

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY 19TH MARCH 2013**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

SUBJECT: **APPOINTMENT OF ANTI-POVERTY LEAD MEMBER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the appointment of a lead officer and lead member and portfolio holder for Anti-Poverty.

2.00 BACKGROUND

In June 2012 Carl Sargeant, Minister for Local Government and Communities and Gwenda Thomas, the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services launched the “Tackling Poverty Action Plan 2012-2016”. This plan, which compliments and supports existing child poverty duties set out in the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2012 has three main objectives to:

- Prevent poverty
- Help people out of poverty
- Mitigate the impact of poverty

Collaboration and joint working between local government, Welsh Government and other partners, such as health and the third sector, is crucial to tackling poverty so that efforts can be combined, prioritising the needs of the poorest and protecting those most at risk of poverty and exclusion.

With the current changes to welfare benefits and the potential negative impact many of these changes will have on those living in poverty, and those at risk of living poverty, the on-going work across Councils in tackling poverty will become even more important. Local government has a crucial role to play in this area, both in terms of its own responsibilities and in terms of its community leadership role.

At the last meeting of the Partnership Council, both the Minister for Local Government and Communities and the Deputy Minister for Social Services highlighted the need for tackling poverty to be a priority for all public services in Wales. The need for effective leadership was also highlighted and a proposal for Poverty “Champions” to be created, both at elected member and senior officer level was supported by all those present.

The Minister for Local Government and Communities, Carl Sargeant and Councillor David Phillips, WLGA Spokesperson for Welfare Reform and Poverty have both written to all 22 local authorities seeking member and officer nominations by the end of February, 2013.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

Local authorities already appoint “Champions”/Lead Members in other key areas for example, equality, older people and more recently the Armed Forces. These roles have played an important part in highlighting key issues, co-ordinating activity and promoting a corporate approach to champion issues with key partners.

Consideration needs to be given as to which portfolio this should be aligned to. A senior official (not Chief Executive level) is also required.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to:

- (i) note the contents of the report
- (ii) agree which Cabinet portfolio Anti-Poverty should be added to; and
- (iii) agree to nominate a senior officer

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None directly associated with this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

As outlined within the report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

None directly associated with this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

None directly associated with this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

None directly associated with this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

None directly associated with this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

None directly associated with this report.

12.00 APPENDICES

None

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

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