

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 21ST MAY 2013**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

SUBJECT: **PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH SCHOOLS**

1.00 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To seek approval to consult and agree with maintained schools the content of the revised Partnership Agreement between the Local Authority and each school.

2.00 **BACKGROUND**

2.01 The first Flintshire Local Authority Partnership Agreement with individual schools is due to be renewed. Statutory regulations require Local Authorities and governing bodies of maintained schools enter into and subsequently review Partnership Agreements.

2.02 The Welsh Government is of the view that these Agreements clarify the partnership working between Local Authorities and schools and will help to raise standards in education.

2.03 All functions included are governed by individual regulations. The agreement simply codifies these together in one document. Not all statutory functions are required to be included.

2.04 The previous Partnership Agreement was for 3 years to September 2012. A revised edition is now proposed to take into account changes arising from the Authority's service level agreement with the Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement. The revision also focuses on changes in statutory requirements.

2.05 Service descriptors for non statutory functions will be published during the late Summer/early Autumn term in an updated compendium of Local Authority services. Service Level Agreements for traded services will also be subject to updating prior to the start of the 2014/15 financial year. The partnership agreement sets out school and local authority's responsibilities with regard to securing value for money.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The partnership between Flintshire and its schools is based on the following principles:

- the Local Authority and its schools have raising standards of achievement as their main aim;
- schools are self-managing;
- Local Authority intervention is determined by need;
- when Local Authorities and schools work in partnership they will have the most powerful impact on raising standards of achievement;
- schools and Local Authorities should always aim to deliver value for money; and
- unnecessary bureaucracy should be avoided.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That the revised edition is approved for consultation and agreement with individual school governing bodies.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 There are no financial implications arising directly from the Partnership Agreement. The Agreement is complementary to the Scheme for Financing Schools.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 There is no impact arising directly from the agreement. Schools are committed to working alongside local and central government to counter the impact of poverty.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 There is no impact arising directly from the agreement.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 Key principles behind the agreement are raising standards in schools and reducing the impact of deprivation

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 There are no personnel implications arising directly from the agreement.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Consultation and agreement is required with individual school Governing Bodies.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Initial consultation has been undertaken with school leadership representatives.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Draft Local Authority/School Partnership Agreement 2013-2016.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

Contact Officer: Ian Budd
Telephone: 01352 704010
Email: ian.budd@flintshire.gov.uk