

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 17 JULY 2013**

REPORT BY: **HEAD OF FINANCE**

SUBJECT: **COUNCIL BANKING ARRANGEMENTS**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 The provide Members with information on the Council's banking arrangements and initial proposals for the tender exercise to be carried out in 2014.
- 1.02 To advise of the arrangements put in place following recent branch closures.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 A verbal update was given at the June Audit Committee following a question which was raised at the meeting.
- 2.02 Members asked for a report to be brought to this Committee.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 The Council's bankers are Nat West Bank. This follows a tender exercise carried out in 2008 and the contract was put in place from May 2008 for 5 years.
- 3.02 The contract was extended to May 2014 in line with Council procurement arrangements to enable detailed consideration of need for the future.
- 3.03 Plans are now being drawn up to undertake a full review of the specification for the tender for banking services from May 2014. The detailed work to achieve this will commence in July.
- 3.04 Over recent years, the services provided by banks has been changing. The advent of internet banking and self service is changing how banks interact with business and retail customers.

- 3.05 At the same time, the Council is also looking at its internal processes to identify requirements for the future and how these can be made as lean, simple and cost effective as possible. Some of our historic processes may now be able to be done in a different way, e.g. is there a more modern approach to petty cash?
- 3.06 These two factors come together to provide an opportunity to fully review the Council's requirements for the future recognising what is available to business customers and for this to be included in the tender specification.
- 3.07 In the interim it is important to ensure that we have arrangements in place in order to maintain service continuity and manage any risks or operational issues.
- 3.08 Following branch closures in Flint and Queensferry as part of the Nat West review of its High Street presence, arrangements have been made for a number of establishments with petty cash accounts who were adversely affected by the branch closures, to access alternative banking provision. This is at no additional cost to the Council.
- 3.09 The need for interaction by Council establishments through High Street presence, or on line, needs to be commensurate with the Council's future needs and will form an important aspect of the tender specification.
- 3.10 Progress with the tender will be reported through Finance updates to Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 Members are asked to note the report.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 None directly as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 None directly as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 None directly as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 None directly as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None directly as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None directly as a result of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None directly as a result of this report.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None.

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

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