

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 24 JUNE 2014**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

SUBJECT: **IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2014/15**

1.00 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To adopt the Improvement Plan 2014/15 for final publication by the end of 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 and reset them with clearer outcome based aims. A revised set of eight priorities supported by 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
- adoption of a smaller set of 'in-year' priorities
- 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.

3.03 The draft Improvement Plan (Appendix 1a) has been presented for Member consultation by Overview and Scrutiny Committees prior to final adoption in June. Appendix 1b details a small number of minor changes that have been made since the version circulated for Cabinet (17 June).

Appendix 2 describes the key points raised by Members at Overview and Scrutiny Committees along with a response.

3.04 The final draft Improvement Plan for 2014/15 has been presented to Cabinet for approval prior to formal adoption by the County Council. It was accompanied by Appendix 3a which details the specific targets for the measures and milestones on which achievement will be measured. This more detailed document has also been considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Appendix 3b details a number of changes to targets since the version distributed for Cabinet.

3.05 The final published Improvement Plan will be available as a web-based document published on the website by the end of June.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 Members to adopt the Improvement Plan 2014/15.

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 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.

11.02 Overview and Scrutiny Committees have been invited to review the priorities, and particularly the 'How we measure our achievements' document during May and June.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 **Appendix 1a:** Final Draft Improvement Plan 2014/15
Appendix 1b: Improvement Plan 2014/15 Amendments Sheet
Appendix 2: Key issues raised during consultation with Members
Appendix 3a: Improvement Plan 2014/15 'How we measure achievement'
Appendix 3b: 'How we measure achievement' Amendments Sheet

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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