**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** **SOCIAL AND HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** **24 OCTOBER 2013**

**REPORT BY:** **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**SUBJECT:** **WORKSHOP OUTCOME FOR DOUBLE CLICK & AGREEMENT TO PROGRESS**

**1.00** **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 This report is designed as a simple summary of the outcome of a members workshop held at Double Click on the 2nd of October, 2013

1.02 Scrutiny members at June's meeting requested an opportunity to discuss the proposal for Double Click to become a Social Enterprise in this way.

**2.00** **BACKGROUND**

2.01 A Business Plan has been produced with support from Social Firms Wales to develop Double Click into a Social Enterprise. This has been considered since 2010 and ongoing advice has been sought from Social Firms Wales during this process.

2.02 This proposal has been presented to Scrutiny on two occasions, the outcome of which was the need for the Workshop noted above.

2.03 The workshop was well attended by members and officers, as well as by representatives from the management team at Double Click and colleagues from Social Firms Wales.

**3.00** **CONSIDERATIONS**

As part of the workshop a number of specific issues were discussed:-

3.01 1. Impact on Service Users

Attendees received information that the proposal to move double click to a social enterprise came about due to suggestions made by service users indicating a wish to see the business develop.

Reassurances were provided that the business model provided would not place additional pressure on service users and staff, and that essentially the model allowed for better utilisation of resources and

potential market opportunities.

3.02    2.  Business Plan

A description of how the business plan was put together was presented as part of the workshop. A number of questions were posed regarding the short and long term viability of the business and the assumptions made in putting together the case.

Good examples were given of other similar business' which had successfully been transferred to Social Enterprises including "**Beacons Craft"** in Powys.

Members remained aware that figures within the case could never be considered to be absolute, but were satisfied that they reflected a realistic outlook for the business

3.03    3.  Opportunities provided by this change

As part of the workshop it became evident that moving to a Social Enterprise would allow Double Click a number of opportunities not available in its current form.

These related to two core areas namely access to free training for staff and service users and access to grants reserved for such organisations.

## 4.00    RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01    On the basis of the workshop held on the 2$^{nd}$ of October,2013 the information provided during this session, and the subsequent visit to Double Click members are asked to support the proposal and recommend that Cabinet agrees to transfer Double Click from a Social Services run work scheme, to a Social Enterprise company in the form of a Company Limited by Guarantee.

## 5.00    FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01    No specific change to the local authorities financial funding of this service.

## 6.00    ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01    Is expected to support some current service users to gain paid employment.

## 7.00    ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01    None.

**8.00    EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01    Covered in Equalities Impact Assessment

**9.00    PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01    Staff seconded from Flintshire County Council to the new business for 3 years.

**10.00    CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01    If the authority agrees to proceed with the externalisation process, formal consultations with staff and service users will need to take place.

**11.00    CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01    Two informal consultations with service users have taken place at various stages since 2011 and 3 with staff and trade union/HR representatives.  Both groups are regularly updated as to the progress of the project.

**12.00    APPENDICES**

12.01    None.

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

None.

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