

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:**           **CABINET**

**DATE:**               **TUESDAY, 21 JANUARY 2014**

**REPORT BY:**       **HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**SUBJECT:**           **ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FLINTSHIRE  
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 For Cabinet, on behalf of the County Council, to note and approve the eleventh annual report of the Flintshire Local Access Forum, prepared in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Countryside Access (Local Access Forums) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 The Flintshire Local Access Forum was established in 2002 by the County Council in accordance with the provisions of the above Regulations. It is a requirement of those Regulations that an annual report be prepared and approved by the County Council which must include the following:-

(i) information relating to the Forum's functions during the twelve month period ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March in each year, and

(ii) a programme of works which has been agreed between the Forum and the County Council which the Forum plans to undertake during the twelve months commencing immediately after 31<sup>st</sup> March in each year.

2.02 Appended to this report is the draft report (excluding the minutes of the Forum meetings which are at Appendix 4) for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 as prepared by the Forum Secretary, David M. Davies, who is a solicitor employed in my Department. Copies of the draft report, with all the accompanying appendices, are available in the Group Rooms. The format of the report follows the advice issued by the former Countryside Council for Wales (now Natural Resources Wales (NRW)). The draft report has already been considered at a meeting of the Forum on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, when it was agreed that it should be submitted to the County Council for approval.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 The Forum's eleventh annual report follows the format of the previous annual reports. It has been completed in accordance with the guidance issued by NRW regarding the preparation of annual reports.

3.02 NRW will maintain a central record of annual reports of all the local access forums in Wales. A copy of the appended report, once approved, will be sent to NRW.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 That the eleventh annual report of the Flintshire Local Access Forum, for 2012/2013, be noted and approved by Cabinet, on behalf of the County Council, and be submitted to Natural Resources Wales for their records.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 There are costs associated with the administration of the Local Access Forum. Those costs are met from the Environment Directorate's budget.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 None.

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 Under the terms of the 2000 Act, the function of the Forum is to advise the County Council, Welsh Government and the Countryside Council as to the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area.

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 None.

#### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None.

#### **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 None.

#### **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 The report has already been submitted to the Local Access Forum.

#### **12.00 APPENDICES**

Draft eleventh annual report of the Flintshire Local Access Forum.

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

None.

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