

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 21 APRIL 2015**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF OFFICER (GOVERNANCE)**

SUBJECT: **TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FLINTSHIRE LOCAL
ACCESS FORUM - 2013/14**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 For the Cabinet, on behalf of County Council, to note and approve the twelfth 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. The membership of the Forum runs for three years, with the current term of membership having begun on 2nd February 2015. 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 31st 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 31st 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 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 as prepared by the Forum Secretary, David M. Davies, who, until his retirement in May 2014, was 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 Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The draft report has already been submitted to a meeting of the Forum on 23rd February 2015, when it was agreed that it should be submitted to the County Council for approval.

2.03 The reason for the late submission of the report to Cabinet is owing to a hiatus in the Forum's work following Mr. Davies's retirement (he subsequently agreed to continue as the Forum Secretary), and NRW's

failure to provide a programme of works for this year (2014/15) (see paragraph 7 of the draft annual report).

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The Forum's twelfth 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 such reports.

3.02 NRW maintains 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 twelfth annual report of the Flintshire Local Access Forum, for 2013/2014, be noted and approved by the County Council, and be submitted to NRW for their records.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 There are continuing costs associated with the administration of the Local Access Forum, which is funded through the Planning and Environment 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 NRW 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 twelfth annual report of the Flintshire Local Access Forum

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

None

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