

## **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** **COUNTY COUNCIL**

**DATE:** **TUESDAY, 25 JUNE 2013**

**REPORT BY:** **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**SUBJECT:** **IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2013/14**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 Council to adopt the Improvement Plan 2013/14.

### **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. It is a statutory requirement for the County Council to adopt the Improvement Plan.

2.02 Improvement Objectives and an accompanying Improvement Plan was first set and adopted by the Council in 2011. These objectives were known as our ten primary priorities supported by a structure of secondary priorities. These priorities were subsequently re-endorsed by Cabinet and the Council in October 2012 with three additions; social enterprise, apprenticeships and entrepreneurships, and community events.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 The Improvement Priorities of the previous Council have been thoroughly reviewed and challenged to streamline and reset then and be clearer over impacts and how performance will be measured.

3.02 This revised set of eight priorities supported by a structure of sub priorities will appear as familiar content to many. The plan and its presentation have changed. The previous three priorities for modernising the Council have been combined as one which means that the set of priorities reduces from ten to eight.

3.03 The detail provided for each of the priorities which are going to have most impact during 2013/14 is also a significant change. This helps the organisation to focus and concentrate on the things where attention is needed during 2013/14, with the remaining priorities being managed as more routine performance management.

- 3.04 The refresh has also taken into account some of the Wales Audit Office's comments in their most recent reports referring to:-
- the opportunity to present a plan which would engage the wider public
  - the adoption of a smaller set of 'in-year' priorities as described above
  - the further development of outcome based objectives which identify the impact for each priority
  - the need to ensure that any revisions of the Plan are updated on the public website.
- 3.05 Additionally the latest Estyn monitoring report feedback referred to the need to streamline and align our business processes including the strategic partnership priorities alongside the Council priorities.
- 3.06 The Council has, in its responses to these regulatory proposals, agreed to these revisions.
- 3.07 The Plan also makes reference to the 'fit of our improvement priorities with the County Vision priorities, which are being progressed in partnership with members of the Local Service Board.
- 3.08 This Improvement Plan for 2013/14 is the sum of these parts. It has been constructed as a web-based document which allows easy navigation to specific content e.g. the Housing or Environment priority. This also enables ready updating to ensure that the latest version is always the most current. The opportunity to hyperlink associated documents also keeps the Plan current and 'live'. One such document will be the detail for each of the priorities' "Achievement Measures". These are referred in the Plan for each sub priority but are not detailed enough in their current format to allow monitoring and reporting through the quarterly and annual performance reports. This more detailed "Measures" document will be presented to Cabinet within the next reporting period.
- 3.09 The ease of updating the Plan also ensures that any revisions in-year, be they as a result of national policy change or local scrutiny, can be implemented to ensure the most current version is available.
- 3.10 One such revision will be the development of the new Outcome Agreement for 2013/14 which is to be more clearly aligned with the Improvement Plan and reported upon in-year.
- 3.11 The Improvement Plan 2013/14 has been distributed to Members in advance of the 18 June Cabinet meeting.
- 3.12 The Council's three Directorate Plans for 2013/14 echo the relevant Council priorities, providing the high level planning mechanism to support Service Plans and Team plans at a lower level. The three

Directorate Plans will be available in the Member's Library for reference.

- 3.13 The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan 2014/15 to 2018/19 was presented to the Cabinet at its meeting on 18 June. This plan describes the financial planning mechanism to resource the Council's priorities.

**4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 Council to adopt the Improvement Plan 2013/14.

**5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan is aligned to resource these priorities.

**6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 6.01 Poverty is a specific priority within the Improvement Plan 2013/14.

**7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01 Environment is a specific priority within the Improvement Plan 2013/14.

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 8.01 Equalities will be taken into consideration through any policy changes determined by the Plan and its implementation.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.01 Any personnel implications will be considered through any relevant changes determined by the Plan and its implementation.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

- 10.01 Overview and Scrutiny Committees are invited to review the priorities, and particularly the "Measures" document to follow.

- 10.02 Feedback on the Improvement Plan is invited to assist with both contributing to our priorities and further improvement in presentation and format. This feedback is encouraged from the public, workforce, our key partners and businesses.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

- 11.01 Corporate Management Team and senior officers have contributed and helped shape the Improvement Plan 2013/14. In addition the

Wales Audit Office and Voluntary Sector Compact have been informally consulted.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

**12.01 Appendix 1: Improvement Plan 2013/14 (previously despatched)**

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

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