

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**
DATE: **TUESDAY, 17 JUNE 2014**
REPORT BY: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**
SUBJECT: **IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2014/15**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To approve the Improvement Plan 2014/15 prior to final publication in June.

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 were first set and adopted by the Council in 2011. For 2013/14 the Council thoroughly reviewed the priorities to streamline them and reset them with clearer outcome based aims. A revised set of eight priorities supported by a structure of sub-priorities was adopted.

2.03 The Plan presentation also changed providing detail for each of the priorities which were to have the most impact during the year. This has helped the organisation to concentrate on the outcomes where most immediate attention was needed.

2.04 The refresh also took into account the comments of the Wales Audit Office (WAO) on:-

- the opportunity to present a plan which would engage the wider public
- the adoption of a smaller set of 'in-year' priorities
- 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.

2.05 The WAO in its letter of September 2013 said that the presentation and content of the Improvement Plan (2013/14) "enables public engagement with the Council priorities more effectively than in the

past". It also commented positively that "The Plan is much shorter than before and now communicates clearly and succinctly how each of the Improvement Objectives relates to the Council's eight medium-term corporate priorities and to those of partners in the Local Service Board".

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 For 2014/15 a review of the current priorities and sub-priorities has been undertaken to set: -

- priorities that continue into 2014/15 for sustained attention;
- priorities that can now be removed as completion of a time-limited piece of work e.g. Single Status;
- priorities which could be merged e.g. School Improvement and School Modernisation; and
- emerging priorities for 2014/15 e.g. People Change and Development.

3.02 For each sub-priority which continues to be high profile for 2014/15 there has been a review based on: -

- the reasoning for the priority status;
- what we will do and how we will measure achievement; and
- the risks that will need to be managed.

The final draft Plan is attached as Appendix 1.

3.03 The draft Improvement Plan presented to the May Cabinet meeting has been provided for consultation at each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees along with the accompanying targets for measures and milestone dates on which achievement will be measured ('How we measure achievement' document). A summary of the key issues and responses is provided as Appendix 2.

3.04 The Improvement Plan 2014/15 is presented to Cabinet with the more detailed 'How we measure achievement' document (Appendix 3) which identifies the targets and milestones for achievement.

3.05 The Improvement Plan 2014/15 will be presented to County Council, for formal adoption in June. It will be accompanied by the 'How we measure achievement' document (Appendix 3).

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 Members to agree the Improvement Plan 2014/15 prior to adoption by Council and final publication in June.

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 2014/15.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 Environment is a specific priority within the Improvement Plan 2014/15.

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 have reviewed the priorities, including the "How we measure our achievements" document.

10.02 Feedback on the Improvement Plan is invited to assist with both contributing on 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 2014/15. In addition the Wales Audit Office has been informally consulted.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 **Appendix 1:** Improvement Plan 2014/15

Appendix 2: O&S Committees – summary of key issues

Appendix 3: How we measure our achievement

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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