

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:**           **CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:**               **28 MARCH 2012**

**REPORT BY:**       **DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE MANAGER**

**SUBJECT:**           **ANNUAL REVIEW OF CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

**1.01** To receive a report on the annual review of the Code of Corporate Governance.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

**2.01** The Code of Corporate Governance is one of the documents included in the Council's Constitution and applies to all aspects of the Council's business. Members and Council staff are expected in carrying out Council business to conduct themselves in accordance with the high standards expected by the citizens of Flintshire and in accordance with the aspirations set out in the code.

**2.02** The code is based on the six core principles contained in the document entitled "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework". Those six core principles are:-

- Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area.
- Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles.
- Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.
- Taking informed and transparent decisions which is subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk.
- Delivering capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective.
- Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

**2.03** The Executive in consultation with the Constitution Committee are responsible for approving the code and the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer are responsible for ensuring that it is kept up-to-date by way of annual reviews commencing in October each year. In

October 2011 the Corporate Governance Officer Working Group commenced this year's review and update of the Code of Corporate Governance, including consulting with appropriate senior officers within the Council. Whilst the majority of the code remains accurate and appropriate some parts of it needed updating. Attached as appendix 1 is a copy of the updated code following the review which also indicates the tracking changes that have been made.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

**3.01** The Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer have both seen and satisfied themselves with the changes made to ensure that the code is kept up-to-date. The Corporate Governance Working Group is chaired by the Democracy & Governance Manager and includes in its membership the Head of Internal Audit, the Risk Manager, the Policy Performance Manager and colleagues from the Finance Department. The review has also taken into account observations made by the Wales Audit Office.

**3.02** As the Code of Corporate Governance forms part of the Constitution when the code is amended there is a need to update the Constitution to include the amended version of the code. If the Constitution Committee approve the updates made to the code, the Democracy & Governance Manager will consult with the political Group Leaders and the Constitution Committee Chair to check that they have no objection to the version in the Constitution being updated to the current version. In the event of any of them objecting there would be a need for it to be reported to the Council for approval.

### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**4.01** For the Committee to approve the amendments made by way of updating the Code of Corporate Governance.

**4.02** For the Democracy & Governance Manager to consult with the political Group Leaders and the Chair of the Constitution Committee over updating the Constitution to reflect the current Code of Corporate Governance following the review.

### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**5.01** None as a result of this report.

### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

**6.01** None as a result of this report.

### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

**7.01** None as a result of this report.

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

**8.01** None as a result of this report.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

**9.01** None as a result of this report.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

**10.01** With appropriate officers of the Council.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

**11.01** Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance and members of CMT.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

**12.01** Appendix 1 - Updated Code of Corporate Governance

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

None

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