secondary Improvement priorities and are detailed within the Improvement Plan 2011/12.

3.03 They are also set out in the three Directorate plans for Community Services, Environment and Lifelong Learning, and in the corporate governance plans. The corporate governance plans are the Improvement Plan, the Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges (SARC) and the four business plans for the corporate resources the Asset Plan: the ICT and Customer Services Strategies: the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan: the People Strategy.

3.04 The Improvement Priorities:

- reflect what is currently important in Flintshire e.g. housing
- cover the areas where we need to modernise and improve e.g. HR
- fit well with Welsh Government social policy and the Programme for Government e.g. social care reform
- fit well with local partner priorities e.g. health reform
- fit well with the priorities for regional collaboration
- fit well with the Programme for Change of the new Leadership.

The Improvement Priorities framework is proving effective. The framework:-

- guides management to concentrate on what is important
- provides a fit between the 'bigger picture' at corporate level with the detail of Directorate plans and team plans right down to appraisals at service level
- guides the allocation of resources both at annual budget-setting time and in-year
- influences the priorities of key partners.

Above all, the assessment shows that the Council has a good record of achievement against the Priorities as detailed in the Cabinet report in July using the 'traffic light system'.

Overall performance for 2011/12 is reported in the Annual Performance Report elsewhere on this agenda.

3.05 Given this sound basis the Improvement Priorities are being built upon and added to by the new Council, with local political priorities including:

- Social Enterprise/Co-operatives – led by Director of Community Services
- Apprenticeships and Youth Unemployment – led by Director of Lifelong Learning
- Community Development and Events – led by Head of Culture and Leisure

These priorities have been incorporated as secondary priorities within the Improvement Plan and are under development. The detail will be

reported back to Cabinet before the end of the calendar year.

- 3.06 The length of timeframe for the Plan has been adjusted to a longer period of five years to reflect the period of Administration and some of the longer-term priorities e.g. School Modernisation.
- 3.07 A copy of the Plan is available in the Members' Library and will be distributed to all Members prior to presentation to full Council on 25 October. It will then be published on the infonet and available for public comment and feedback.
- 3.08 Specific targets for 2012/13 and 2013/14 will be worked through as part of the annual performance indicator target setting exercise in the autumn.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 To re-set the Improvement Priorities within the Improvement Plan for endorsement by County Council.
- 4.02 To note the addition of the three additional Improvement Priorities in line with the Leadership's Programme for Change and provide the populated details of all three to a Cabinet meeting before the end of the calendar year.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 None directly related to this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 None directly related to this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 None directly related to this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 None directly related to this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 None directly related to this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

- 10.01 Consultation will be required to inform the ongoing review of these priorities.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 The priorities have been shaped by all Councillors in the previous Council across the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny functions and been subject to review by the new Council and Corporate Management Team.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Improvement Plan 2012-2017 (available in the Members' Library)

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

Contact Officer: Karen Armstrong
Telephone: 01352 702740
Email: Karen.armstrong@flintshire.gov.uk