

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2012

REPORT BY: DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE MANAGER

SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE
CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To determine the Council's response to consultation documents relating to joint Overview & Scrutiny Committees and annual reports by Members.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 In April the Welsh Government implemented the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011. Various parts of the Measure empowered the Welsh Government to issue statutory guidance and on the 1 October 2012 draft statutory guidance on two provisions within the Measure were issued. The first relates to joint Overview & Scrutiny Committees and the second relates to annual reports by individual Members. Copies of the draft guidance are available in Member Services and in the group rooms. Responses to the draft guidance are required by the 21 December 2012.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 Section 58 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 empowers Welsh Ministers to make regulations to permit two or more local authorities to appoint a joint a Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to issue statutory guidance which joint Overview & Scrutiny Committees must have regard to when exercising their functions. The draft regulations and draft guidance seem to deal with a complex area rather well. Attached as appendix 1 is a draft response to consultation on the draft regulations and draft statutory guidance.

3.02 Section 5 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 empowers the Welsh Ministers to issue statutory guidance to which local authorities must have regard when making arrangements for the production of annual reports by individual Members. The draft statutory guidance is more straightforward and shorter than the draft guidance relating to joint Overview & Scrutiny Committees. Attached as appendix 2 is a draft response to consultation.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 For the committee to adopt or amend as it sees fit the draft responses to consultation given in appendices 1 and 2.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None at this stage but there may be in paying an allowance of £8,735 to the Chair of a joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

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 political Group Leaders.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 With political Group Leaders.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 - Draft Response to Draft Regulation and Draft Guidance on Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committees
Appendix 2 - Response to Consultation on Draft Guidance concerning Annual Reports by Members

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Consultation Document from the Welsh Government dated 01.10.12

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