

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:**                    **CABINET**

**DATE:**                         **TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2013**

**REPORT BY:**                 **DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**

**SUBJECT:**                    **NEW DEESIDE PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To seek approval for a new governance structure for regeneration in the communities of Deeside.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 Deeside is one of the Council's key regeneration areas. It has the major concentration of deprivation and poor housing in the county. It is also the main area of economic opportunity in Flintshire, with the Enterprise Zone, which includes the Northern Gateway Site. Also, Deeside has the County's first Housing Renewal Area and now will be the focus of the new East Cluster of the Communities First programme. Taken together these initiatives will bring up to 7,000 new jobs, refurbished housing stock and around 1,000 new residential units, whilst further investment is planned in road infrastructure and public transport. Taken together, this provides a unique opportunity to transform Deeside. Development on such a scale requires a long term vision together with an appropriate and effective governance structure, one which will maximise the potential which is now available within the wider Deeside area.

2.02 The current governance structure delivering regeneration is very fragmented, with up to seven different partnerships covering the area from Garden City to Kelsterton. These are set out in Appendix A and 3.01 below.

2.03 This is an overly complex structure that makes effective communication difficult and which has proven challenging to support in terms of the demands on increasingly stretched Council, partner and community resources.

2.04 Deeside contains most of the County's regeneration challenges in terms of deprivation, housing quality and unemployment. It is these issues that have led the Council to identify this area as its priority regeneration area.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

3.01 A number of partnerships focusing on regeneration have been in operation in Deeside for several years, including three Town Centre Partnerships, the Deeside Housing Renewal Area groups, the Higher Shotton Communities First Partnership Board, as well as a number of community regeneration groups and, since 2012, the Deeside Enterprise Zone Board. In addition, the three Town and Community Councils also have arrangements in place to support and encourage investment and regeneration. The existing governance structure is shown in paragraph 2 of Appendix 1.

3.02 The proposed structure of the Deeside Partnership (set out in Para 3 of Appendix 1) comprises an overarching group (the Deeside Partnership) with two subgroups focusing on Places (e.g. town centres, housing) and People (e.g. skills, training and employment), and a Deeside Forum. The role of this Partnership will be to;

*“Bring together the public, private, community and voluntary sectors to develop and implement partnership-based, practical solutions to improve the quality of life and economic prosperity of Deeside”.*

3.03 The Partnership will seek to:

- take a strategic approach to the regeneration of Deeside.
- develop strong links between the communities of Sealand, Queensferry, Shotton and Connah’s Quay with the development sites on the northern side of the River Dee;
- develop strong transport connections within Deeside, with the rest of the County and the region, including a sustainable transport network that encourages more use of public transport, pedestrian and cycling routes;
- support unemployed people, especially 16-25 year olds, from Deeside and from wider Flintshire to take advantage of the employment opportunities that arise from the investment in the Deeside Regeneration Area;
- create strong links between businesses, universities, colleges and schools to develop a suitably skilled workforce to meet existing and future employer needs;
- raise the aspirations of Deeside people and enable them to play an active part in the development of the area, whether through work, volunteering or other community activity;
- develop Deeside as a place to live that offers a mix of affordable and energy efficient housing in neighbourhoods that are safe, pleasant and close to green space, leisure facilities, schools, shops and the everyday amenities that make for a good quality of life; and
- ensure the development of Deeside is championed and that Deeside’s image and profile works towards ensuring a sustainable and successful future.

- 3.04 Membership will change over time, but initially will include:
- Leader of the Council
  - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment
  - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Leisure
  - Cabinet Member for Housing
  - Cabinet Member for Education
  - Welsh Government
  - Chair of DEZ Board
  - Chair of Places sub group
  - Chair of People sub group
  - Chair of Deeside Forum
  - Chief Executive
  - Director of Environment

The Partnership will establish sub groups to develop and implement programmes of work as needed.

- 3.05 The proposed governance arrangements include establishing a Deeside Forum to be made up of all the ward members of Connah's Quay, Shotton, Queensferry and Sealand, and representatives from Connah's Quay Town Council, Shotton Town Council, Queensferry Community Council and Sealand Community Council.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 That Members to approve the implementation of the proposed governance arrangements.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 The new governance arrangements will enable resources to be allocated more effectively and will assist in more effective monitoring and accountability. A structure that facilitates coordination of all available resources comprehensively will also be better placed to capitalise on opportunities on securing additional funding.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 6.01 The new governance arrangements will enable resources to be more easily targeted to areas and communities with the greatest need. It will also enable strategies and work programmes to be developed to ensure the opportunities afforded by the Deeside Enterprise Zone result in tangible benefits across all age groups and all communities in Deeside – particularly those living in the most deprived wards.

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01 The new governance arrangements will enable regeneration to be considered holistically – including ensuring that strategies and programmes are designed to minimise harmful impacts on the

environment, but also to maximise on environmental considerations that enhance quality of life.

## **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 The new governance arrangements will enable resources to be more easily targeted to areas and communities with the greatest need.

## **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None

## **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 Consultation with member of existing groups will need to be consulted with – as well as the wider stakeholders. The work of the Deeside Partnership will include an on going process of consultation with all stakeholders.

## **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 Consideration of the changing strategic context and the need to develop a new streamlined structure was discussed at a meeting with Deeside Members on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

## **12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix 1. Proposed Deeside Partnership

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

### **Background Documents:**

None.

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